



# Caymanian Times



84° / 78°

A couple of showers

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► Charlotte Dowell (l) and Ruby Pileta (c) are photographed with Hon. Wayne Panton (r) after he presented them both with the EY Achievement Award for Excellence. Charlotte received the Award for Academic Achievement. She also received subject awards for English Literature, Biology. DES Director Mr. Mark Ray is seen in the background.

## Maples Group Supports Cayman Food Bank

The Maples Group is pleased to announce a recent contribution of over US\$7,500 on behalf of its clients to local hunger-relief organisation, the Cayman Food Bank ("Food Bank"). With these funds, the Food Bank was able to purchase a brand new industrial refrigerator, which will be used to store and preserve many of the perishable items the organisation receives and to reduce food waste.

The Food Bank is a non-profit organisation, who strive to help feed the most vulnerable people in the Cayman Islands community. The Food Bank spends more than CI\$10,000 each month on groceries and supplies for children, families and housebound individuals struggling to provide for themselves, as well as seniors who need nutritious meals for their health and independence. Together with their sponsors and network partners, the Food Bank is dedicated to nourishing the community, fighting hunger and empowering lives.

"Thank you to the Maples Group for their thoughtful contribution," said Marie Eden, member of Cayman Food Bank's board of directors. "Demand for our support and supplies has grown exponentially since March 2020 and recently our commercial chiller stopped working. This

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# RCIPS Stands in Support of 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence

As the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence concluded on Friday, the RCIPS offered a message of support to all those who suffer due to gender-based violence, as well as a message of zero leniency toward perpetrators.

"While this initiative takes place annually, can we please as individuals and as a community, collectively take the initiative all year long to end gender violence generally, and in particular violence against women," urges Nancy Barnard, Deputy Chief Officer of the Office of the Commissioner of Police.

The RCIPS recognises the importance of combatting this issue, and continues to proactively seek ways to enhance our support for victims, as shown by the recent efforts of our Family Support Unit to ensure the safety of the most vulnerable victims of gender-based violence, by successfully securing protection orders through the court. The RCIPS also continues to work closely with our partner agencies such as the Department of Children and Family Services, and as part of groups such as the Alliance to End Domestic Violence and the C.I. Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), to spread awareness about gender-based violence, and to enhance and streamline the pro-

cesses of the agencies who are responsible for assisting victims.

In spite of these efforts, gender-based violence continues to be a major issue in the Cayman Islands. For the year 2020, for example, police investigated 2,288 incidents of domestic violence, and about 71% of these incidents involved female victims. This is why initiatives such as the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence are so important.

The initiative runs from 25 November: the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, to 10 December: Human Rights Day, and is supported by organisations worldwide, including the United Nations.

"While gender-based violence is a global concern we at the RCIPS remain committed to working with our partner agencies to do all we can to reduce the number of persons that become victims of such violence, and to reduce the recurrence of such acts of violence," said Inspector Dausea Scott, head of the RCIPS Family Support Unit. "For the year 2021 to date, the RCIPS has responded to 1,517 incidents of domestic violence, a reduction of 408 compared to the same period in 2020, and we hope to see a continued reduction in the numbers next year and beyond."

As always, the RCIPS encourages anyone of any gender, who may be a victim of gender-based violence, to make a report to the RCIPS, or to any partner agency (see the list of partner agencies and their contact information below). If you are not comfortable making an official report, these partner agencies also offer various forms of support. We also encourage those who may know or suspect that someone else is experiencing such violence, to offer support in any way possible, which may also include reporting your suspicions through official channels.

"We are pleased to join global alliances and communities who are raising awareness and continuing to fight against gender-based violence, not just during these 16 days, but all year-round," added Commissioner of Police, Derek Byrne. "We look forward to a time when initiatives like this one are no longer a necessity."

Key Numbers:

- 911 - Emergency Services (Or your local police station)
- 943-2422 - Cayman Islands Crisis Centre 24hr Crisis Line
- 649-5437 - Kids Helpline
- 949-1693 - Department of Community Rehabilitation
- 949-0006 - Family Resource Centre



- 949-8789 - The Counselling Centre
- 945-8869 - Legal Befrienders Clinic. \*only available by phone Tuesdays & Thursdays 5:30-6:30pm\*
- 949-0545 - Multi-agency Safe-guarding Hub (MASH)
- 946-0024 - Needs Assessment Unit
- 1-800-534-6463 - Mental Health Helpline

Estella's Place (run by the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre) is also available for walk-in appointments. Call 949-0366 to make an appointment, or contact Carol-Anne Fordyce at 623-4825 or carol-anne.fordyce@cicc.ky.

## Government Shortens Testing Period for Arrivals, Widens Options

Government today Gazetted regulations reducing the COVID-19 testing window for arriving passengers and persons traveling to the Sister Islands, from 72 hours to no earlier than the day before departure.

The changes, which take effect 17 December, also expanded testing options to include certified rapid tests.

In addition Government has defined 'departures' to mean the departure of any connecting flights or transit flights to the Islands, where the layover between flights is less than twelve hours.

The measures are a response to the Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus, which has been deemed a variant of concern by the World Health Organisation.



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# PARLIAMENT PASSES PACT'S 'PEOPLE-DRIVEN' BUDGET

Calling it a budget that "delivers on many of the promises made during the campaign to invest in our people and their wellbeing", Hon. Min. of Finance and Economic Development Chris Saunders piloted his first budget through the Cayman Islands Parliament last week.

