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# Caymanian Times

Sports page



Wednesday, January 5, 2022

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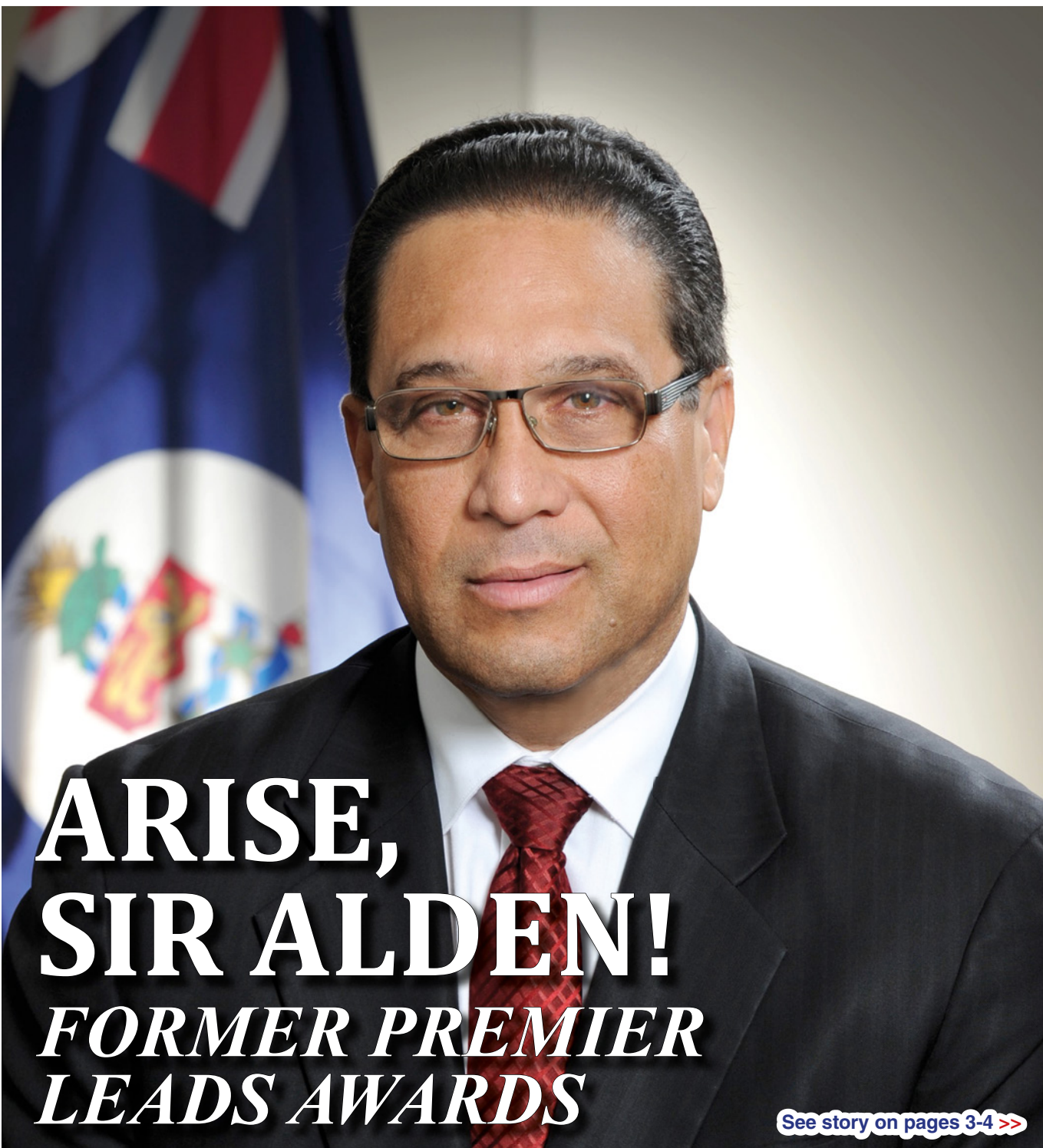
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LEADS AWARDS**

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Lucille Seymour



Sharon Smith



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**ALEX PANTON FOUNDATION MENTAL HEALTH COLUMN**

*This month we begin a new column looking at different mental health issues facing Cayman residents, written by contributors from the Alex Panton Foundation.*

# The financial barriers to accessing mental health support

**By Hailee Robinson, APF's Director, Deputy Chairperson, and the Legal & Policy Committee Chair**

The Cayman Islands has experienced an alarming rate of suicide over the years. The decriminalisation of suicide was an important milestone for the Alex Panton Foundation (APF) and our community and has encouraged further dialogue on suicide prevention and mental health.

The APF has received inquiries from concerned parents and community members on the issue of insurance companies refusing to pay for critical mental health treatment. These include: recovery after self-harm or a suicide attempt; mandatory psychological assessments, and generally exhausting insurance coverage on regular care and services too quickly. As self-harm is among the permitted exclusions from coverage outlined in the Cayman Islands

Health Insurance Regulations, many insurance companies deny claims to cover costs associated with attempted suicides.

**Current insurance policies and infrastructure are insufficient**

The financial barriers to mental health services are exacerbated by the restrictions presented by insurance policies available in the Cayman Islands. The APF's Legal and Policy Committee is working to reform the Health Insurance Regulations and the Mental Health Act to remove "self-inflicted injuries" from the list of benefits which may be excluded under the standard health insurance contract and provide clearer definitions for mental illness to ensure insurance providers are able to provide adequate mental health coverage.

