

Caymanian Times

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Covid 19 Vaccination Schedule



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CABINET POST MEETING SUMMARY

A busy month for Caymanians in the UK



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► Dr Tasha Ebanks Garcia, Cayman Islands Government Representative to the UK, and Zoe Conolly Basdeo



COVID Staffing Policy at Local Supermarkets

As the Government prepares to safely reopen its borders, the supermarkets of the Cayman Islands have come together to do their part to keep their staff and customers safe.

Effective August 9th, 2021, Foster's Supermarket, Priced Right, Kirk Market, Hurley's Marketplace and Cost-U-Less Grand Cayman will require all job applicants to have verified proof of vaccination to be considered for employment. Additionally, work permit renewals will only be processed for vaccinated team members.

The decision supports the Government's re-opening plan introduced in June 2021, which aims to see 80% of the country's population vaccinated by September 9th, 2021. This joint COVID Staffing Policy will play a role in helping the Government achieve its vaccination goal to protect public health.

As essential businesses, the local supermarkets employ a significant portion of the local workforce to ensure the country's food supply chains are uninterrupted and secure. We must unite on the vaccination

SEE SUPERMARKETS COVID STAFFING POLICY, Page 2

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Free mulch now available at West Bay as temporary drop-off site closes

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) would like to inform residents that "free mulch" is now available for collection at the West Bay Temporary Site from as early as 7:00 am until September 18, 2021.

Residents are invited to come out early and to bring their shovels and bags for the removal of the mulch from the temporary site located next to the Ed Bush Stadium. The material will be supplied on a first come, first served basis. Assistance will be provided to members of the public to load small vehicles on Saturdays only.

The DEH is also reminding residents of the closure of the West Bay Temporary Site for collection of vegetative debris is Saturday September 11, 2021. Following this date, persons are expected to take any materials to the George Town landfill as incoming vegetation waste will not be received at the site.

The George Town Landfill operates from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on weekdays, until 1:00 p.m. on Saturday and it



► Free mulch now available at West Bay Temporary Site next to the Ed Bush Stadium

is closed on Sunday. However, the landfill drop-off facility at the gate will remain accessible for the public and small vehicles 24 hours per day.

Additional information is available from the DEH at 949-6696. Individuals may also send an email to dehcustomerservice@gov.ky, visit the DEH's website at www.deh.gov.ky or message its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Department-of-Environmental-Health-Cayman-Islands-Government-335107266641072>

CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN ADVISORY OF COVID-19 PROTOCOLS - EFFECTIVE 13 SEPTEMBER 2021

In light of recent developments and as COVID-19 continues to impact our community, CIBC FirstCaribbean Bank Limited remains committed to your banking needs while taking precautionary measures to minimize the spread of the virus and protecting customers and staff. In view of this, CIBC FirstCaribbean has decided to require all clients visiting banking branches to wear a mask and adhere to social distancing protocols, effective **Monday 13th September 2021**, until further notice.



Customers are encouraged to make use of their electronic banking services wherever possible. These include Bill Payments, Bank transfers and Electronic Funds Transfers via Online Banking as well as making cash withdrawals and deposits at ATMs.

Local Supermarkets Implement New COVID Staffing Policy

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

requirements across all stores to protect our dedicated staff and valued customers.

Vaccination rates amongst current supermarket staff have been excellent, as many of Cayman's supermarkets have been facilitating staff vaccinations since February 2021, and we hope that these steps will give everyone greater peace of mind.

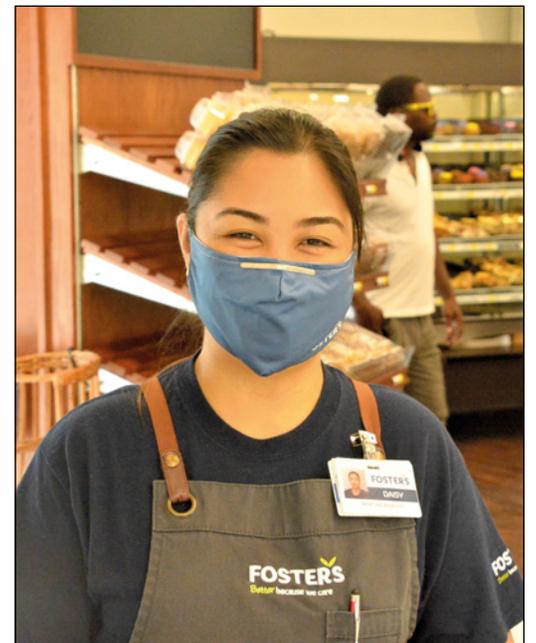
The supermarkets are currently working with their respective leadership teams to amend internal policies and plans, in alignment with the government's re-opening timeline, to include points such as mask requirements for team members, social distancing, increased store sanitation, etc.

We encourage the community to come together and understand the importance of being vaccinated for the safety of loved ones and yourself. While vaccine hesitancy and misinformation are hurdles across the globe, it's important to be informed before getting vaccinated. It's even more important to source information from reputable, verified news sources, including the Cayman Islands Government website or social media pages, the World Health Organization website, the UK Na-

tional Health Service (NHS) website, or the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) website.

As the Government begins to re-introduce tourism and travel for the Cayman Islands, the major supermarkets will continue to monitor and follow all health and safety guidelines provided by the Health Services Authority.

We will update our community as new information is received.



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HSA prepared for reintroduction of COVID in the community

The Cayman Islands Health Services Authority (HSA) is prepared for any reintroduction of COVID in the community which has been part of our action plan for the border reopening.

“As a healthcare facility we regularly manage infectious diseases and have policies and practice in place to ensure the safety and of our staff and patients,” stated HSA CEO Lizzette Yearwood. “It is important that our patients understand it is safe to come to the hospital. COVID protocols within the medical setting involves additional PPE, sanitation and cleaning to ensure everyone’s safety.”

“Out of an abundance of caution, a small number of HSA Staff who had direct contact with the COVID-19 positive patient were placed in 14-day isolation as a precautionary measure,” Yearwood confirmed.

HSA has over 80% of staff vaccinated for COVID-19. Staff who are not vaccinated are required to undergo PCR testing every two weeks.

Dr Delroy Jefferson, HSA Medical Director noted that HSA formed a clinical COVID-19 task force that at the beginning of the pandemic that implemented COVID-19 clinical guidance, which advised our clinical teams how to manage hospitalised patients with severe acute respiratory infection when COVID-19 infection is suspected or confirmed. “We are well prepared and have a treatment strategy for COVID positive patients,” stated Dr Jefferson. “These guidelines were developed based on recommendations from the World Health Organization, CDC, Public Health England, Health Canada, and the European CDC.”

“HSA has partnered with private health sector stakeholders to develop a coordinated health sector response strategy and ensure we all have the resources and supplies necessary to put into action this response strategy for patient care and the safety of all our staff.”

Based on the 2 positive COVID-19 cases without travel history or known contact with a traveller, HSA has moved plans up ahead of the border reopening, including resumption of the Flu Clinic and Respiratory Care Unit (RCU).

All staff, patients and visitors are reminded that facemasks are required at ALL HSA locations and will be strictly enforced. Masks are required in all areas of the hospital (ie: covered walkways, waiting rooms, elevators, hallways, cafeteria, atrium, blood bank, wards, etc). Persons are asked to please bring their own masks.

FLU CLINIC

HSA’s Flu Clinic is available will be open Monday – Friday 8am – 4pm starting Monday 13th September 2021, specifically for persons experiencing flu-like symptoms. After these hours persons with flu symptoms can also attend the Acute Care Walk-in Clinic (in the George Town General Practice Building) Monday – Friday until 8pm and Saturday 8:30am – 12:00pm.

The dedicated Flu Clinic is located in the space previously occupied by the Outpatient Mental Health Unit, on the side of the hospital facing the Seventh Day Adventist Church, to the far left of A&E. Signage on the hospital campus will direct patients to

the Clinic. All persons at the flu clinic will be required to wear a facemask.