Subjected to detailed parliamentary scrutiny and critique during the debate and Finance Committee sessions, Mr Saunders defended the PACT administration's inaugural budget as one that is "investing in the wellbeing, resiliency, and sustainability of the Caymanian people and the Cayman Islands".

He said: "This budget extends support to our people through investments in education, healthcare, and various social programmes, while simultaneously defending and growing our existing economic pillars of financial services and tourism to ensure their resiliency and continued success, all at the same time protecting our environment to ensure a sustainable future for all Caymanians and those that call the Cayman Islands home. Simply put Mr Speaker, this is a People-driven budget!"

Mr Saunders mentioned specifically that: "This budget delivers on many of the promises made during the campaign to invest in our people and their wellbeing. From free school lunches for our children to removing the duty on day-to-day essential items such as baby food, baby diapers and sanitary products for women."

With expectations for a slow and gradual economic recovery over the coming period, government revenues are expected to be impacted in the process with an expectation to return to surplus starting by the end of next year.

However, Finance Minister Saunders has affirmed that no new revenue-raising measures are included in the budget.

"There are no new fees or taxes levied on the public," he said, adding that starting next year the Government will return to full compliance with the Principles of Responsible Financial Management as prescribed by the Public Management and Finance Act, or PMFA.

An official statement said Minister Saunders underscored the Government's commitment to lowering the cost of living and referred to the Strategic Policy Statement delivered by the PACT Government in July.

It quoted him as saying: "Broad Outcome No. 3, Mr. Speaker, in the Government's Strategic Policy Statement is a commitment to



'Providing solutions to improve the wellbeing of our people so they can achieve their full potential.' My colleagues and I in this PACT Government take that commitment very seriously and it cannot be business as usual where many people are being taken advantage of with some of the prices being charged on essential items."

According to the Finance Minister, "In order to meet all of the Government's planned capital investments over the Budget period, the 2022 and 2023 Budgets show borrowings of up to \$349.1 million: \$299.1 million in 2022 and a further \$50.0 million in 2023.

While that borrowing will cover mainly planned infrastructure projects and other capital spending, Mr Saunders made the distinction that "therefore, none of the Government's day-to-day Operating Expenses are met by borrowings – such costs are met entirely by Government's Operating Revenues."

The Core Government Capital Investments are forecast to total \$170.1 million in 2022, and \$133.4 million in 2023.

An outline of selected allocations highlighted in a government press release shows that under the education heading \$22.3 million has been allocated for the school meals programme over 2022 and 2023, and \$20.1 million in local and overseas scholarships over 2022 and 2023 benefitting over 2,500 students per year.

For social programs, a total of \$28.2 million over 2022 and 2023 for financial support for the most vulnerable in the community, \$22.2 million in ex gratia payments to retired seamen and veterans over 2022 and 2023, and \$10.3 million in 2022 for extraordinary relief stipends to displaced tourism workers.

The government has also budgeted \$19 million for the National Housing Development Trust for debt servicing and to enable the Trust to build affordable homes.

Explaining the rationale behind these provisions, Mr Saunders, who is also the Deputy Premier, said: "While we cannot guarantee equal outcomes, we can guarantee equal opportunity for our people."

Regarding its operating revenues, while no additional revenue-raising

measures are included in the budget, an official statement detailed that the government is forecast to earn Operating Revenues of \$940.9 million in 2022 and \$978.1 million in 2023. Operating and Financing Expenses are forecast to be \$921.5 million in 2022 and \$950.4 million in 2023."

The government is forecasting its Operating Surpluses by the end of next year to be \$19.4 million, and \$27.7 million in 2023.

It's expecting that Cash Balances at the end of 2022 will be \$404.8 million, and \$312.2 million by the end of 2023.

Minister Saunders said, "The PACT Government is committed to ensuring that the Cayman Islands maintains its financial independence and ability to control its own budget."

He explained, "Over the next two years, the PACT Government intends to continue manoeuvring through the uncertainties of the COVID-19 pandemic, while at the same time, being financially prudent in order to deliver the programmes that it promised the people of these Islands."

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# Maples Group Supports Cayman Food Bank's Fight Against Hunger



► Maples Group Supports Cayman Food Bank's Fight Against Hunger. Pictured L to R: Gene Eden Cayman Food Bank Manager, Lana Kelly and Emma Draffin of Maples Group's CSR committee

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

affected our ability to receive perishable items for distribution to those in need, so the new cold storage unit is greatly appreciated and will be put to good use over the coming months."

Laura Chisholm, Senior Vice President and member of the Maples Group's CSR Committee, added:

"Food and nutrition are basic physiological necessities, so when the Cayman Food Bank shared some of the difficulties they were facing this past year, the Maples Group was more than happy to contribute a new refrigerator and to also once again commit to their holiday food drive. The Cayman Food Bank do such a fantastic job combatting hunger in the local community; we are proud to support them so they can continue to put food on the table for those in need and fuel real change for so many lives."

With the festive period fast approaching, the Food Bank's annual holiday food drive is now well underway and the organisation is welcoming contributions of grocery items and / or supermarket gift certificates from those who would like to give back this season. They are accepting food and grocery donations such as boxed, canned or dried goods (meats, vegetables, fruit and pasta), ready meals, rice, pasta, sauces, cereals, nuts and nut butters, baby formula, food and diapers, toiletries, juices, milk, instant noodles, holiday treats and more. Community distribution will take place on Friday, 18 December.