The absence of a long term residential mental health facility, represents a significant gap in the continuum of care. We look forward to the completion of the facility that is currently under construction. Similarly the Mental Health Commission has identified a gap in access to emergency mental health care for children and young adults. The APF is working with Health Services Authority (HSA) and the Ministry of Health to create a mental emergency healthcare facility catered specifically to children and adolescents. The HSA and the APF hope to provide these services to the public in the first quarter of 2022.

**How young people can access help in the interim**

To address these outstanding needs for accessing treatment, the APF designed the



► Hailee Robinson, APF's Director, Deputy Chairperson, and the Legal & Policy Committee Chair

Financial Assistance Programme in August 2020 for persons who are 30 years old and under, have been diagnosed with a mental illness like anxiety or depression, and have limited to no health insurance for mental health treatment. We also ask applicants to demonstrate their financial need.

With this policy, the APF hopes to provide greater access to mental health professionals to young people in the community who otherwise lack the means to finance their own treatment and care. Through the programme, the APF has currently supported up to 24 young people, 21 of whom are active recipients and patients, for a total award of CI\$49,782.50.

For more information on how to access financial assistance, visit <https://alexpantonfoundation.ky/financial-assistance-programme/>

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► Sir Alden McLaughlin



► Lucille Seymour



► Sharon Smith



► Natalie Coleman

# ARISE, SIR ALDEN! - FORMER PREMIER LEADS AWARDS

Former Premier Alden McLaughlin has been knighted in the Queen's New Year's Honour List conferred by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

The announcement, released in a statement from the Governor's Office in Cayman.

Mr McLaughlin who has served two consecutive terms as Premier under constitutional limitations currently sits on the Opposition benches at the MP for Red Bay following the outcome of the 2021 General Election.

He becomes only the second Caymanian to be awarded the knighthood, the other being Sir Vassel Johnson who received the honour in 1994.

A statement from Government House said the former Premier received the Knighthood (KCMG) from Her Majesty for his services to the people of the Cayman Islands.

"This is an outstanding personal achievement for former Premier McLaughlin, one of the most important and impactful political leaders in Cayman over the last 21 years. It is a significant moment for our islands. This historic award is only the second-ever Knighthood to a Caymanian since the first in the 1990s," HE Governor Martyn Roper stated.

He described the honour as "a strong signal of the respect in which Cayman is held and a visible demonstration of the progress Cayman has made as a vibrant democracy with strong good governance foundations."

Mr Roper further stated that "the award reflects former Premier McLaughlin's distinguished Parliamentary and Ministerial career over 21 years with two successful

terms as Premier, ushering in a period of stability, economic growth and sound financial management."

He noted: "Former Premier McLaughlin made important contributions to Cayman's constitutional development, including significant advances in 2019 reinforcing Cayman's autonomy over domestic affairs. He led a step change in Cayman's representation on the global stage, including robust support for Cayman's highly successful and dynamic financial services industry. He enjoyed constructive relationships with UK Ministers, earning their respect and trust, working tirelessly to do his utmost for the people of Cayman. In 2020, he was the pivotal figure leading Cayman's response to the Covid pandemic."

Noting the high honour conferred on Mr McLaughlin, Governor Roper expressed the view that it was also an excellent day for Cayman society as a whole.

"I hope that everyone on our islands will put politics to one side today and join with me in recognising that this is an excellent day for Cayman. It is an achievement we can all celebrate."

It's the second major honour for former Premier McLaughlin this year who is also an attorney.

A few months ago he was elevated to Queen's Counsel (QC) in the legal fraternity.

## NATIONAL AWARDS

In addition to former Premier McLaughlin's stellar achievement in being awarded the knighted from HM Queen Elizabeth II, several other locally conferred awards were announced by HE Governor Roper in recognition of outstanding service to the Cayman Islands.

"I warmly congratulate all those who have received awards in Her Majesty the Queen's New Year Honours List announced this evening in the UK. I am also very pleased to confer a Certificate and Badge of Honour on a number of members of our community who have excelled in their fields.

"I also congratulate Ms Lucille Seymour (For services to Sport, Education and the people of the Cayman Islands) and Ms Sharon Smith (for services to the former Legislative Assembly of the Cayman Islands) who received MBEs and Mrs Natalie Coleman (For services to Arts and Culture in the Cayman Islands and wider region) who received a BEM from Her Majesty in recognition of their outstanding contributions in their fields.

"In addition, it is my privilege as Governor to announce Certificate and Badge of Honour awards for outstanding service to our community. Due to the remarkable contribution of so many people in Cayman to the successful management of the global pandemic, I have again made a larger number of awards than has been the practice in previous years.

"2021 has been another trying year and so many people on our Islands have delivered exemplary service to our community. The 44 people recognised today for their work during the Covid- 19 pandemic were involved in the early operations of Travel Cayman, played key roles in developing the Government's Phased Reopening of the Borders Plan and delivered the Public Health response. This list includes people from all three Islands which I believe is a first for Cayman.

"I am also pleased to make some awards for services rendered to the financial ser-



vices sector and the media for the outstanding contribution made by these sectors during the global pandemic.

"The number of awards made reflects the unprecedented nature of the global pandemic and the outstanding contribution of so many individuals.

I am therefore pleased to announce awards to the following individuals in recognition of their exceptional service."