If you have flu symptoms please stay at home and contact your healthcare provider or the Flu Hotline. 947-3077, 1-800-534-8600 or flu@hsa.ky. Callers will speak with a health professional about your symptoms, screen for travel history, advise on what you should do e.g. come to the Flu Clinic, stay home in isolation, etc.

Flu symptoms may include:

- Fever
- Sore throat
- Cough
- Runny nose
- Muscle or body aches
- Chills

If you experience worsening symptoms such as the below, call 911:

- Sudden dizziness and confusion;
- Severe or persistent vomiting;
- Pain or pressure in the chest or abdomen; or,
- Difficulty breathing.

Patients visiting the flu clinic can use the Seventh Day Adventist Church parking lot, just opposite A&E.

RESPIRATORY CARE UNIT (RCU)

Out of an abundance of caution, the Respiratory Care Unit (RCU) at the Cayman Islands Hospital has been reactivated. This Unit holds 6 beds and is for moderately symptomatic COVID-19 positive patients who do not require ventilation.

VISITATION POLICY

The Health Services Authority (HSA) is reminding the public that our visitation policy implemented as a part of its COVID-19 precautionary measures at the beginning of the pandemic will be strictly enforced at all HSA facilities.

The visitation policy states:

- Face masks are required at all times
- Visitors must be 18+ years old
- Visitors should check-in at the main atrium information desk and bring a photo ID (A&E visitors should still use the A&E entrance)

• One (1) designated visitor allowed to visit a patient in Accident & Emergency (A&E) for maximum 15 minutes. Visitors will be permitted at the discretion of the physicians and nurses.

• One (1) visitor per patient, per day, will be allowed on the Medical, Surgical, Maternity, Mental Health and Critical Care Units

• Two (2) persons (parents, guardian or caregiver) will be allowed for patients in the Paediatric Unit & Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU)

• In-patients who require assistance may have one (1) caregiver as part of their care team

• One (1) visitor will be permitted to accompany a patient to facilitate care or treatment such as an ambulatory visit, procedure or same-day surgery

• All visitors will be temperature screened prior to entering the Cayman Islands Hospital

• All visitors are asked to sanitize their hands upon entering and exiting both the patient’s room and the hospital.

• Visiting Hours are 11am – 8pm daily
• COVID-19 positive patients will not be allowed visitors



If you need to reach a patient room, please call 345-949-8600.

FLU HOTLINE

The Flu Hotline is available 24-hours for persons to call if they are experiencing flu symptoms or have any other concerns. 947-3077, 1-800-534-8600 or flu@hsa.ky

CLINICS & SERVICES

There is no interruption in patient clinics or services at the HSA at this time.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE) & SUPPLIES

HSA has adequate supplies, equipment and therapeutics to manage the present situation. We have most standard medication recommended for use in the management of COVID-19 and have also sourced some newer immune modulating biologics. A total of 20 ventilators are available at the Cayman Islands Hospital should they be needed.



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A busy month for Caymanians in the UK: Runfest and Cayman Day

A running team of 14 people from the Cayman Connection UK (CCUK) "Fit Club" joined the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism (CIDOT), London on Saturday 11 September to run the Visit Cayman Islands Sundown Fun Run as part of the Richmond RunFEST, sponsored and co-hosted by CIDOT.

Dr Tasha Ebanks Garcia, Cayman Islands Government Representative to the UK, joined the running team and thanked the Department of Tourism and Cayman Connection for bringing Caymanians and friends of Cayman together for a fun Cayman-themed occasion, while promoting the Cayman Islands to over a thousand London runners and supporters of the Richmond RunFEST.

The race began with Cayman Connection member and Miss Caribbean UK "Miss Personality" Ashlea Smith leading a socacise warm up to over 350 runners, who all wore custom Cayman Islands running shirts made from recycled plastic from Scimitar clothing and ran to the entertainment of Caymanian performer and Cayman Connection member King Navassa.

Cayman Connection's Founder Kate Kandiah said, "It was great to be able to join this fun event thanks to the Department of Tourism in Richmond, and to



► Sundown Run Cayman Team

bring even more Caymankind spirit to the promotional event with Cayman Connection runners. CC's "fit club" was established in February for our "Fit for February" campaign for Caymanians overseas to keep moving in lockdown and has been supporting fitness efforts of club members throughout the year. It was really great to

come together in person for a physical Cayman-themed run this weekend!"

The event comes just one week before the inaugural Cayman Day in the UK, an event being held in London to bring together over one hundred Caymanians for the first time in over 19 months, organised in conjunction with the Cayman Islands Government Office in the UK.

Cayman Connection's Regional Manager Rita Estevanovich commented: "It has been a busy month organising this special event to showcase Caymanian talent from across the UK and Europe! We are bringing together Caymanians from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Luxemburg and all over England, we have performances from Caymanians Precious Shordee, King Navassa, Violinist Nayil Arana, Nicole Wood and Mr. Notch, as well as DJ from More Vibez and host Jevy Ebanks. We also have food by Caymanian chef Chad, working with award winning Jamaican Chef Collin who has spent time working in the Cayman Islands. We are looking forward to a really fun and CaymanKind day for all the family!"

Cayman Connection has also partnered with Resilience Cayman's Local Market to bring Cayman products to the UK, selling Cayman products at the event and online leading up to Christmas.



► Dr Tasha Ebanks Garcia, Cayman Islands Government Representative to the UK, and Kate Kandiah, Cayman Connection's Founder

Early Bird Complementary tickets are now sold out, but tickets can be purchased from Cayman Connection for £40, to include performances, prosecco and rum punch reception, drinks tokens, games and prizes and Cayman-inspired Caribbean food throughout the day. The organisers welcome private sector sponsors to come forward to sponsor their respective scholarship students who might like to attend, and thanks Maples, who have sponsored their scholarship students to attend the event.

These events are two in-person events among over 40 online events already this year. See www.caymanconnectoin.org or more details and how to become a member to join the fun and to stay connected to Cayman while overseas.

SAVE THE DATE

CAYMAN DAY

IN THE UK

SATURDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER 2021 /// 3PM - 9PM

Snoozebox Hotel, Olympic Park
London E15 2NQ

The Cayman Islands Government Office in the UK is proud to present the inaugural Cayman Day event in London, UK!

Join us for an afternoon celebration of the Cayman Islands with friends, family and our Caymanians living overseas!

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- Dominoes Competition
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- Affordable hotel rooms available!

Limited complimentary tickets available - RSVP NOW!

caymanconnection.org/caymanday-uk

Tickets courtesy CIGO-UK



► Caymanian performer and Cayman Connection member King Navassa

VACCINATION RATE PICKS UP IN CAYMAN

By Staff Writer

An encouraging community response is being noticed as a drive to boost the number of persons vaccinated against COVID-19 gains momentum.

With overall vaccination now exceeding 100,000 (numbers are updated daily), the push is on to include those persons who have not yet been inoculated urging them to come forward.

The previous target of 80 per cent linked to the October 14th reopening has been all but abandoned over concerns that it might not be reached. The rate of vaccinations had dropped in the past months but recently has picked up considerably.

The renewed interest in getting vaccinated is linked to the confirmation of three cases of community spread of the virus - two of which were confirmed to be the highly-transmissible Delta variant.

Vaccination clinics have been set up at several points throughout the islands and Hon. Minister for Health and Wellness, Sabrina Turner, is urging persons who have delayed getting the vaccine to come forward to get their jab.

“From what we’re seeing people are showing up in their numbers. We want this to continue, and we appreciate your cooperation and making this a reality.”

Referring to the situation elsewhere, Min. Turner noted: “We have gotten the statistics and the data that has proven our

high vaccination rates in comparison to some other jurisdictions. And for those jurisdictions who are vaccinated, and those who have fallen seriously ill it is proven that the vaccine works. We want this to continue and we appreciate your cooperation in making this a reality.”