Also, for those visiting Camana Bay this weekend, look out for the Cayman Food Bank's gift-wrapping station near the cinema and Starbucks, where volunteers will be wrapping presents to raise funds for holiday food parcels. Please visit [caymanfoodbank.com](http://caymanfoodbank.com) for contact details and more information.

## PLC Investigates Blocked Registered Public Shoreline Access Points

*Landowners are advised to clear all blocked Registered Public Accesses on their land*

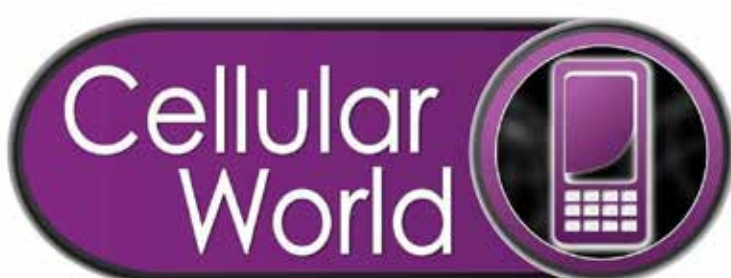
The Public Lands Commission's (PLC) Inspectorate under the Ministry of District Administration and Lands, advises the public that blocking a registered public access point without a reasonable excuse, is an offence under the Public Lands Act (2020 Revision). The PLC Inspectorate is currently in the process of re-inspecting all public shoreline accesses.

"Whilst conducting inspections, we came across registered accesses to the shoreline that are purposely blocked by landowners. We want to alert the public that we are currently working towards clearing all blocked registered public ac-

cesses and to erect standardized public access signs for better identification of public access points," advised PLC Chief Inspector, Winsome Prendergast.

The PLC further advises that all landowners to remove any blockages of Registered Public Access on their land. Should any landowner be in doubt regarding a Registered Public Access on their property, the landowner can contact the Public Lands Commission at [plc@gov.ky](mailto:plc@gov.ky) or (345) 946-7110.

For more information on the Public Lands Commission and to review the full Public Lands Act (2020 Revision): visit [www.gov.ky/plc](http://www.gov.ky/plc)



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## THE PANEL DISCUSSION

# HON. KENNETH BRYAN - GETTING TOURISM BACK ON TRACK

Early indications are that the reopening of the borders to international travel is already yielding results with a gradual return of international travellers and an encouraging outlook for 2022 and beyond.

The observation was made by Hon. Minister for Tourism Kenneth Bryan, the guest on last week's edition of the Caymanian Times programme, The Panel.

This comes as the Delta-strain COVID infections continue to decline from Cayman's first full encounter with a wave of the pandemic.

"Things are going well as we focus the number one priority being that of safety from a national perspective as well as a visitor perspective," Min. Bryan stated.

According to the tourism and transportation minister, since the November 20th reopening, figures show 5,781 air passenger arrivals of which close to half (2,532), were business visitors. The overall number is expected to have increased to around 7,000.

"We're slowly growing well, but the main focus is going to have to be on continuing to add those flights necessary to help bring back visitors," Mr Bryan said, noting that Air Canada, British Airways, Cayman Airways as well as JetBlue have already resumed flights with other airlines expected to follow in the coming months, crucially American Airlines, Delta, United and Southwest.

"One of the key focuses that we want to deal with is getting our projections of 40 per cent of the 2019 numbers to happen within the next year. So we've budgeted ourselves to make revenue of 40 per cent of what we did before...So we're shooting for about 200,000 people in 2022 and anything over that would be icing on the cake."

But a main concern is how the new and rapidly spreading Omicron strain of COVID-19 could impact the reopening.

Mr Bryan said a lockdown is not an option the government is considering and in any event, that it would be a last resort.

"With the government's careful, slow and steady steps in focusing on safety first, we think that we can make the necessary adjustments in respect to the protocols



SPECIAL GUEST

HON. KENNETH BRYAN

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that we would never have to go into lockdown. I don't think that any country will ever go back into a full lockdown again, like before, even with these new variants. What you do is you tighten your measures to control it."

## CRUISE CONTROL

Plans are for a gradual and controlled return to cruise ship visits in the next year with a planned call by a ship of the Holland-America lines on December 28th this year being used to test specific and strict protocols being in place for the sector.

At the same time, Minister Bryan disclosed that a complete review of the cruise market for the Cayman Islands is being undertaken with a focus on quality instead of quantity - emphasising the high-end cruise sector and how it could better benefit Cayman.

"One of the good things about doing this test run is because I intend to remodel or reshape our cruise tourism industry where we can start focusing on quality

over quantity, which means that potentially less bigger ships and smaller ships with higher quality passengers where we'll have a higher spend."

## COLLECTIVELY NEGOTIATING

A key element of the upcoming review of Cayman's cruise strategy is transforming how local stakeholders negotiate with the cruise lines.

Min. Bryan says he is making a strong push for Cayman's companies to collectively bargain on rates and packages.

"I think that in order for us to do the goal and a dream that I have, there has to be a structure of some sort similar to that of a union without all the negative connotations that come with unions, where the stakeholders locally work together...stick together and do not bargain down each other."

Mr Bryan said he wants to work with the various local tourism stakeholders on achieving this structure as the most practical and beneficial way forward.