## For meritorious services rendered during the COVID Pandemic

### Programme Board, Programme Management Office and Advisors

- Mr Albert Anderson, CEO, Cayman Islands Airport Authority
- Mrs Mary Rodrigues, Chief Advisor, Office of the Deputy Governor
- Ms Cetonya Cacho, Chief Officer, Ministry of Education
- Mr Stran Bodden, Chief Officer, Ministry of Tourism and Transport
- Mrs Christine Rowlands, Head of Governor's Office
- Mr Matthew Hylton, Acting Deputy Chief Advisor, Office of the Deputy Governor
- Ms Sarah Murphy, Senior Advisor, Office of the Deputy Governor
- Ms Kara Coe, Programme Manager, Office of the Deputy Governor
- Ms Tiffani Straker, Senior Advisor, Office of the Deputy Governor
- Mr Jason Webster, Deputy Chief Officer, Cabinet Office
- Mrs Jondo Obi, Director, Cayman Islands Red Cross



# ARISE, SIR ALDEN! - FORMER PREMIER LEADS AWARDS

CONTINUED FROM Page 3

- Mrs Rosa Harris, Director of Tourism
- Mr Dan Haydon, Business Relationship Manager, Computer Services.
- Mrs Nicoela McCoy, Deputy Director-General, Civil Aviation Authority
- Mrs Kimberly Bullings, Clerk of the Cabinet

#### Royal Cayman Islands Police Service

- Inspector Roje Williams

#### Customs and Border Control

- Mr Ezron Anderson, Acting Assistant Director CBC

#### Government Communications

- Ms Gina Matthews, Manager, Public Relations Services, Ministry of Tourism And Transport
- Ms Oneisha Richards, Director of Internal Communications

#### Cayman Islands Airports Authority

- Ms Bianca Moore Downey, Chief Commercial Officer

- Mr Andrew McLaughlin, Chief Safety Management Officer
- Mr Alvin Haylock, Customer Service Officer

#### Department of Environmental Health

- Mr Derrick Williams, Environmental Health Officer

#### Travel Cayman (Operational Team)

- Mr Oshane Johnson, Supervisor, Tech Department- Cayman Islands Regiment
- Ms Paulette Johnson, Manager, Private Flight Specialist, Cayman Airways
- Ms Dawn Manderson, Manager, Travel Management, Cayman Airways

#### For legal services rendered to the Cayman Islands Government

- Ms Elizabeth Lees, Attorney

#### Health Services Authority

- Mr Steven Duval, EMS Manager
- Ms Carvell Bailey, Community Health Nurse



- Mr Jonathan Smellie, Forensic Analyst
- Ms Nola Sanderson, Executive Secretary
- Ms Carissa Mclaughlin, Business Coordinator
- Mr Timothy Mclaughlin, Public Health Surveillance Officer
- Ms Ralston Dilbert, Support Services Manager, Faith Hospital, Cayman Brac
- Nurse Charmaine Coore, Little Cayman
- Nurse Kedine Hyde, Cayman Community Health Nurse, Faith Hospital, Cayman Brac
- Ms Barbara Nelson, Appointment Clerk
- Ms Suzette Steward, Nurse Manager, Faith Hospital, Cayman Brac

#### For services rendered to the Government and people of the Cayman Islands

- Mr B. L. 'Mark' Tibbetts Jr, District Commissioner, Cayman Brac

#### For services rendered to the Public Service Pension Board and the People of the Cayman Islands

- Mrs Jewel Evans Lindsey, Chief Executive Officer, Public Service Pensions Board

#### For services rendered to the Financial Industry

- Ms Sheree Ebanks, Chief Executive Officer, Cayman Islands Institute of Professional Accountants
- Mr Jude Scott, Chief Executive Officer, Cayman Finance

#### Media

#### For services rendered to broadcasting

- Ms Norma McField, Director of Broadcasting, Radio Cayman

#### For services rendered to the media and charitable organizations

- Ms Victoria Wheaton, journalist

**Caymanian Times**  
congratulates  
all the awardees

## PREMIER PANTON CONGRATULATES SIR ALDEN

Hon. Premier Wayne Panton has congratulated his immediate predecessor Hon. Alden McLaughlin upon the receipt of his knighthood conferred by Her Majesty the Queen, calling it "a day of celebration and great pride for all Caymanians".

In a statement, Premier Panton said: "The Government of the Cayman Islands is delighted to note the decision of Her Majesty the Queen to confer on Hon. Alden McLaughlin, MBE, QC, JP, MP the honour of a Knighthood in the New Years Honours list for 2022. Sir Alden McLaughlin has been appointed as a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George."

Mr Panton went on to state that, "As Premier, I consider it a tremendous privilege to offer congratulations on behalf of the Government and people of the Cayman Islands to Sir Alden McLaughlin KCMG, MBE, QC, MP, JP on the granting by Her Majesty the Queen of this distinguished honour."

### CAYMAN PRIDE

"This is a day of celebration and great pride for all Caymanians as a son of our soil has been bestowed one of the highest honours in becoming only the second Caymanian to be knighted nearly 28 years after the late Sir Vassel Johnson received his knighthood in 1994," Mr Panton enthused.

Reminding of the political and public service trajectory of the former government leader, Mr Panton said: "Sir Alden has dedicated the majority of his professional life to public service. He first entered representational politics by successfully standing for election in 2000, which effectively brought a blossoming career as a partner in a local law firm to an end."

He highlighted specific areas of achievement by the former premier, now Sir Alden McLaughlin.

"In particular, there are three distinct areas of achievement during his outstanding career of public service that have set his journey apart.

"Firstly, it was his passion for the law and the governance of the Cayman Islands which saw him take a leading role in advocating for and negotiating a modernised Cayman Islands Constitution. These efforts resulted in the Cayman Islands Constitution Order in 2009 (approved by the first ever referendum) and the Cayman Islands Constitution (Amendment) Order 2020. History shall remember him kindly as the architect of the Cayman Islands' modern constitution, placing us on a path of greater autonomy and responsibility for domestic policy.