Approximate figures at press time suggested that close of 75 per cent of the revised population estimate of 71,106 (up from the previous 65,000) have now had at least one dose of the Pfizer Bio Tech vaccine with a little over 70 per cent completing the recommended two-dose course.

Clearance has now been received for booster shots to be administered in Cayman in keeping with advice and supplies from Public Health England which has been donating the vaccines to Cayman and other Overseas Territories.

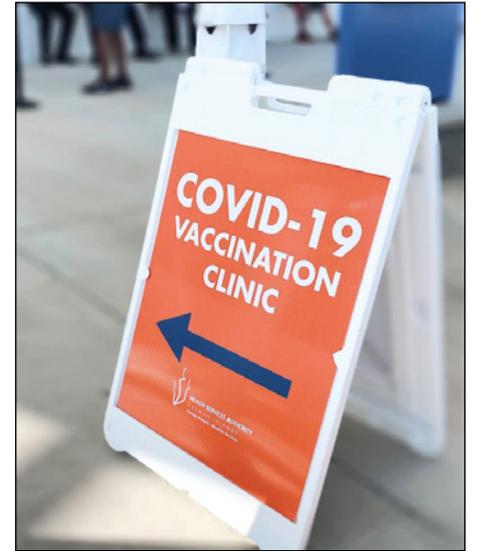
Chief Medical Officer Dr John Lee announced that Public Health England has confirmed that the United Kingdom Overseas Territories can decide to deploy booster programmes as a result of the UK’s Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency’s approval for the use of booster doses of both Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca vaccines.

“We will be rolling out that programme as soon as we have confirmation through the Governor’s office... and when we have that date, we will be able to ask people to come forward for the booster programme.”

Dr Lee also said that priority will be given to the more vulnerable especially person with underlying conditions.

“I expect that we’ll start very imminently and certainly we’ll be calling for people by priority so the first group of priority will be those who are immuno-compromised and then they need the most help and then working back through the groups. That information will come out in the next week or two as to how that will work.”

Meanwhile PCR testing for the virus is continuing especially among traveller in line with the intensified vaccination drive. Over just two days in the past week 34 positive cases were found among arriving passengers the highest numbers in recent times.



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COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule – SEPTEMBER 2021 (v6)

The COVID-19 vaccine is available to ALL persons 12 years and over.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN FACE MASK



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		1	2	3	4	
		CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4:00 – 7:30pm	PROSPECT COMMUNITY OFFICE 4 – 7pm (#33 Marina Dr)	CAMANA BAY 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4:00 – 7:30pm	
6	7	8	9	10	11	
SAVANNAH MLA OFFICE 4 – 7pm (#8 Homestead Crescent, behind Wendy's Countryside)	CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4:00 – 7:30pm	CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4:00 – 7:30pm	WEST BAY HEALTH CENTRE 5 – 7pm	CAMANA BAY 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4:00 – 7:30pm	
13	14	15	16	17	18	
Clinic Closed	CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4:00 – 7:30pm	CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4:00 – 7:30pm	TBC	CAMANA BAY 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4:00 – 7:30pm	
20	21	22	23	24	25	
Clinic Closed	CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4:00 – 7:30pm	CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4 - 7:30pm	ASTON RUTTY CENTRE (Cayman Brac) 9am – 12pm	PROSPECT COMMUNITY OFFICE 4 – 7pm (#33 Marina Dr)	CAMANA BAY 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	CAMANA BAY 10am – 2pm 4:00 – 7:30pm

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SAVANNAH MLA OFFICE
4 – 7pm
(#8 Homestead Crescent, behind Wendy's Countryside)

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC LOCATIONS
•CAMANA BAY (FORMER CAYMAN MAC LOCATION)
•DISTRICTS – AS NOTED ON THE SCHEDULE

Parental consent required for anyone 12 – 17 years old

Facemask required – Please bring your ow



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 showing date of birth.

Most up to date schedule will be on www.hsa.ky Sept v6

A Snapshot of Finance Committee decisions

More money for businesses and schools

At the meeting of Finance Committee recently, support for business initiatives increased by \$4 million, helping businesses impacted by Covid border closures.

Minister for Social Development, Andre Ebanks, in response to questioning by the Leader of the Opposition Roy McTaggart, said that the request for this additional funding of \$4 million for business development came about from the previous meeting of Finance Committee, to help those impacted by border closure due to Covid who had tourism-related businesses.

Land and sea tour operators had made a compelling case that, while the stipend system assisted them personally, they didn't have stipends to assist the business itself, so this was to assist with business funding to maintain business assets and prepare them for readiness for reopening. At that time, there was discussion to see if more money was needed, as Government had been taking a cautious approach to this new concept, but now they anticipated such entities could apply as from Monday 6th September for some funding assistance. They also hoped to expand the programme to other sectors of the tourism industry trying to maintain their business in readiness for the border reopening.

MP Joey Ebanks asked whether those who, up until now, had not been eligible for the stipend, such as bed and breakfast owners, but who were still financially impacted by the border closure, could apply.

Minister Ebanks said those were exactly the type of people who they envisioned would receive this funding.

"This additional funding is to try and fill that gap," he said.

Land purchase increase

Finance Committee also approved an increase by \$2 million for monies for acquiring land. Mr McTaggart asked if there was a list of properties approved for purchase.

Juliana O'Connor Connolly, Minister for District Administration and Lands, explained: "This is a continuation of the policy to acquire the very important beach

property and access, so there is not a completed list yet."

However Members who believed that certain properties should be purchased could submit their request, she advised.

Money for schools

Finance Committee also approved an increase of monies in the amount of \$200,200 so that the Education Ministry could purchase cloth masks for school children.

MP Barbara Conolly asked whether this was suggesting that students might have to wear masks to school once they opened for the new school year.

Education Minister Juliana O'Connor Connolly said that decision had not as yet been made as to students wearing masks in schools but that the situation had been ongoing because students were still required to wear masks on school buses. Once the country opened up, the science would be looked at and they would assess the situation then.

Finance Committee then approved \$3,100,996 for a public school meals programme. Minister O'Connor-Connolly explained that free meals needed to be provided, so breakfast, snack and lunch would be given to public primary school students, with a nutritionalist on board to ensure that the meals were healthy. The Lighthouse School was included in this programme. Secondary schools should be included in January.

"This is a step in the right direction," Minister O'Connor Connolly said.

Local overseas scholarships and bursaries would get a big increase, of \$8.7 million, to assist students with their tertiary education, effectively doubling the original amount. Fifty to 60 percent of those funds was allocated as a prepayment for the spring term's scholarship funding, the Education Minister advised. Funds were also being allocated to top up the actual budget needs not provided in the last budget.

Parks and farmers gain from financial boosts

Public parks and cemeteries are to receive a \$500,000 boost in their mainte-



nance and management, as agreed in Finance Committee last Wednesday.

Opposition Leader Roy McTaggart noted that this was to assist with the NICE programme and asked as to when the programme was to begin.

Minister for Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure, Jay Ebanks, said the NICE programme would begin the first part of the winter season, in December.

Post disaster recovery works will also get a boost of \$500,000, for which the Opposition Leader asked which areas were the Government seeking to help when it comes to alleviating flooding.

"The NRA has identified several areas throughout the whole island in need of drains. We've identified about 80 new drains that need to be put in throughout the whole island," Minister Ebanks stated.

MP Alden McLaughlin questioned whether that was sufficient funds realistically, taking into consideration we were only half way through hurricane season.

Minister Ebanks said there was the ability to increase the funding, if necessary.

Farmers get \$3 million

Post Storm Grace, \$3 million was granted in assistance to farmers.