"It's in our best interest to work together. The only way you can negotiate with the cruise lines is if you're a part of this association, and the association together, collectively come up with a pricing scale for any attraction, any kind of services that we offer. That takes a lot of buy-in, but I do believe the PACT administration along with myself can convince them that this is in the best interest of the long term sustainability of our country, as well as our society as a whole."

## 'CAYMANIANS FIRST' - THE NEW NORMAL

With the tourism industry one of the main employers

in Cayman, the issue of jobs for Caymanians, which has been dominant in the reopening of the borders and kickstarting the economy, again featured prominently in this discourse on The Panel.

Min. Bryan has been at the forefront of the ongoing debate and drive, pushing the cause for more and better jobs for nationals.

"The PACT administration is focusing heavily on making sure that Caymanians are placed in all job markets," he stated while highlighting observations made by many visitors that they don't encounter many Caymanians working in the industry, a trend Mr Bryan vowed to reverse.

"With the rebuilding of our tourism industry, as well as so many Caymanians unemployed, take this opportunity to enhance and bring up the percentages of Caymanians within the industry, which is the government's focus and plan."

The Tourism Minister is adamant about Caymanians being prioritised in the job market, especially in the tourism industry.

"For too long the industry continues to say they're not trained and they need help. We're gonna make sure that that's no longer an excuse," Mr Bryan affirmed referring to a series of ongoing - and planned - training programmes.

"Since we've been in office, we've been doing a number of initiatives to ensure that that is the case. And I think we're doing pretty well so far...We are the people's representatives and this is what they want us to do. So we are going to have to learn to live with the new normal and that new normal is that Caymanians have to be in higher percentages in the tourism industry and they have to be given first preference."

*(Hear the full discussion on this edition of The Panel on Caymanian Times website, Facebook and YouTube pages)*



# CBAC athlete smashes 23 year-old National Swim Record



► CBAC athlete, 12-year old Luke Higgo is congratulated by Olympian Andrew MacKay following his record breaking swim at the 2021 Coconut Cup

12-year old Luke Higgo of Camana Bay Aquatic Club (CBAC) has broken two national age group records at the 2021 Coconut Cup, one of which has stood for 23 years.

At the meet held 3-5 December, Higgo broke CIASA national age group records in the 50m and 100m backstroke, with the 100m backstroke record set by Andrew MacKay in 1998. The record was 1:08.71 and Higgo's new time was 1:07.42.

"My plan was to swim as fast as I could and to try and get a personal best time," Higgo said. "To not only get a PB but also set a national record is awesome."

Andrew MacKay said he was happy to see Luke had taken down his long-standing record.

"It really shows the strength of swimming in Cayman when the record books continue to be rewritten. I know the work and training that goes into breaking a record, so huge congratulations to Luke and I look forward more in the future," he said.

Andrew Mackay swam for the Cayman Islands at the 2004 Olympics and at the 2002 Commonwealth Games and 2006 Commonwealth Games.

Following three days of competition at the 2021 Coconut Cup, CBAC announced that six of its swimmers had achieved CARIFTA Aquatics Championships qualifying times at the meet.

In addition to Luke Higgo, CARIFTA qualifiers included Coco McGrath, Allyson

Belfonte, Tate Marr, Reagan Lisle and Azania Osborne.

Grant Ferguson, CBAC Head Coach said the club's outstanding results showed what was possible through commitment and determination.

"It's a credit to our athletes and the hard work and training they put in that they are ready to race and are achieving personal best times and qualifying times," he said. "With the Cayman National Swimming Championships on the horizon in March, CBAC is looking forward to solid, consistent, and fast swimming."

"We not only produced amazing results in the pool, but igniting team spirit, participating in relays, supporting each other in the highs and lows of a meet, and having fun was just as important."

CBAC entered a total of 92 amateur swimmers and finished the 2021 Coconut Cup with overall points of 4,859 to claim first place. Seven Mile Swimmers placed second with 3,386 points, and Stingray Swim Club third with 2,701 points.

Ninety-one CBAC swimmers swam a Personal Best Time at the meet with a total of 163 medals being presented to CBAC swimmers on the podium.

"The meet was run efficiently and was really enjoyable. Our thanks to CIASA, the officials, volunteers and sponsors," Coach Ferguson said.

## COVID-19 Vaccination & HSA COVID-19 Testing Clinics Relocate

The Public Health Department & Health Services Authority (HSA) will be relocating the COVID-19 vaccination clinic, PCR & Certified LFT Testing Clinics to 131 MacLendon Drive (next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) **effective Monday December 13th 2021**. (The COVID-19 vaccine clinic will resume Tuesday 14th December; full schedule will be released soon.)

The new location will provide a larger indoor space which allows for staff and patients to have a better, more comfortable experience. Testing and vaccination clinics will still have separate areas at one convenient location.

"This space was previously occupied by the Department of Children & Family Services' (DCFS) Older Persons Active Ageing Centre (OPAAC), which is currently not operational in the facility due the latest COVID-19 community spread," stated Lizzette Yearwood, HSA CEO. "On behalf of HSA and Public Health, I'd like to thank DCFS for the opportunity to utilize their space, as it came at an ideal time as Cayman expands the COVID-19 booster programme to persons 18 years and over and reducing the time frame between doses to help better protect ourselves against the latest Omicron variant. Moving the PCR & Certified LFT testing off the main hospital campus, will also allow HSA to continue our facility improvement plans."