"Secondly, he successfully completed two consecutive terms as Premier between 2013-2017 and 2017-2021, leading two administrations via coalition. I had the honour of being invited to serve as a Minister during his first term as Premier. Both administrations will be remembered for the exceptional support of the Finance Ministers whose tireless efforts helped to place the Cayman Islands' economy on sure footing. Throughout his time as Premier, Sir Alden sought to build a strong, productive and mutually respectful relationship between the Cayman Islands and the United Kingdom and few can argue that his representation of the Cayman Islands on the international stage was undertaken with anything but dignity, diplomacy and tact.

"Thirdly, the global COVID-19 pandemic no doubt defined the final year of his second administration. He led an administration which made the difficult but important decisions to close the borders, institute lockdowns, adopt an eradication of COVID-19 policy and launch a national vaccination campaign once vaccines became available.

### 'A UNIFYING MOMENT'

Premier Panton also placed the achievement of Sir Alden in the wider context of its reflection on the Cayman Islands.

"Today marks a new and most unique storyline in the history of the Cayman Islands," he stated.

"In considering the rarity and magnitude of this occasion, this is certainly a unifying moment for our community as the achievements of one our own have been recognised with great distinction by Her Majesty the Queen. This is certainly a most fitting way to begin 2022, the year in which we celebrate The Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

"While this award is bestowed upon an individual, it is also a direct reflection on the people who have shaped that individual's life. A famous African proverb notes, "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." Indeed, Sir Alden will be the first to tell you that he did not achieve this on his own.

"Importantly his life was built upon a firm foundation of values including, commitment, service and a strong work ethic which were instilled by his late parents, Mr McNee and Mrs Althea McLaughlin. I am certain that they would be beaming with pride today.

"I also want to pay special tribute to his wife Kim, now- Lady McLaughlin, and their two sons Daegan and Caelan for their perseverance on the journey of public service with him. While his family has always eschewed the spotlight, their countless sacrifices in support of Sir Alden are rightfully acknowledged.

### PRIDE OVER POLITICS

Although the two former political allies now sit on opposite sides of the political divide, Mr Panton was nonetheless magnanimous in his accolades of his former leader in whose government he'd previously served as a minister.

"I am therefore pleased to see the tireless work of my friend and former colleague honoured in this manner. While we currently serve our Country on opposite sides in the House of Parliament, we continue to share a passion and love for our Caymanian people as we recognise that to whom much is given, much is required."

Premier Panton observed: "Sir Alden often quotes Otto von Bismark who once ob-



► Hon. Premier Wayne Panton

served that, "Politics is the art of the possible, the attainable — the art of the next best". It is no doubt that in committing his life to serving the people of the Cayman Islands, Sir Alden has had to figure out the possible, the attainable and the alternatives in an effort to reach consensus or to advance the cause of our people, and for this we should all give thanks.

"This recognition by Her Majesty the Queen is well deserved, especially for someone who has dedicated the past 21 years of his life to serving our Cayman Islands community in the grand theatre of representational politics. I can think of no better way to bring in the New Year than to salute our very own, Knight Commander of the Order of St Michael and St George-Sir Alden McLaughlin."

In conclusion, Mr Panton also acknowledged other awardees recognised for their contributions to the Cayman community.

"I also wish to extend sincere congratulations to all the recipients in Her Majesty the Queen's New Years Honours List. Each of these individuals have made outstanding contributions to our community and country. The recognition of their commitment and dedication in their various fields which has benefited our country should be celebrated and they should know they have our collective sense of gratitude."

# NEW WAVE OF CUBAN MIGRANTS HIT THE HIGH SEAS

By Staff Writer

Cuba is experiencing a new wave of citizens so desperate to leave that they are endangering their lives to cross the Florida Straits in inadequate vessels to get to the United States.

Others are taking to the Caribbean Sea heading south to the Cayman Islands or west to Central America to seek refugee status or as in-transit stop-overs with an ultimate goal of getting to the US.

Meanwhile, there are reports that some are even taking flying to countries thousands of miles away with the intention of seeking another route into America.

These journeys are fraught with danger and uncertainty.

In the past week alone a boatful of Cuban migrants packed into a dinghy was intercepted by the United States Coast Guard near the Florida Keys and they were deported back to the Communist-run nation.

The 18 migrants were sent back Tuesday following their arrest four days earlier about 15 miles off Duck Key. The Coast Guard's Sector Key West was alerted after a container ship crew spotted the group crammed aboard the 15-foot hardly sea-worthy vessel.

The fleeing Cubans were medically assessed, fed and processed for their expulsion to the economically-ravaged island.

The US deported 838 Cubans who were stopped at sea in the year up to September 30 - the highest total since nearly 1,500 were sent back in 2017

The US Department of Homeland Security data shows Coast Guard crews have already stopped 462 Cuban migrants in the current fiscal year.



The spike in Cubans fleeing the island over the last two years has been primarily driven by the scarcity of basic goods, restrictions on civil liberties and the mishandling of the COVID-19 pandemic as residents have taken to the streets in

the first mass demonstration since before former leader Fidel Castro came into power.

Cubans fleeing the socialist regime had been allowed to remain in the US under President Bill Clinton's 'wet foot, dry foot' 1995 policy which revised the 1966 Cuban Adjustment Act.

The law granted them eligibility to become residents within a year.

President Obama stopped that immigration policy in January 2017, signing an executive decision as he left office.

Cubans caught in the sea by US authorities are now returned to Cuba or the country from where they originally departed under United States policy.

Russia is one of a handful of countries that does not require Cubans to obtain a visa to travel there, so some Cubans use that distant route as a way to cross into other countries in Europe, with the ultimate goal of eventually reaching the US.

But in recent weeks, Russia has begun to crack down on Cubans using the visa exemption to travel to third countries. A month ago, a group of 71 Cubans were denied entry to Russia and sent back home. Cubans fleeing their homeland have also landed in Greece, Turkey and Italy.