Minister Ebanks said: "Based on the assessments carried out to date, most of the significant impact was through the crop farmers, in particular those farmers who produced a lot of the fruit trees and banana trees. Up to date, we have at least 145 farmers that were impacted by tropical storm [Grace] -119 of those are crop farmers and about 25 of them are large banana and plantain farm producers."

This funding would be allocated to the farmers to help them be able to meet their income gap based on the level of damage to their farms, he advised, adding that there was a specific criteria to follow to determine how much they would receive.

The grant was only for licenced commercial farmers to help with the loss to their income, not for casual "backyard" farmers.

MP Alden McLaughlin, who owns a large farm himself, commended the Department of Agriculture in their assistance to farmers since Tropical Storm Grace, as they had been spending about a half a day per commercial farm to help farmers survive post storm.

Commercial Farmers to Receive Grants Under Phase 2 of Assistance Programme

Some 400 commercial farmers across the Cayman Islands will continue to receive grants under phase two of the Cayman Islands Farmers' Assistance and Relief Measures (CI FARM) programme, starting this month until the end of November.

This was announced by the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure on Thursday, September 9.

Each commercial farmer will receive a voucher card to be topped up over the three month period to purchase livestock feed, fertilisers, pesticides and other essential agricultural inputs from the Department of Agriculture.

Minister of Agriculture Hon. Jay Ebanks stated that the Government is committed to supporting farmers and strengthening the Islands' food and nutrition security. "The additional funds of close to half mil-

lion dollars which we have allocated for this phase of the farmers' relief measures programme to assist commercial farmers is further indication of our intention to provide support and resources that are needed to enhance food and nutrition security".

Since the inception of of CI FARM, over 1500 members of the farming community, including commercial farmers have benefitted from the relief measures. The programme is being implemented by the Department of Agriculture with funding and oversight provided by the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure.

For information on phase 2 of the COVID 19 Farmers' Assistance Programme, please contact the Department of Agriculture at (345) 947 3090.



Public Input Sought for Revamped Beneficial Ownership Legislation

Comments are welcomed on Government's proposals to reshape the Cayman Islands' beneficial ownership legislation, including by creating a single act to make the legislation more effective in fighting crime.

The consultation paper (<https://www.mfs.ky/wp-content/uploads/FS20005-Consultation-Paper-Beneficial-Ownership.pdf>), titled Enhancement of the Beneficial Ownership Framework, includes questions for the public to answer. The consultation was issued today, and it will close on Monday, 4 October. A "beneficial owner" is a person who ultimately owns or controls an entity, although the entity may be held in another name.

"This consultation is important, because a strong beneficial ownership framework strengthens our commitment to fight criminality not just locally, but also globally," said Minister of Financial Services, the Hon. André Ebanks.

"Government's proposals are therefore intended to place Cayman in an even

stronger position with global standards that fight criminal activity, such as money laundering and terrorist financing; and, at the same time, creating a more streamlined and concise legislative act."

The concept of beneficial ownership has been around for quite some time. However, Minister Ebanks noted that in 2017, Cayman and other UK Overseas Territories entered into agreements, called Exchange of Notes, with the UK. These further strengthened the territories' respective beneficial ownership frameworks.

"But as global standards for these frameworks continue to evolve, it's necessary to revisit ours to ensure such standards are observed in a proactive, transparent, orderly manner," Minister Ebanks said.

After a holistic review of the legal acts that make up Cayman's beneficial ownership framework, the consultation paper's proposals take account of:

- Current global standards for beneficial ownership, set by the Financial Ac-



tion Task Force, which develops policies for anti-money laundering and terrorist financing that are followed by countries worldwide.

- Cayman's 2019 commitment to introduce a public beneficial ownership register by 2023, which is when the global standard is expected to be modified to include public registers.

- Feedback to date from Cayman's financial services industry.

- Data security.

Based on the above, the Ministry is asking the public to comment on six main proposed changes to the existing framework.

1. Creating a single act for beneficial ownership, in line with other jurisdictions including the Bahamas, the Isle of Man, Guernsey, Jersey, and the British Virgin Islands.

2. Including limited partnerships and exempted limited partnerships into the framework, in anticipation of changes to the global standard.

3. Requiring additional data reporting, including the nationality of the beneficial owner and the mechanism by which the beneficial owner holds control.

4. Reducing filing duplications, as much as possible, to make it easier for the financial services industry to file beneficial ownership information with General Registry, which is the competent authority for this purpose. A "competent authority" is a person or organisation that has legal authority to perform a specific function. In this case, General Registry is the competent authority for receiving, maintaining and providing access to the beneficial ownership register.

5. Improving access to beneficial ownership information for other local and international competent authorities and financial institutions, in preparation for public access.

6. Obliging those accessing beneficial ownership information to inform General Registry of any discrepancies in the information.

Three key acts - Companies, Limited Liability Companies, and Limited Liability Partnership - would be amended under the proposals. Minister Ebanks also said consequential amendments to any other act that references beneficial ownership provisions would be made.



► Hon. André Ebanks, Minister of Financial Services and Commerce, Investment, Innovation, and Social Development

Island Heritage announces recipient of 2021 Educational Grant

Island Heritage Insurance Company, Ltd. ("Island Heritage" or "the Company") announced today that it has awarded its 2021 Educational Grant to Halle Whittaker.

Halle is embarking on her second year at the University of Manchester where she is enrolled in the Information Technology Management for Business programme. After completing her degree, she plans to use the skills she has acquired to help advance the field of Information Technology on island and inspire other young women who are interested in a similar career path.

As in previous years, there were a number of exceptional candidates; however, Halle impressed the committee with her overall presentation, outgoing personality

and her drive to succeed in a male dominated industry. Commenting on her selection as this year's recipient, Halle said "I am beyond grateful and appreciative to have been selected as the Island Heritage Educational Grant recipient; this incredible opportunity will allow me to carry out my studies at the University of Manchester. I am excited to make Island Heritage and the Cayman Islands proud."

Established five years ago, the educational grant was increased to US \$10,000 in celebration of Island Heritage's 25th Anniversary. The criteria for selection includes academic excellence, demonstrated leadership experience, and community engagement and service. The recipient is selected by a committee of Island Heritage staff members.



► (L-R) Island Heritage's Group Chief Underwriting Officer Caroline Mills-White, Educational Grant Recipient Halle Whittaker, Educational Grant Committee Members Karina Bennett and Nickola O'Sullivan

Foster's limit toilet paper buying

By Staff Writer

Because of reports of panic-buying following the announcement last week of two locally transmitted cases of Covid-19 (the first for more than a year), management at Foster's and Priced Right have had to implement limits on certain products.

Some shoppers have apparently lapsed into behaviour not seen since the beginning of the pandemic last year and have begun hoarding items such as toilet and

kitchen paper, hand sanitiser, disinfectant and bleach. So, as from Friday, 10th September, shoppers are only permitted to buy a maximum of two of such items per person per type of item (SKU or stock-keeping unit).

"Since the news of two locally transmitted COVID-19 cases yesterday, unnecessary panic-buying has arisen at Foster's and Priced Right locations. We ask our customers to remain calm and keep to their usual shopping behaviour and routine," they stated.



These limits are clearly marked on store shelves, in Foster's Supermarket and Priced Right locations and the full list of products can be found on their website - <https://fosters.ky/cov-product-limit/>. Updates to the product list will be made on this site should changes occur and the information will be shared via their social media accounts.

The supermarket's management sought to reassure shoppers that while they continued to have supply issues on some items due to the global pandemic, they were still receiving a constant supply of product from local and overseas partner suppliers.

"We will continue to receive product from our suppliers and our warehouse is fully stocked of product, including high demand items," Managing Director, Woody

Foster, said. "While we understand that these times can cause panic, we ask you to remain calm when in our stores and to respect both our team and those around you."

In addition, with the news regarding a positive passenger on a Cayman Airways flight, they have implemented an internal mask policy which requires all team members at Foster's and Priced Right locations to wear a mask while in store.