Dr Samuel Williams-Rodriguez, Medical Officer of Health stated, "I encourage everyone over the age of 18 who've had their booster at least 3 months ago, to get vaccinated. With the new Omicron variant beginning to spread worldwide, it is even more important to ensure you are fully protected from a vaccination standpoint. With COVID-19 still in the community, I encourage everyone to continue with wearing a mask, keeping a safe social distance from other people and practicing proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette. With lateral flow tests more readily available, persons can also take routine tests to screen for COVID-19."

**HSA PCR & Certified Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) Clinic Walk-in Hours (131 MacLendon Drive)**

- Monday – Friday – 7:30am – 12pm
- Saturday – 10am – 12pm
- Sunday – 10am – 2pm (10am – 12pm for PCR, 10am – 2pm for Certified LFT)
- Public Holidays – 10am – 12pm

*This PCR testing clinic is for persons who require testing for travel purposes, general screening and hospital pre-operative admission.*

**Please note**, community cases in isolation for COVID-19 still use the three testing centres for **exit testing**: Bodden Town Civic Centre, South Sound Community Centre & Ed Bush Sports Complex, all which are open daily 11am – 1pm. Isola-



► Exterior of the new COVID-19 Vaccination Clinic, PCR & Certified Lateral Flow Testing Clinic at 131 MacLendon Drive

tion exit testing **will not** be conducted at the new 131 MacLendon testing clinic.

**COVID-19 Vaccine Information**

- Dose 1 & 2 are available to persons 12 years and older
- Boosters (3rd dose) are available to persons 18 and over, three months after their 2nd dose

• Boosters are available to clinically vulnerable persons 12 years and older (visit <https://www.hsa.ky/public-health/coronavirus/> for list of 'clinically vulnerable conditions')

• The vaccination schedule will be available at <https://www.hsa.ky/public-health/coronavirus/>

# CIBC FIRSTCARIBBEAN INTRODUCES SMART ABMS TO CAYMAN CUSTOMERS

*The machines offer full-service banking functions including cash and cheque deposits, transfers and more*

As the Cayman Islands prepare for the reopening of their borders, CIBC FirstCaribbean announced it is rolling out new social distancing banking solutions with the introduction of SMART ABMs (Automated Banking Machines).

The bank recently introduced SMART ABMs at its Main Street and Health City locations, with more to follow over the next few months. SMART ABMS are part of CIBC FirstCaribbean's commitment to provide customers with faster and more efficient ways to bank without needing to come into a branch.

Unlike regular ATMs, SMART ABMs can accept deposits in both Cayman Islands and United States dollars. Clients can also insert up to 50 notes into the machine without using an envelope and they have immediate access to deposited cash. The SMART ABM will also print out a detailed receipt showing the cash denominations deposited in the transaction.

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced many businesses to rethink solutions that can provide remote service options and CIBC FirstCaribbean continues to innovate to provide safe and convenient banking solutions like SMART ABMs. Though ABMs were in use before the pandemic struck, Samuel McField, Associate Di-

rector of Retail for CIBC FirstCaribbean, notes, "the technology is ever-changing and always pushing forward in response to consumers' needs."

Speaking at the launch of a SMART ABM at the CIBC FirstCaribbean's Main Street location, McField noted the machine's full-service capabilities. Clients can deposit up to 10 cheques into the machine per transaction without using an envelope. They can also review an on-screen image of the cheques deposited and receive a detailed printout, complete with images of the cheques deposited on completion of the transaction.

"ABMs are proving invaluable in keeping operations efficient, safe and reliant. Our customers have access 24 hours a day, seven days a week to their bank accounts from anywhere," McField said. "They can make deposits, withdraw cash, pay bills, and transfer money between accounts. Anybody with a credit or debit card can do business at an ABM."

McField said that while the COVID-19 pandemic has forced technology-resistant customers to adapt, he believes SMART ABMS are here to stay.

Together with CIBC FirstCaribbean's Award Winning Mobile Banking App, SMART ABMS are providing full-service



► Ribbon Cutting of Smart ABM at Health City

banking solutions whenever and wherever clients need them. To learn more about CIBC FirstCaribbean's forward-thinking

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# MYSCH Hosts 'Christmas Greetings From Cayman'

The Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage (MYSCH) will host a pre-Christmas celebration with a cultural flair. This marketplace and entertainment event takes place on Saturday, 18 December 2021, from 4 to 8pm on Seafarers Way, George Town, and is planned to be held annually.

"We are delighted to showcase the wealth of Caymanian culture and heritage and the work of all the wonderfully creative small businesses, market vendors, artisans and performers as we head into celebrating Christmas," said MYSCH Minister, Hon. Bernie Bush.

"Christmas Greetings From Cayman' is a family-friendly event perfect for last-minute Christmas presents shopping, seasonal foods and joyous en-

tertainment. It will have a distinctly marketplace feel with stalls on both sides of Seafarers Way, full of homemade crafts and artisanal items like handmade soaps and candles. In addition to the entertainment, the festive evening will end with a colourful display of fireworks over the water," he added.

Alongside the diverse shopping experience, a number of local performers, including dance groups, singers and bands will be showcased. This four-hour open-air event, will celebrate local culture, provide numerous Caymanian Christmas offerings and help support local creatives and small businesses. The evening will also feature numerous prizes and surprises.