Cuba's economic woes have been compounded by the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the country now producing its own vaccines and taking a lead in vaccinations in Latin America.

Its fleeing nationals also claim growing political repression in the wake of recent anti-government demonstrations.

The US Biden administration has condemned what it called the "politically motivated trials" of hundreds of Cubans who were involved in unprecedented anti-government protests in July.

Cuban authorities are seeking prison sentences of up to 25 years for some of the protesters.





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# HECTIC HOLIDAYS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT

It's been quite a busy Christmas period for the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) as well as for Customs and Border Control (CBC).

From accident response, car theft, incidents of assault and robbery, property burglaries, to vessels in distress and illegal migrants entering the territorial waters, the security services have had their hands full.

## ILLEGAL MIGRANTS CONTINUE JOURNEY

In the most recent update, the Cayman Islands Customs and Border Control (CBC) reported on Friday 31st December that a group of Cuban migrants who'd arrived in the jurisdiction earlier this week have rejected local assistance. They have instead opted to put out to sea again aboard the small craft in which they arrived. Their ultimate destination is unknown.



## ROAD SAFETY

The RCIPS reports that its Operation Quaker, the road policing component of its Holiday Safety campaign, focused on increased police presence on the roads over the long Christmas weekend. This included additional support from special constables, officers from other units within the police, and 17 new police recruits who supported traffic duties alongside senior officers.

For the period of 24th - 28th December, 31 motor vehicle accidents (MVAs) were reported to the 911 emergency call centre.

Although there were no major collisions or life-threatening injuries over this time, officers did see an increase in hit-and-run collisions.

106 tickets were issued over this period including; 13 for speeding, 53 for expired registration, 22 for tint violations, one for mobile phone, and four DUI (driving under the influence). In addition, arrests were made in relation to two warrants.

"Our road policing units were pleased to witness relatively quiet roads over this Christmas weekend when compared to previous years", says Superintendent Ebanks. "We want to thank the public for practicing safe driving behaviours and helping us to keep serious road incidents to a minimum".

He further urged motorists to be careful on the roads leading into the next upcoming extended holiday weekend.

"As we approach New Year's weekend, we expect the roads to be busy and motorists can expect to see us out in numbers across the island keeping the roads safe for all users. Be patient on the roads,

slow down and don't drink and drive - it's not worth it," Superintendent Ebanks implored drivers.

He also reminded of the available options to get home: "Call a cab, take advantage of the #ArriveAlive345 Purple Ribbon buses, designate a sober driver or arrange for a family member to collect you."

Superintendent Ebanks said: "As a community, let's continue to work together to keep everyone safe on the roads this New Year's weekend."

## CAR THEFT

Meanwhile, the RCIPS is seeking the assistance of the public in locating a 2006 Nissan Skyline Reported Stolen on 29th December.

The silver-coloured silver vehicle, registration 161 016 was last seen at about 2.00 PM on Christmas Eve - Friday, 24th December, and discovered missing at about 11.00 AM, the following Monday - 27th December. The vehicle had been parked at an address on North Church Street, George Town.

The RCIPS is urging anyone who spots this vehicle to contact 911. Alternatively, anonymous tips can be provided directly to the RCIPS via our Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777, or via the police website: <http://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip>.

## ASSAULT AND ROBBERY

The RCIPS is also seeking the assistance of the public as it investigates the assault and robbery of a George Town man.

The incident occurred shortly after midnight on the morning of 28th December.

According to the police report, they responded to a report of an assault and robbery of a 41-year-old man from George Town, which took place in the vicinity of Red Bay Primary School.

The man reported that he was walking home towards Prospect after purchasing food, when he recalls a white car pulling up next to him. He believes he was punched in the face and knocked unconscious. When he regained consciousness his phone and wallet were missing.

Emergency services attended to the man, who was taken to George Town Hospital for assessment and treatment after which he returned home.

Detectives are encouraging anyone who may have seen the assault or have any information related to this incident to call the George Town Police Station at 949-4222. Anonymous tips can be provided directly to the RCIPS via <https://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip>.

## BURGLARIES

Shortly before 9am on Christmas Day - 25th December, police responded to a report of a burglary at a restaurant on Walkers Road, George Town.

Officers were informed that an employee had locked up the establishment at around 8.30pm the previous night, 24th December. Another employee who stopped by the establishment the following morning, (25th December), noticed that the property had been broken into.



After conducting checks of the scene RCIPS officers observed that a window at the rear of the building had been forced open. Inside, the establishment had been ransacked and several items were reported stolen including electronic items and consumable goods.

Another burglary is being investigated following an emergency call received shortly after 2.30 am on 28th December.

Police responded to a 911 communication centre report of an alarm at a Church on Walkers Road, George Town.

On arriving at the scene officers reported that they saw a window screen at the rear of the building had been removed and the window pushed in. Further checks revealed a front window screen had been removed, a window on the right-hand side of the building had been broken, and the front door was unlocked.

On entering the building, officers observed that the office door had been pried open and the office ransacked. It is unclear at this time whether anything was stolen.

Detectives are encouraging anyone with information regarding these incidents, to call the George Town Police Station at 949-4222. Anonymous tips can be provided directly to the RCIPS Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777, or via the website <http://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip>.

## VESSEL IN DISTRESS

At around 6:20pm on Sunday 26th December, while on patrol within the North South, the Cayman Islands Coast Guard (CICG) received a report from the 911 communication centre of a vessel in distress in the vicinity of Duck Pond.

CICG Officers contacted the occupants of the vessel who stated that shortly after they launched their vessel at the Rackley ramp they had begun encountering engine issues and were adrift.