The mandate also requires all third party suppliers and outsourced companies entering any Foster's Food Fair Ltd. location to wear a mask or face covering (not including face shields) and to sanitise their hands before entering their stores, warehouse, or admin buildings, again, taking effect from Friday, 10th September 2021.

Cayman Islands Red Cross conducts public survey as part of new 5-year strategic plan

For six decades, the Cayman Islands Red Cross (CIRC) has been committed to helping communities and vulnerable individuals in crisis and building a sustainable resilient community. As part of the process to build a new 5-year strategic plan, CIRC is conducting an online information gathering and feedback survey.

The survey will provide valuable feedback on the work of the Cayman Islands Red Cross as well as insights on what areas they should focus their efforts on in the next five years as well as the community's

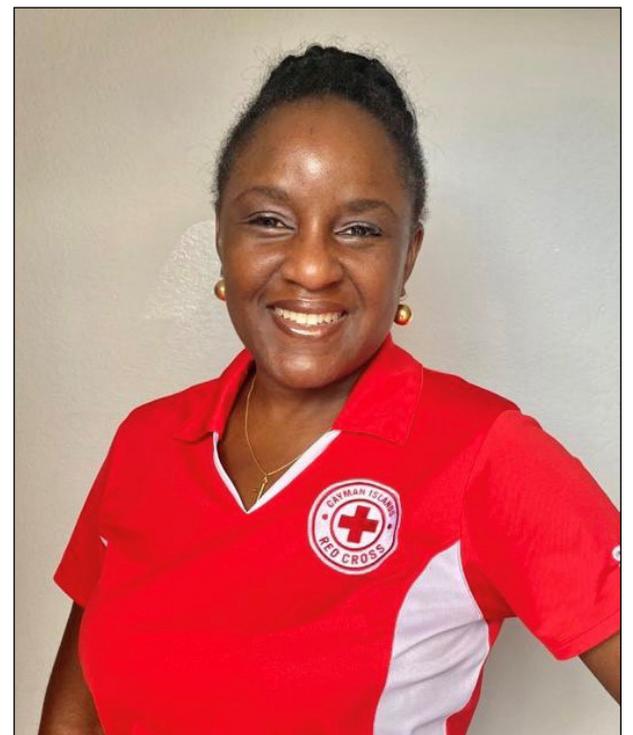
perceptions of unmet needs. The CIRC will be distributing the 5-minute survey to stakeholders via their email database and is also encouraging the wider community and general public to respond. A link to the survey can be found on the website at <https://redcross.org.ky/> or on their social media channels on Facebook and Instagram.

Jondo Obi, Director, Cayman Islands Red Cross, said: "The CIRC has concentrated efforts on improving communities, and creating a better environment for residents.

As we plan for the next five years, your feedback will help us towards developing initiatives that benefit Cayman. Help us by completing our short survey so we know what areas to focus our attention on."

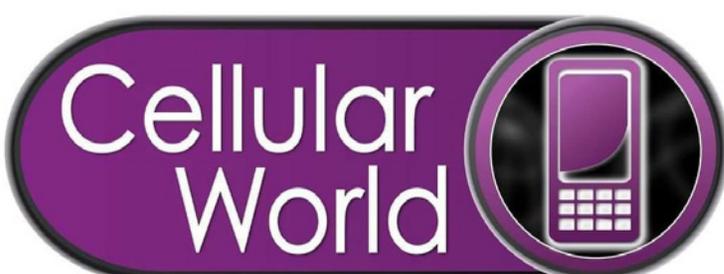
The Cayman Islands Red Cross (CIRC) is also currently celebrating its' 60th anniversary. Businesses, community groups, schools, and individuals are all encouraged to #PaintCaymanRed, with all donations and proceeds going to support CIRC community programmes. The CIRC work in partnership with agencies such as HMCI in disaster preparedness and response, as well as the RCIPS, HSA, and the Ministry of Education in its child protection efforts, and have played an important role in responding to the pandemic.

Jondo Obi also said: "The work of the Cayman Islands Red Cross over the course of the last 60 years has been very important for society as a whole. The work we



► Jondo Obi, Director, Cayman Islands Red Cross

are doing now to help us plan for the next 5-years, such as this survey, will help ensure we are still making a positive impact and helping local communities in another 60 years."



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DEH Vegetation Collection moves from George Town to Bodden Town

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) team will be moving into Bodden Town after completing the collection of vegetation debris in George Town on Saturday September 11, 2021. Residents are reminded that there will not be any extension and any vegetative waste that is put out after the scheduled dates will not be collected.

"We are now approaching week three of our island-wide vegetation collection schedule. Next week we will be servicing communities in the Bodden Town District. We want to continue encouraging residents to separate their waste and remember that this is a VEGETATION ONLY collection exercise. Be mindful the vegetative debris collected is being converted into mulch that can be used to replant trees and assist farmers," said DEH Director Richard Simms.

The collection of vegetation waste in the Bodden Town District will com-

mence on Monday September 13 to Saturday September 18, 2021. Vegetation debris can also be drop off to the temporary collection site at the Government Emergency Training Site on Anton Bodden Road.

Residents are asked to ONLY place vegetation debris on the curbside where it is easily accessible to the collection crews. Do not obstruct the roadway or storm drains or place household trash. Trim vegetation to lengths of 3 feet to enable an efficient collection. Alternative arrangements should be made to transport any other type of debris to the George Town landfill drop off.

Additional information is available from the DEH at 949-6696. Individuals may also send an email to dehcustomerservice@gov.ky, visit the DEH's website at www.deh.gov.ky or message its Facebook page at www.facebook.com/DEHCaymanIslands.



► Vegetative debris being dropped off at the Prospect Temporary Site by members of the public

POLICE NEWS

Travel Cayman Reminds Public of Breach Reports/Penalties

Travel Cayman is working with the Public Health Department and the Royal Cayman Islands Police to respond to and safely conclude its response to several suspected quarantine breaches that took place on Saturday (11 September 2021) and Sunday (12 September).

Following four suspected breaches yesterday and three today, Travel Cayman continues to remind individuals quarantining at residence that only persons making contactless deliveries should visit their properties.

The penalties for anyone who fail to follow this rule, are up to two years in jail and a maximum KYD10,000 fine, upon conviction.

Emphasising that these requirements carry the weight of law and will be strictly enforced, Deputy Governor Franz Manderson comments: "I wish to assure the public that every report of a suspected breach is investigated by Travel Cayman, Public Health and the RCIPS. It is clear that despite numerous warnings a small percentage of travellers and members of the public are not taking the laws and regulations governing quarantine at residence seriously."

"I am aware that two cases concerning a breach of quarantine at residence will be in court next week. It may be that further cases involving quarantine breaches may come before the court in short order. It would be unfortunate if criminal prosecution is required for travelers and the wider public to take these matters seriously and abide by the quarantine restrictions in place", the Deputy Governor adds.

Travel Cayman Director Casandra Morris states "Travel Cayman contin-



ues to strengthen its policies including reorganising key resources to mitigate the potential for future incidents. We continue to fight against the spread of COVID-19, and to encourage persons in quarantine, as well as the public to adhere to our protocols and guidelines. We need everyone to do their part to keep our families, community, and the country safe".

Ms Morris thanks those members of the public who have reported breaches to date, and notes the important role they have played in keeping the Cayman Islands community safe.

Persons who suspect that an individual has breached quarantine may make an anonymous report to 943-SAFE (7233) or file an online report at www.explore.gov.ky/travel.

"We ask that the public refrain from sharing reports that are not factual as it hinders the work of Public Health, Travel Cayman and the RCIPS", Ms Morris concludes.

Public Health has conducted investigations of this weekend's suspected breaches and can confirm that, at this point, there is no cause for a public health concern.