Organised with COVID-safety regulations in mind, 'Christmas



► Vendors at Christmas Greetings From Cayman will sell a range of local art and craftwork

## Christmas Greetings

FROM CAYMAN

**Run of Show**

<b>8:00am-3:45 pm</b>	Vendor set up
<b>4:00 pm</b>	Official Welcome and opening by Hon. Minister Bernie Bush
	Opening Prayer
	National Song "Beloved Isle Cayman"
<b>4:30 pm</b>	Heat Band featuring young Mia Groves
<b>5:00 pm</b>	Drawing of gate prizes – Round 1
<b>5:05 pm</b>	Dreamchasers Cayman
<b>5:30 pm</b>	Jonkanoo Dancers
<b>5:45 pm</b>	DJ Music (filler music)
<b>6:00 pm</b>	Cayman Islands Folk Singers
<b>6:15 pm</b>	Drawing of gate prizes – Round 2
<b>6:15 pm</b>	Regeneration Band
<b>6:45 pm</b>	Genesis
<b>7:15 pm</b>	Drawing of gate prizes – Round 3
<b>7:25 pm</b>	National Youth Choir
<b>7:45 pm</b>	"We Wish You a Merry Christmas"
<b>8:00 pm</b>	Fireworks Display

A family-friendly event brought to you by the

Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage  
Cayman Islands Government

Greetings From Cayman' is being promoted with the following guidance:

- Wearing of mask
- Hand sanitiser stations at food stalls
- A bring-your-own-bag policy
- Security wardens to ensure attendees and vendors comply with safety measures

- Booths spaced apart
- Food sold in to-go containers

Vendors wanting to secure a stall for 'Christmas Greetings From Cayman' should contact: Ventisha Conolly (244-3240), Tunisia Barnes (244-324) or Alanis Linwood (244-3238) before 4pm on Monday, 13th December.



► Christmas Greetings From Cayman will also feature fresh food stuffs for sale including cakes, jams and preserves

## Advertise here!

Contact a staff member to find out how you can advertise in this spot!

# T Caymanian Times



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► Members of the Clifton Hunter High School 2021 graduating class

# Clifton Hunter High School Graduates Attain Top Regional Status in CSEC Examinations

"For the first time in the history of our school, 70 percent of the graduating class have attained at least a level two pass in the CXC examinations," declared Dr. Richard Wildman, Principal of the Clifton Hunter High School (CHHS), while beaming with pride.

Dr. Wildman was addressing the audience at CHHS 2021 graduation ceremony held in the school's auditorium on Thursday evening (2 December) under the theme 'Dream It! Achieve It! Believe It!'.

Ninety-eight students graduated with level two diplomas, having passed five or more subjects, including English and mathematics.

The pride on Dr. Wildman's face became more evident as he mentioned CHHS ranking as the top regional school in Electronic Data Preparation Management (EDPM) and Physics after attaining 12 out of 15 top regional positions for EDPM and the top ranking for Physics in the 2020 CSEC examinations.

He further recognised the exceptional performance of several graduates, includ-

ing top Physics student Ruby Pileta and the trio of Swishanie Lewis, Kareisha Nelson and Shaqkeem Williams, named in the top nine for the Caribbean region for their academic performance in EDPM.

Describing the school's achievement as 'simply outstanding', Dr. Wildman continued, "Our achievements speak to the dedication of staff and commitment of parents and community partners to our world-class aspirations."

Also in attendance at the ceremony was Premier, Honourable Wayne Panton.

Mr. Panton used the opportunity to congratulate the graduates and provide them with a few words of encouragement. "I urge you all to focus on working together, supporting each other, believing in each other, relying on the support of others around you and having confidence in yourselves as you move forward."

The Premier added, "You have an amazing future in front of you. Your

SEE **CHHS GRADUATION**, Page 11



► Ruby Pileta delivers the Graduates' address. Ruby was ranked number one in the region for her performance in CSEC Physics. She also received the Award for Academic Achievement, the Student of the Year Award, Subject awards for Music performance, Information Technology, Physics, Biology and Chemistry



► Hon. Johany 'Jay' Ebanks presents Diane Brown with her diploma



► Dr. Richard Wildman (l) presents Resan Foster with an Award for Academic Excellence in Mathematics. She was also one of the recipients of the Principal's Award and a top ten award.



► Mr. Mark Ray presents Shane Bodden with his diploma.

# Clifton Hunter High School Graduates Attain Top Regional Status in CSEC Examinations

CONTINUED FROM Page 10

abilities and talents will carry you very far."

Others in attendance at the ceremony included members of the CHHS staff,

Deputy Premier Hon. Christopher Saunders, Minister for Planning, Agriculture, Housing & Infrastructure Hon. Johany 'Jay' Ebanks, Parliamentary Secretaries Mr. Isaac Rankine and Mr. Dwayne Seymour, Department of Education Services (DES)

Director Mr. Mark Ray and Senior School Improvement Officer Mr. Nicholas Obie.

Student of the Year Ruby Pileta delivered the graduates' address.

Keynote speaker Ms. Kimberley Conolly delivered her remarks remotely.

To watch Clifton Hunter High School's 2021 Graduation Ceremony, visit CIGTV's YouTube channel <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0fnQYZRdLAA&t=2973s> or follow Clifton Hunter High School on Facebook.



► The graduates with the top ten highest averages in external examinations are photographed with Deputy Premier Hon. Chris Saunders after he presented them with their prizes.

**POLICE NEWS**

## Men Charged with Drug Offenses and Body recovered

At about 8:15AM on Tuesday, 7 December, the 9-1-1 Communications Centre received reports of a vessel on the reef off East End and packages floating in the water. RCIPS Officers from the Eastern Districts attended the landside area of the sighting and the Cayman Islands Coast Guard and police helicopter made their way to assist. A number of packages of ganja were recovered from the water and within the vessel, with a total weight of 194lbs. The vessel was also recovered.