Officers located the vessel in the vicinity of Patrick's island canal entrance where the captain and passenger appeared to be in good health.

CICG towed the 20-foot vessel and occupants safely back to the Rackley launch ramp.

## ILLEGAL MIGRANTS

Cayman Islands Customs and Border Control Service (CBC) has confirmed that a vessel with six migrants arrived in Cayman Brac on Christmas Day - 25th December.

The official report did not state their nationality but the CBC officers said they were 'managed in accordance with COVID-19 processing protocols'.

They were transported to Grand Cayman four days later on the afternoon of December 29th where they have been placed in mandatory quarantine in a Government approved facility.

Another seven migrants arrived in the waters off Cayman Brac on the 28th December but didn't make landfall, choosing instead to continue on their journey. Their ultimate destination was unclear at the time.

However, Customs and Border Control Service (CBC) subsequently reported that the vessel was later sighted offshore in East End the following day, December 29th.

It was intercepted and declared unsafe. The occupants were taken ashore and processed in keeping with the COVID-19 protocols.

The plan was to place them in mandatory quarantine at a Government approved facility pending further investigations about their future under the relevant local and international conventions.

But that plan was abandoned following yet another dramatic twist to the situation.

Customs and Border Control Service (CBC) reported on Friday December 31st that the seven migrants have subsequently insisted on continuing their journey to an undisclosed destination.

According to the CBC update, "Accordingly, they remained on their vessel and were escorted outside territorial waters by the Cayman Islands Coast Guard at approximately 5pm yesterday afternoon (Thursday December 30th)."



# Caymanian Journalist/Reporter, Shanda Gallego among first cohort to participate in CNN's Academy Post-Pandemic Journalism Training

Over 50 hours of live seminars, 92 participants representing major news agencies from countries including Brazil, Spain, India, Mexico, the Caribbean, and CNN staff from across the world were brought together virtually for the CNN Academy's Post-Pandemic Journalism Course, June 21-25, 2021.

The intensive week long virtual training course gave participants access to discuss and learn from senior directors, news anchors and correspondents across the CNN team. We participated in live seminars, breakout sessions with course participants, live discussions, we asked questions, received feedback and heard from CNN experts on how they operated a newsroom during a pandemic.

Live seminars ranged from news gathering workflows, open-source reporting,

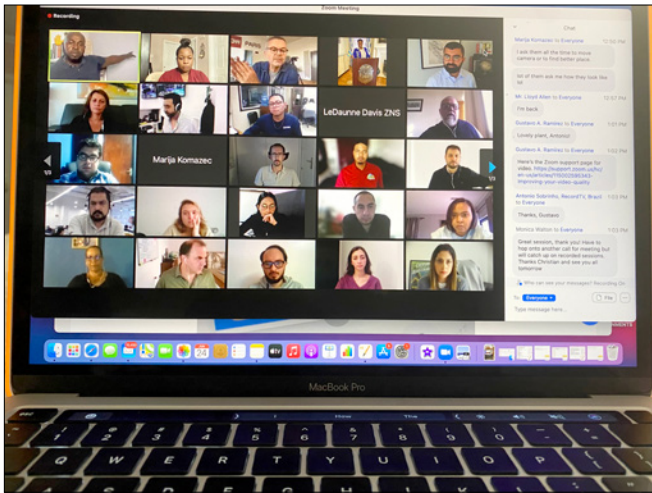
social verification, audience and consumption trends, digital and broadcasting programming, technical workflows, media consumption trends, reporting from the field, and post-pandemic media landscape. It was such an insightful, inspiring and educational experience for me to hear and learn from these world-class creative professionals as well as the journalistic voices of this generation.

I was extremely impressed by the enthusiasm and passion of my fellow course participants, the questions they asked and conversations held to help them ensure they can continue to navigate through the COVID-19 pandemic as journalists as well as anticipate the highs and lows of post-pandemic journalism. I was pleased to see how we were all presented with unique challenges, but having this platform assured us we can overcome them. It's important to also note that for someone who loves to travel, I did not have to pack a suitcase, nor leave the comfort of my home, and still had the opportunity to meet so many people from across the world in one week.

My biggest takeaway was as journalists, we are still invaluable players in how stories get told, and for journalists, the COVID-19 pandem-

ic remains an unprecedented news story. COVID-19 is one of the worst crises to hit our world in generations and it has changed human lives, the global economy and efforts are being made every day to stop the spread of this virus. Misinformation, disinformation and rumors are spread far and wide, and as journalists, we have a responsibility to ensure fair, accurate, and verifiable reporting of information. **It is important to ensure that news is right, not always first.** The public's trust in the media is on the line more than ever and it is important to constantly equip ourselves with the tools and information to do our jobs effectively. In addition, the ever-changing world that we live in calls for us to examine closely the role we play as media as well as the new, innovative ways we must adopt for our audience.

The highlight of the training session for me was Thursday's Technical Workflows session with CNN Supervising television Photojournalist, Christian Streib. The interactive and engaging session focused on practical advice to support journalists as they navigate working from home. He gave us insight into his transition from the office to home, the importance of innovation and creativity, and the importance of taking breaks. With strong filming, editing and organizational skills, Christian spoke on how he was able to get his family and colleagues suited for reporting live from their homes and how collaboration is key to performing better. My favorite part of the session was course participants get-



ting a quick makeover of their own home/remote work setup. I was one of the few participants chosen for the makeover where he looked at my work space and found simple ways to enhance the look should I be required to join Zoom calls, press conferences or go live for reporting.