Two persons arrested on multiple drug charges in West Bay operation

On Friday 10 September, officers from the West Bay Police Station along with supporting RCIPS Units carried out a search at a residence in the district, resulting in the arrest of a 23 year old male and a 20 year old female both of West Bay, for possession of ganja with the intent to supply and other related offences.



During the operation officers recovered approximately 5 pounds of ganja, and other drug related paraphernalia.

The arrested persons were transported to the Cayman Islands Detention Centre where they were interviewed and subsequently bailed.

Investigations are ongoing.

Police investigate wounding incident at The Strand

Shortly after 12.30am, Sunday 12 September, police responded to a report of a wounding incident at The Strand on West Bay Road.

On arriving at the location a 25 year old male from South Sound appeared to have multiple stab wounds. The victim was transported to the George Town Hospital for treatment. He is in a serious but stable condition and remains under observation.

Investigation are ongoing and detectives ask that if anyone was witness to this incident to please come forward and provide any information you may have. Information can be provided by calling the West Bay Police Station on 949 3999, or anonymous tips can be provided directly to the RCIPS via our Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777, or via our website <http://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip>.

Police investigate firearm related incident in West Bay

Just after 11pm, 10 September, officers responded to a report of a shooting incident at Reverend Blackman Road in West Bay.

On arriving at the location, a 23 year old man from West Bay had a gunshot wound to his pelvic area. The victim was transferred by ambulance to George Town

hospital for treatment and is in a stable condition.

Investigations are ongoing.

Detectives are appealing to the public for any witnesses with information about this incident to come forward. Anyone with information is encouraged to call the West Bay Police Station at 345 949-3999.

CABINET OF THE CAYMAN ISLANDS – POST MEETING SUMMARY

His Excellency the Governor Mr. Marlyn Roper, OBE, chaired the meeting of the Cabinet held on Tuesday, 31st August 2021 in the Cabinet Conference Room, Government Administration Building.

All Ministers and Members of Cabinet were present with the exception of the following person who was absent with permission:

- Hon Samuel Bulgin, QC, JP, Attorney General. The Acting Attorney General, Ms Reshma Sharma attended on his behalf;

At this meeting Cabinet:

- approved the following appointment to the Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands: Ms. Kathryn Dinspel-Powell as Member;

- approved the following appointments and/or reappointments to the Maritime Authority of the Cayman Islands: Mr. Rob Maass, as Director, and Ms. Caroline Barton as a Director;

- approved the following appointment to the Board of Directors of Utility Regulations and Competition (OfReg): Mr. Rudy Ebanks as Chairperson;

- approved the following appointments and/or reappointments to the Pharmacy Council: Dr Marla Barnes as Chairperson, Mr. Rudolph "Rudy" Myles as Deputy Chairperson, Mr. Todd Jefferson as Member, Ms. Winsome Jefferson as Member, Mr. Kevin Gipple as Member, and Dr Carlene Webb as Member;

- confirmed the approval given by circulation for the following reappointment to the Law Reform Commission: Mr. Abraham Thoppil as Commissioner;

- confirmed the approval given by circulation for an increase in appropriations for the Ministry of Education for Policy Advice, Governance and Ministerial Support Services;

- confirmed the approval given by circulation for the following reappointments to the Special Economic Zones Authority:

Mr. Bryan Hunter as Chairperson, Mr. Marcus Cumber as Deputy Chairperson, Mr. Cornell Anthony Ritch as Private Sector Member, Mr. Paul Byles as Private Sector Member and Mr. Langlie Powery as Private Sector Member;

- confirmed the approval given by circulation for an increase in appropriations for the Ministry of Education for Other Educational and Training Assistance;

- confirmed the approval given by circulation for an increase in appropriations for the Ministry of Finance & Economic Development for Supplies and Other Items to Combat COVID-19;

- confirmed the approval given by circulation for the creation of two new allocations and an increase in appropriations for the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure for Assistance to Farmers - Tropical Storm Grace, Cleanup, Repairs to and Enhancement of Infrastructure - Tropical Storm Grace, and Management of Public Recreational Facilities and Cemeteries;

- confirmed the approval given by circulation for an increase in appropriation for the Ministry of Health and Wellness for the purchase of operational equipment for the Department of Environmental Health;

- confirmed the approval given by circulation for an increase in appropriation for the Ministry of Health and Wellness for Other Health and Cultural Programme Assistance;

- confirmed the approval given by circulation for the purchase of land Block 107A Parcel 32 in Cayman Brac for the purpose of constructing a new High School, expanding the sporting facilities and providing safe (high and dry) land for future Cayman Islands Government emergency services;

- approved the issuance of drafting instructions to commence an exploratory draft for a single Act for Beneficial Ownership Transparency;



- approved increases in appropriations for the Parliament for Administrative & Advisory Support to Members of the Parliament and Constituency Allowance;

- approved an increase in appropriations for the Ministry of Education for an increase of the scholarship award for local 'A' level studies to meet the increased 'A' level tuition at private school providers;

- approved an increase in appropriations for the Ministry of Education to meet the increased demand for scholarships and support the decision to prepay a percentage of scholarships for the spring 2022 semester;

- approved an increase in appropriations for the Ministry of Education to provide free school meals to public primary and Lighthouse School students for the 2021 Fall Semester;

- approved an increase in appropriations for the Ministry of Education to reinstate funding to all registered Private Schools in the Cayman Islands for 2021;

- approved an increase in appropriations for the Ministry of Education for the standard scholarship award for overseas postgraduate studies (Masters or PhDs);

- approved an increase in appropriations for the Ministry of Education for the award of a single payment to Caymanian scholarship recipients to go toward the costs of obtaining student visas at the

embassies of the United States of America (USA) or Canada to be able to attend educational institutions in those countries;

- approved increases in appropriations for the Ministry of Investment, Innovation, & Social Development for Land and Watersports Tour Operators Business Stipend and Asset Grant Programme to support tour operators affected by the border closure; to provide assistance to additional small and micro businesses in sub sectors of the tourism industry similarly affected by the border closure; to provide housing repair assistance following the impact of Tropical Storm Grace and to fund Social Development and Support;

- approved an increase in appropriations for the Portfolio of the Civil Service for Health Insurance for Civil Servant Pensioners;

- approved the grant of two conditional exemptions from the gainful occupation requirements of non-Caymanians pursuant to Section 53 (1) (b) of the Immigration (Transition) Act, 2018;

- noted the Tax Exemption Statistics for June and July 2021;

- noted the Financial Results and Position for the 7-month period ended 31 July 2021.

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Senior Drivers Benefit from Fee Reductions



The Department of Vehicle and Drivers' Licensing

Safe driving is everyone's responsibility

Cabinet has approved the Traffic (Amendment) Regulations, 2021 which has reduced fees for many motor vehicle and driver's licence services for senior citizens in the Cayman Islands.

Minister for Infrastructure Hon. Jay Ebanks announced the changes. He said, "The PACT Government is committed to improving the well-being of our people, including our valued senior citizens. We hope that the reduction in fees for people 65 years and older will help to reduce their financial burdens."

The fee reductions for the Islands' "Silver Drivers" became effective on Sunday, 15 August.

Fees for motor vehicle registrations, vehicle license renewals, driver's licence applications and driver's licence renewals will all be reduced by 50 percent for older people in the community. Fees related to motor vehicle registration plates (or licence plates) will also be reduced by 33 percent.

The fee discounts will be consistent across Grand Cayman, Cayman Brac

and Little Cayman for any vehicles owned by any person over the age of 65. The discounts are calculated automatically by Department of Vehicle and Driver Licensing (DVDL) systems based on the person's age at the date of the transaction and apply to both in-person transactions at DVDL offices and also to online renewals.

"I am so happy to see this service come to fruition for our seniors who we are affectionately calling our 'Silver Drivers'. We are a community where respect and care for our elders is one of the cornerstones of who we are. The PACT Government is committed to continuously implementing measures such as this to strengthen the care of our elderly residents," added Premier Hon Wayne Panton.