Two men, both Jamaican Nationals, aged 68 and 56, were arrested on suspicion of illegal landing and being concerned in the importation of ganja. The men claimed a third crew member was aboard the vessel and had also made it ashore. However, efforts to locate him following the recovery of the vessel and packages proved unsuccessful.

Shortly before 9:00AM on Thursday morning, the body of an unresponsive man



was discovered, having washed ashore at a location on Austin Conolly Drive in East End.

Police and Emergency Services attended the location, and the man was subsequently pronounced dead.

"I am working on the basis that the deceased man may be the third man who had been on the vessel that was recovered in East End on Tuesday, but investigations continue," says Superintendent Peter Lansdown.

Today the arrested men were formally charged with Being Concerned in the Importation of Ganja and Illegal Landing.

## RCIPS Responds to Conviction of Freddy Manuel Diaz for Possession of Child Pornography

On Thursday 9 December, Freddy Manuel Diaz of West Bay was convicted of Possession of Indecent Images of Children and Accessing Child Pornography. Diaz will be sentenced on 18 February 2022.

Superintendent Peter Lansdown says, "Although the police are satisfied with the court result, uncovering this type of behaviour in the community is concerning. Not only is taking part in this type of activity incredibly disturbing, simply accessing and viewing indecent images of children can encourage the abusers to continue their vile behaviour".

"It is illegal to possess or download any indecent images of children, and is taken very seriously by the police and



the courts. If persons have any information about this type of activity within the community please contact the police via 911".

**COMMUNITY NOTICES**

## Revised Time for MYSCH's 'Christmas Greetings from Cayman'

The 'Christmas Greetings from Cayman' open-air marketplace and entertainments event will now take place from 4-8pm on Saturday, 18 December 2021.

The seasonally-themed event will be held on the waterfront from **Shedden Road to Hard Rock Café**.

The family-friendly market will feature:

- stalls with vendors and micro businesses selling local food and Christmas wares



- live music, dance and storytelling performances, and
- a firework finale.

## DVDL's Opening Hours to 2022

The Department of Vehicle and Drivers' Licensing (DVDL) wishes to advise the public of its opening hours to 2022.

Customers are reminded that they can renew their driver's and vehicle licences via DVDL's website, [www.dvdl.gov.ky](http://www.dvdl.gov.ky).



**The Department of Vehicle and Drivers' Licensing**  
Safe driving is everyone's responsibility

Date	Crewe Road	West Bay	Breakers
Monday, 13 December	8:30 - 4:00 p.m.	10:00 - 6:00 p.m.	10:00 - 6:00 p.m.
Friday, 17 December	8:30 - 12:00 noon	8:30 - 12:00 noon	8:30 - 12:00 noon
Saturday, 18 December	Closed	Closed	Closed
Friday, 24 December	8:30 - 12:00 noon	8:30 - 12:00 noon	8:30 - 12:00 noon
Saturday, 25 December	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday, 27 December & Tuesday, 28 December (Christmas and Boxing Day observed)	Closed	Closed	Closed
Wednesday, 29 December	Open	Open	Open
Thursday, 30 December	Open	Open	Open
Friday, 31 December	8:30 - 12:00 noon	8:30 - 12:00 noon	8:30 - 12:00 noon
Saturday, 1 January	Closed	Closed	Closed
Monday, 3 January (New Year Day observed)	Closed	Closed	Closed
Tuesday, 4 January	Open	Closed	Closed
Wednesday, 5 January	Open	Open	Open

## Department of Education Services (DES) Holiday Hours



**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SERVICES**  
CAYMAN ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

The Department of Education Services (DES) advises that its office will close during the upcoming Christmas/New Year Holiday Season as follows:

- Friday, 24 December 2021 – Closed at 12:30 PM
- Monday, 27 December 2021 – Christmas Day Observed
- Tuesday, 28 December 2021 – Boxing Day Observed

- Wednesday, 29 December 2021 – Staff working remotely 8:30AM - 5:00 PM
- Thursday, 30 December 2021 – Staff working remotely 8:30AM - 5:00 PM
- Friday, 31 December 2021 – Staff working remotely 8:30AM - 12:30 PM. Closed at 12:30 PM

- Monday, 3 January 2022 – New Year's Day Observed

For general enquiries, please contact the DES at 916-2487 or contact the DES at 925-3360 for facilities-related matters.

The management and staff of the DES wishes the public a safe and healthy holiday season.