The week-long course was intensive, fast-paced, but I am grateful that I was able to be a part of such an amazing experience. Thanks to the CNN Academy team, my News Director, April Cummings and Management of Radio Cayman for the opportunity.

## CAYMAN'S 'CAN DO' SPIRIT IS ALIVE AND WELL FOR 2022

### Talk On The Street: Looking to Recover in 2022



'If anyone can, then a Caymanian can' seems to be the motto driving many of our readers' outlook for 2022.

That spirit of self-reliance was evident when Caymanian Times took to the streets to find out how residents were planning for 2022.

With Cayman now looking at ways to rebound following the COVID-induced economic downturn over the past two years, many people we spoke with for our first 'Talk On The Street' for this year demonstrated a resilience to adapt to the so-called 'new normal'.

While some level of recovery is expected this year with the borders now open to international air travel, that turnaround is however expected to be slow.

Nevertheless, while the government has extended several aspects of its COVID-relief and other support packages, it was clear from persons we spoke with that they are focused on their own drive and resilience to create opportunities for themselves this year.

Despite the current high levels of unemployment and financial challenges many people are hoping to rebound in 2022.

This was evident in the responses to our question: **"What do you intend to do to make 2022 a better year than 2021 financially for you and your family?"**

*Henry, Caymanian, 46:*

"The best way to get out of this mess is to be more strict with your spending. Don't buy anything that you don't need and spend your money here in Cayman. That's what I'm going to do."

*George, Caymanian, 37:*

"There is not a whole lot that I can do until I find a job and it is hard to find one now."

*Lloyd, Caymanian, 31:*

"I am finally starting my own business. I have been wanting to do that for a long time and I think now is the time. I have to try something."

*Trey, Caymanian, 22:*

"First, I am going to find a second job so that I can pay for my children's daycare and then I don't have to worry about them when I go to my main job. And then I am going to get as much overtime as I can and



try to save a little something each week. Luckily, I have my mother to help me with the children at night."

*Keira, Caymanian, 35:*

"Thank God, I am doing okay. Not great, but okay. At least I have a job and I never really lost any income during this whole time. I am thinking about starting my own business though to get a little more security."

*Maxine, Caymanian, 56:*

"I am glad that I am a civil servant. All through this, I didn't have to worry about my paycheck. It is not as easy as people think, but at least I have a job."

*Nola, Caymanian, 56:*

"Now is the time for everybody to be more financially prudent. And we need to

# WHAT WILL BE THE STATE OF COVID-19 IN 2022?

By Michael Jarvis, UK Correspondent

The new year 2022 has dawned with the COVID-19 pandemic set to dominate the global news agenda for the year ahead.

In the face of the rampaging Omicron strain of the virus, there is nevertheless cautious optimism by medical experts that serious infections could possibly wane this year.

They attribute this to growing evidence which suggests that this variant might be less severe than Delta and Alpha strains which have proven to be most problematic.

However, the WHO says it is still monitoring whether disease from Omicron is as severe as previous variants such as Delta, stating that at this time the available data is still "uncertain".

"2022 must be the end of the COVID-19 pandemic," said WHO Director General Tedros Ghebreyesus, speaking at the organisation's final 2021 COVID-19 briefing.

He said WHO projections show that vaccine supplies should be sufficient to vaccinate the entire global adult population and to give boosters to high-risk populations by the first quarter of 2022.

According to the WHO head, the major remaining challenges are "implementing all the tools effectively" and notably, "taking care of equity."

"Unless we vaccinated the whole world, I don't think we can end this pandemic," the WHO Director General concluded.

But Omicron is not the only COVID-19 variant occupying the attention of WHO and other global health experts.

With a global emphasis on vaccinations, especially on booster doses to combat Omicron, there is mounting concern that this variant and others which may emerge could evade present vaccines.

While some companies are already manufacturing Omicron-variant doses, the WHO's Deputy Director Mike Ryan has warned that these may not be effective against other circulating strains.

Another challenge for governments especially is the growing economic impact of the continuing pandemic.

Even against the background that Omicron might be less severe than previously feared, the rate at which it is spreading and forcing even uninfected people into preventive isolation.

This is already impacting workforces across the world, particularly in essential



public services including healthcare, education, security and in business.

In the UK, contingency plans are being drawn up over fears a quarter of public sector workers could be absent due to the Omicron wave of COVID infections.

The government is testing preparations for a possible worst-case scenario as daily coronavirus numbers continue to hit record levels.

All government departments are also renewing their efforts to make sure that key workers get their COVID booster jabs to increase protection against the surging Omicron variant.

It follows fears that large numbers of Britons could be forced to isolate in the early weeks of 2022, causing chaos in public services, on transport networks, and putting further pressure on NHS staffing levels.

Data from the United Kingdom Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows peo-

ple who are unvaccinated are up to eight times more likely to be admitted to hospital than those who are fully jabbed.



The emergence of Omicron sparked an acceleration of the roll-out over the festive season, and more than 1.6 million people received their booster dose in the final week of 2021.

The picture from the United States is equally concerning with the US leading the world in the daily average number of new deaths reported, accounting for one in every 5 deaths reported worldwide each day.

The economy is also being impacted with large swathes of the workforce being sidelined into isolation or working from home with the consequential impact on turnover and downstream economic effects from in-country trade to exports.

The knock-on effect is already being felt in the global trade network, with import-dependent countries in the Caribbean/Latin America region - including Cayman - risking being affected by supply chain shortages.

One noted effect already is in the cruise sector, now slowly emerging from a crippling shutdown over the past two years.

Regional countries which rely on cruise tourism which have just started welcoming back cruises are now faced with the tough choice of once again curtailing that sector of their tourism industry in the wake of COVID-19 outbreaks on several ships calling at regional destinations.