Members of the public are reminded that they can renew their vehicle and driver's licences online via the DVDL website at www.dvdl.gov.ky

Residents can also keep their contact details up to date by registering on the site.

SUPPORTING OUR SILVER DRIVERS

HOW WE ARE HELPING
We want to support and help ease the financial burdens of those who have helped make us who we are.

YOUR SAVINGS

- 50% off Your Vehicle Licensing
- 50% off Your Driver's Licence Fees
- 33% off Your Licence Plates

Planning Department Conducts Virtual Inspections

The Department of Planning has been conducting virtual inspections on properties across Grand Cayman since May this year.

Director of Planning, Haroon Pandohie said the aim of the initiative is to improve customer service by leveraging mobile technology. "We have been discussing conducting virtual inspections for some time now in an effort to lessen wait time and utilise technology to be more efficient. Reducing the number of inspector visits to job sites and time spent in transit will result in more effective scheduling and a higher number of inspections being carried out" he said.

Minister of Planning Hon. Jay Ebanks, who recently received a walk-through of the virtual inspection process, commended the planning team on their efforts to

enhance efficiency and improve the quality of service to customers across the Islands. "The Planning Department continues to improve its processes to ensure all customers receive world class service. We are very pleased with how well staff and customers are adapting to the new way of doing business, which we are confident will improve the development process. I am committed to providing the Department with the resources needed as we continue on this direction of greater efficiency," he stated.

The virtual inspections require an application (app) to be downloaded to a mobile phone allowing the inspector to see an installation, assess and determine whether it complies with various code provisions.

Senior Electrical Inspector Shondel Bodden explained that once the Department



► Senior Electrical Inspector Shondel Bodden explains the virtual inspection process to Planning Minister Hon. Jay Ebanks and other members of the Ministry team



► Director of Planning Haroon Pandohie with Minister Hon. Jay Ebanks, PS Isaac Rankine and Chief Financial Officer Carrol Cooper in the Ministry of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure (Photos by Alethia Lambert)

of Planning arranges for an inspection to be done virtually, a call is placed to the contractor regarding the day and time for the inspection. "There are protocols established to ensure we are conducting the inspection with a licensed contractor and to confirm that we are doing inspection for the correct premises. Once that is established, then we go in to do the remote inspection to check whether the system has been installed according to the approved plans

and to confirm that the various components are meeting minimum life safety provisions based on adapted codes", he said.

Mr. Bodden further stated, "We conduct the inspections using two monitors, one to see the installation and the other to assess the drawings that were approved for the installations. We give the contractors guidance on where we want them to

go, what we want to view. We check each component carefully".

Since April 1 to August 31 this year, the Department of Planning has conducted a total of 5,557 virtual and regular inspections across the Islands.

To book a virtual inspection, persons can contact the Department of Planning at 244-6501 or email planning.department@gov.ky.

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CARIBBEAN TOURISM PERFORMANCE SCORES HIGH MARKS DESPITE THE PANDEMIC

Adaptability, flexibility and collaboration essential for Caribbean success, reports CHTA exec

Despite daunting challenges presented over the past 18 months by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Caribbean tourism and hospitality industry recorded many significant successes, and data points to an encouraging outlook ahead.

Speaking during the opening plenary session at the Caribbean Hotel & Resort Investment Summit (CHRIS) held last week, Acting CEO & Director General of the Caribbean Hotel & Tourism Association (CHTA) Vanessa Ledesma presented insights on the performance and outlook of the Caribbean tourism industry.

The pandemic's impact on the travel and tourism industry globally has been severe, resulting in the loss of millions of jobs worldwide.

The World Travel & Tourism Council's annual Economic Impact Report indicates that the pandemic delivered a blow of \$33.9 billion in lost revenue to the Caribbean's travel and tourism sector, lowering the sector's contribution to GDP by 58 percent, higher than the global average. Some 680,000 tourism-related jobs were lost, representing nearly one-fourth of all jobs in the sector.

According to CHTA's Data Partner ForwardKeys, the Caribbean outperformed its global counterparts in terms of international arrivals in July 2021 relative to July 2019, experiencing an overall decline of 13.2 percent compared to other regions, which suffered losses ranging from 21 percent (Central America) to 85.5 percent (Asia Pacific). The U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico were the top performing Caribbean destinations, with arrivals up by 106.3 percent and 39.7 percent, respectively.

Recognizing the impact which the COVID-19 delta variant (first detected in India)

is now having on global travel and the fact that global competition has increased as more destinations have opened up to travel since March, weekly ticket sales for future travel to the Caribbean from the United States have slowed in recent weeks.

Although confirmed tickets for travel to the Caribbean during the coming months are down slightly, some destinations, including Puerto Rico, Jamaica, the Dominican Republic, Aruba and The Bahamas, are experiencing levels ahead of those recorded prior to the pandemic. Ledesma confirmed that these findings are not surprising given expanded airline routes from major U.S. markets and strong load factors from North America.

In response to the public health crisis, Caribbean tourism leaders are seizing the opportunity to stimulate policy discussions on how best to support the return of airlift to the region. With an initial focus on intra-regional travel, stakeholders are examining the feasibility of reducing aviation taxes and airport charges, fostering better market access and increasing regulatory harmonization across the region.

"We are particularly pleased to see the initiatives being taken by Prime Minister Gaston Browne from Antigua and Barbuda, Prime Minister Mia Mottley from Barbados, and Prime Minister Ralph Gonsalves from St. Vincent and the Grenadines who are looking to stimulate travel within the region with policy initiatives which can reduce the cost of travel," noted Ledesma.

Ledesma also shared several industry-specific key performance indicators that confirm strong demand for travel to the Caribbean but also suggest the road to full recovery will be a long one. For example, although year-to-date Average Dai-



► Vanessa Ledesma, Acting CEO and Director General, Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association

ly Rates for hotel stays in North America recorded in July 2021 are highest in the Caribbean, Occupancy Rates were higher in the United States and Mexico. Among Caribbean destinations with the highest Revenue Per Available Room (RevPAR) for July 2021 year-to-date, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico are the only two destinations showing an increase for 2021 compared to the same period in 2019; not surprisingly, RevPAR for the Caribbean overall fell significantly from 2019 to 2021.

Barring any potentially negative travel trends resulting from new coronavirus spikes or outbreaks, the CHTA leader pointed to several encouraging indicators that suggest the region's bread-and-but-

ter industry is well poised for a strong rebound. Comparing June 2020 to June 2021, Occupancy Rates in the Caribbean increased from 13.5 percent to 48.2 percent, reflecting the pent-up demand for travel to the region; comparing July 2020 to July 2021, rates rose from 19.5 percent to 53.6 percent.

According to CHTA's Strategic Partner STR, as of July 2021, destinations with the highest Occupancy Rates in the region were: Aruba (82.6 percent), Puerto Rico (81.2 percent), Turks & Caicos (79.6 percent), Cancun (74.4 percent) and Curaçao (71.7 percent).

Drawing on research from CHTA Strategic Partner Mastercard, Ledesma shared findings which revealed that consumers are increasing their spend in destination, as well as their length of stay.

She credited the trade association's unique health-and-tourism partnership with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO) with being instrumental in promoting effective health safety prevention and mitigation efforts.

Moving forward, the Caribbean's recovery strategies and actions will continue to include: advancing health safety initiatives, building trade and traveler confidence, advancing better tour operator policies, advancing regional collaboration to support tourism's recovery, making the case for travel with key international markets, and advocating for jurisdictional and regional policies supporting recovery.

For the region's tourism and hospitality industry to experience a robust recovery, the CHTA executive believes that increased governmental support to address rising operational expenses is needed, together with effective communications and public relations, a strong focus on health and safety, a commitment to investing in the region's human resources, partnership and collaboration, and improved efficiencies.