**FREE FOOD**

# CLASH OF THE *Legends* FOOTBALL

**FUN FAMILY DAY!**  
BOUNCY CASTLE FOR THE KIDS

**Contacts:**  
David Arch : 939-0025  
Antonio Smith: 916-3977  
Brent McLean: 926-4040  
Lloyd (Stoocka) Ramoon:  
Neil Murray  
All players must be 50 years or older

## LATINOS VS CAYMAN

**\$10  
RAFFLE  
TICKETS**

**MONDAY, 16 MAY 2022  
6PM - ED BUSH STADIUM**

### THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



**Hope Foundation  
Community Challenge**

Contact Brent at 928-9099  
[www.caymanhopefoundation.com](http://www.caymanhopefoundation.com)

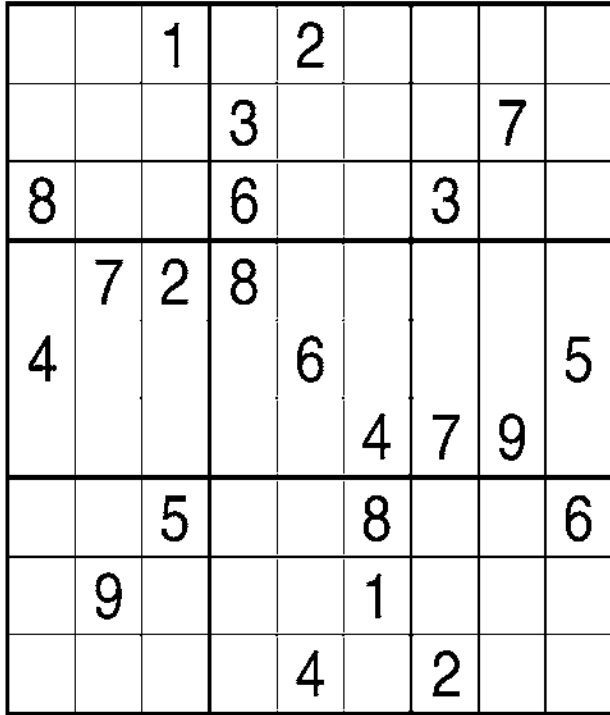
Cayman is home to many people with substance abuse. As a community we can all make a difference in the lives of those individuals.

# 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



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/12

### Answer to previous puzzle

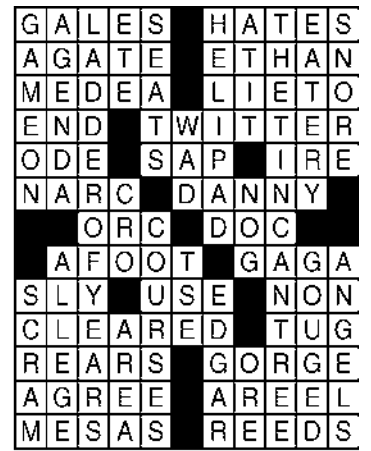
5	2	4	8	7	3	9	6	1
6	9	8	5	2	1	3	7	4
3	7	1	6	4	9	2	8	5
1	8	3	4	9	5	7	2	6
2	6	7	3	1	8	4	5	9
4	5	9	7	6	2	8	1	3
9	3	6	1	8	7	5	4	2
7	1	5	2	3	4	6	9	8
8	4	2	9	5	6	1	3	7

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Singer star  
McEntire Chris
- 5 Sprawling 41 Brawl  
stories
- 10 Pol's 42 College  
concern study
- 12 Fable **DOWN**  
writer
- 13 Capital 1 Dangers  
on the 2 Contacts,  
Willamette in a way
- 14 Vermont 3 Sea off  
resort Estonia
- 15 Young 4 Historic  
fox time
- 16 Place 5 Sunrise  
21 Pony's 21 Lock  
pull setting
- 22 Golfer's 6 Sulky 23 Cattle  
tally fellow drive
- 24 Time 7 Weather 33 Take  
separator map line apart
- 25 Heading 8 Yellow 25 Sacred  
to land fellow site
- 29 Horse 26 Stinging 36 Put away  
halter insect
- 30 Ill humor 38 Director  
32 Timetable DuVernay  
abbr.
- 33 GI-  
entertain-  
ing grp.
- 34 Orangutan,  
e.g.
- 35 Sheet  
stuff
- 37 Punch  
sound
- 39 Massage



### Yesterday's answer

- 11 Naruhito, 27 Death  
for one personified
- 17 Futile 28 Send  
overseas
- 20 Winter 29 Takes  
quaff steps
- 21 Lock 31 Small  
setting salaman-  
ders
- 23 Cattle 33 Take  
drive apart
- 25 Sacred 36 Put away  
site
- 26 Stinging 38 Director  
insect DuVernay

## Word Search



- Abstraction  
Aspiration  
Brainwave  
Conceit  
Concept  
Dream  
Fancy  
Fantasy  
Hunch  
Idea
- Image  
Intuition  
Notion  
Perception  
Reverie  
Scheme  
Theory  
Thought  
Vision

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



Have fun with  
**CAYMANIAN  
TIMES**

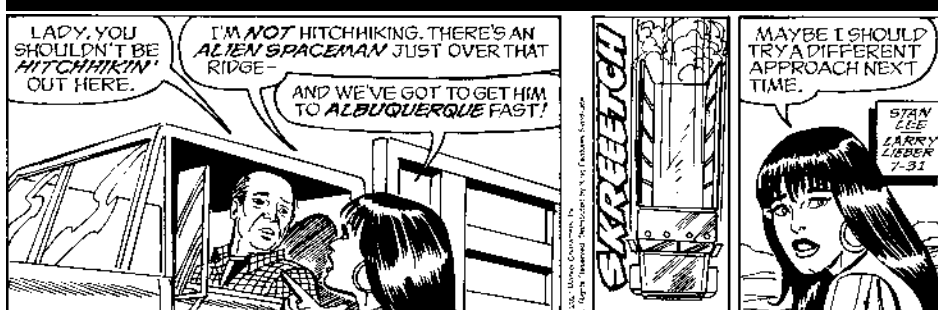
## CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



## THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



## JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson &amp; Mike Manley





**Caymanian  
Times**



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