► (L-R) Federico Moreno-Nickerson of Apple Leisure Group, Vanessa Ledesma and Alexis Capellades of CHTA, and Bill Clegg of Best Western Hotel Group at the CHRIS meeting in Miami last week

CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Barbados extends its curfew

Barbados has expanded the hours for its curfew because of its corona virus spread, which began on Saturday.

The new curfew hours are 9pm to 5am from Monday through Saturday and from 6pm to 5am on Sunday. The curfew had been 11pm to 5am.

"These hours will be in effect for two weeks, but may be extended to four weeks if our Covid case numbers don't go down," said Barbados prime minister Mia Mottley during a televised address on Thursday.

Indoor dining is prohibited at fast food restaurants. Mottley urged residents and visitors to go for "early suppers" at all restaurants to comply with the curfew.

Barbados has set up a number of community vaccine stations throughout the island to facilitate access to vaccinations



► Barbados is taking measures to curb its virus spread

for those unable to reach the main sites in Bridgetown and elsewhere.

"We don't need to lock down if we can slow down and vaccinate, and that is absolutely, absolutely critical," the PM said. "All persons must wear a mask above their nose and below the chin. This does not come with a penalty but as a reminder to persons that Covid and the delta variant are nothing to play with."

Grenada focuses on its food appeal

Grenada is known as the Spice Island and it is certainly living up to that moniker by going down the food tourism route.

A series of new programs will launch soon involving mainly food and drink. The Flavours of Grenada Culinary Camp, for example, is targeted at local children as well as visiting kids.

The sessions will be half day and range in price from EC\$40 (KY\$12.3) or EC\$50 (KY\$15.4) for island visitors. The plan is to have a minimal or no charge for local children. Other options, in addition to the farm and cooking sessions, will involve trips to the mangroves, swim excursions, exploring the fauna and flora, visits to the Rasta communities, cocoa farms and sugar cane fields. There are other food and culinary events planned.

Petra Roach, CEO of the Grenada Tourism Authority, said: "We want our visitors



► Grenada's reputation for culinary delights is growing

to experience our land, our people, our local markets, our waters - and not just our resorts.

"Kids will go to farms, learn about the crops grown and where food comes from, take a cooking class from one of our island chefs and then enjoy what they have made and prepared. There's a big connection between the agricultural sector and the tourism sector on Grenada, and we want our visitors to feel this connection."

Dominica's first all-inclusive has a twist

Dominica is about to get its first all-inclusive resort experience, only this isn't the orthodox type.

Roseau's signature Fort Young Hotel and Dive Resort is not launching the traditional all-inclusive offerings which are typically all on site. Its all-inclusive program will give guests access to experiences outside the hotel from lion fish catching expeditions to hiking and waterfall exploration.

"Fort Young Hotel has always been a gateway to Dominica's incredible sights and landmarks so it was a natural evolution for us to introduce this all-Inclusive, island-included offering," said Dinesh Kissoon, Fort Young's general manager.

"We wanted to offer travellers to Dominica a truly seamless, effortless and authentic way to experience the local culture, land and sea unlike ever before."

While the 40-room hotel - which will soon expand to 100 rooms - is not going completely all-inclusive, the program is available to guests who stay for a minimum of five nights.

Round-trip airport transfers, two 60-minute massages, two 60-minute yoga sessions, national park entrance fees, unlimited scuba diving and even cocoa tea and juice at local eateries, are among other inclusions as well as hiking to Trafalgar Falls to a guided walking tour of Roseau.



► Dominica's Fort Young Hotel is going all-inclusive

Cuba debuts toddler virus vaccines

Cuba became the first country in the world to vaccinate children from the age of two against Covid-19, using home-grown jabs not recognised by the World Health Organization.

The communist island of 11.2 million people aims to inoculate all its children before reopening schools that have been predominantly closed since March 2020.

The new school year has started, but from home via television programs, as most Cuban homes do not have internet access. Having completed clinical trials on minors with its Abdala and Soberana vaccines, Cuba started its inoculation campaign for children last week, starting with those 12 and older.

Jab distribution in the 2-11 age group in the central province of Cienfuegos started last Monday. Several other countries in the



► Cuba is the first country to vaccinate small children

world are vaccinating children from the age of 12, and some are conducting trials in younger kids.

Countries such as China, the United Arab Emirates and Venezuela have announced they plan to vaccinate younger children, but Cuba is the first to do so.

JA to vaccinate all tourism workers

Jamaica has created a new Tourism Vaccination Task Force in an ambitious drive to inoculate all 170,000 tourism workers.

Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, Edmund Bartlett, is leading the task force. He has organised a series of voluntary vaccination blitzes at strategic sites. The initiative increases access to vaccinations for Jamaica's tourism workers, including workers in hotels, villas and guest houses, attractions, airports, cruise ports, craft markets as well as ground transportation operators.

"The immunization of tourism workers is vital to safeguarding Jamaica's



► Jamaica needs to vaccinate all its tourism workers

tourism sector and the Tourism Vaccination Task Force has been working assiduously to ensure that we make it easier for our essential workers to have access to vaccines," Bartlett said.

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

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★

Difficulty Level ★★

3/17

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Diamond corner
 - 5 Accumulate
 - 10 Singer Fitzgerald
 - 11 Stumble
 - 13 Mimic
 - 14 Warm sweater material
 - 15 Frozen dessert
 - 17 School org.
 - 18 Pudding dessert
 - 19 Part of RSVP
 - 20 Negating word
 - 21 Swimming spot
 - 22 Pharmacy stock
 - 25 Band-leader Goodman
 - 26 Agents, for short
 - 27 Used a chair
 - 28 "— a deal!"
 - 29 Pastry dessert
 - 33 Singer Damone
 - 34 Cheese-filled dessert
 - 35 Pencil end
- DOWN**
- 1 Savage creature
 - 2 Greek vowel
 - 3 Get some shuteye
 - 4 Jewelry sold in pairs
 - 5 Have an influence on
 - 6 Mediteranean island
 - 7 Pub pints
 - 8 Nero, to Augustus
 - 9 News-paper part
 - 12 In truth
 - 16 Derisive calls
 - 21 Funnel-shaped flowers
 - 22 Chauffeur
 - 23 Stops working
 - 24 Posh
 - 25 Farm sight
 - 27 Kicks off
 - 29 Fragrance
 - 30 Disco's Summer
 - 31 Rocker John
 - 32 Detroit team
 - 36 Black or Baltic

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

Saturday's answer

- 8 Nero, to Augustus
- 9 News-paper part
- 12 In truth
- 16 Derisive calls
- 21 Funnel-shaped flowers
- 22 Chauffeur
- 23 Stops working
- 24 Posh
- 25 Farm sight
- 27 Kicks off
- 29 Fragrance
- 30 Disco's Summer
- 31 Rocker John
- 32 Detroit team
- 36 Black or Baltic

Word Search

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

- Adrian
- Alexander
- Benedict
- Boniface
- Clement
- Eugene
- Francis
- Gregory
- Innocent
- John
- Julius
- Leo
- Martin
- Paul
- Pius
- Sixtus
- Urban

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

CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



6-21

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley





Walk for the Cure

100% of proceeds benefit the Cayman Islands Cancer Society.

T-Shirts and 10th anniversary giveaways

Sunday, 3 October, 2021

Grouping starts at 6:00am. Start time 6:30am.

5k Walk/Run from Public Beach

Registration Fees: Adults: KY\$25. Children under 12: KY\$10.

Walkers/Runners limited to first 1000 registrations

Deadline to register: Friday, 1 October, 2021 at 3:00 pm

Register at any of our branches, email maggie.garnett@cibcfib.com for a registration form or look out for our registration tables at Fosters, Kirks, Hurleys and ALT's during the month of September (selected days/times).

Donations will also be accepted.

Thank you refreshments and prize giveaways at Public Beach post walk.



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