That is further compounded by a new advisory from the US Centres For Disease Control (CDC) cautioning Americans against taking cruises at this time.

Cayman recently took proactive active, even ahead of the CDC notification, to cancel a planned cruise ship visit intended to test local protocols for restarting that sector of the tourism industry.

An uptick in Omicron cases among both travellers and incidents of community spread are being observed across the Caribbean, some already being associated with year-end carnival and other festive celebrations attracting large crowds.

Most countries in the region and elsewhere still have strict protocols in place although some have been relaxed as countries try to balance public health safety measures with keeping their economies intact.

In a recent statement, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said: "As countries begin to emerge from the most acute phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, policy makers and citizens need tools to monitor efforts to revive economic activity... and build back better."

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# Cabinet Approves Ministry Grants to Non-Profit Community Organisations

On 23 December 2021, in the spirit of the holiday season, the Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development distributed extraordinary grants to non-profit organisations (NPOs) that serve the community in the social development space.

Upon announcing the grants, the Hon. Minister André Ebanks stated, "On behalf of the Government, I am pleased to announce extraordinary financial support, derived from identified savings, from the Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development for a number of non-profit entities in our community that are aligned with the Ministry's social development division. These NPOs play a crucial role in our community, providing vital services and assistance to a diverse array of vulnerable people in the Cayman Islands, including children, victims of domestic abuse as well as substance abuse/addiction, and older persons."

The following extraordinary grants are being made, on a one-off basis, largely in view of unanticipated circumstances that fall outside the scope of existing funding

or purchase agreements that the Ministry has with most of these NPOs.

The National Council of Voluntary Organisations received \$177,379 to fund security measures and urgent repairs to its foster home, for the benefit of the home's residents.

The Cayman Islands Crisis Center received \$325,000 to fund the construction of an enhanced emergency shelter for its clients, who are women and children in dire situations and potential victims of domestic abuse.

The Hope for Today Foundation (HTF) received \$90,000 to fund operating expenses. HTF operates a sober living facility for those recovering from substance abuse/addiction, and supports these individuals in their return to being sober and active participants in society. Previously, HTF has received solely private funding, but now is taking on an increased number of clients (some

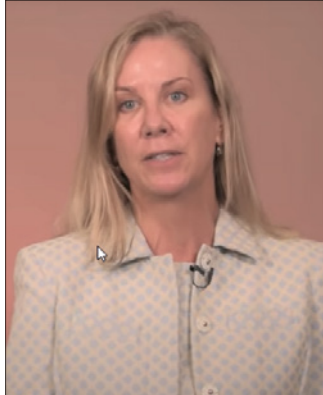
of whom are directed by the Courts). The work performed by HTF with this grant will be monitored by the Ministry and, if desired outputs are produced, the Ministry will aim to enter into a purchase agreement with HTF in 2023.

Meals on Wheels (MOW) provides hot, nutritious meals to older persons, and others who are homebound in the community, from Monday to Friday, throughout the 52 weeks of the year. To meet current and growing demand for MoW's services, an extraordinary grant of \$50,000 has been distributed to MOW to support its relocation to a new facility and the purchase of new equipment.

Chairman of the NCVO Board Lauren Nelson expressed gratitude on behalf of the organisation and the children it serves through its foster home and preschool, saying "We are so excited to get this funding, which will be used for pri-



► Hon. Minister Andre Ebanks



► Chairman of the NCVO Board Lauren Nelson

marily to provide an on-campus security guard 24/7 for the foster home but also for the preschool, and the bargain shop. It will also fund some much needed renovations to the foster home. The NCVO is truly grateful for this gift, particularly at this time of year."

Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development Chief Officer Eric Bush explained the wider context of the Ministry's strategic objectives, stating "The Ministry looks forward to working with these NGOs and other like entities to implement a more coordinated network of social development.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule – JAN 2022(v1)

The COVID-19 vaccine (dose 1 & 2) is available to ALL persons 12 years and over. Boosters (3<sup>rd</sup> Dose) at 131 Centre are available in alphabetical order to 18+ years old and clinically vulnerable (see criteria below)\* **ALPHABETICAL ORDER APPLIES TO PERSONS SEEKING BOOSTERS ONLY. PERSONS FOR DOSE 1&2 CAN ATTEND ON ANY DAY.**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN FACE MASK**



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>JANUARY 3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>NO CLINIC</b>	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME A-C (boosters)</b>	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME D &amp; E (boosters)</b>  <b>SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE</b> 2 - 4pm	<b>PROSPECT COMMUNITY OFFICE</b> 4pm - 7pm (833 Marina Drive)	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME F-H (boosters)</b>  <b>SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE</b> 2 - 4pm	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 1pm - 4pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME I-L (boosters)</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>SAVANNAH &amp; NEWLANDS MLA OFFICE</b> 4:30pm - 8pm (#8 Homestead Crescent, behind Wendy's)	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME M &amp; N (boosters)</b>	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME O-Q (boosters)</b>  <b>SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE</b> 2 - 4pm	<b>BODDEN TOWN PUBLIC BEACH</b> 5pm - 9pm  <b>SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE</b> 2 - 4pm	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME R-T (boosters)</b>	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 1pm - 4pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME U-Z (boosters)</b>
<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 1pm - 4pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME A-C (boosters)</b>	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME D &amp; E (boosters)</b>	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME F-H (boosters)</b>  <b>SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE</b> 2 - 4pm	<b>WEST BAY DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRE</b> 5pm - 8pm	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME I-L (boosters)</b>  <b>SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE</b> 2 - 4pm	<b>131 CENTRE**</b> 1pm - 4pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)  <b>SURNAME M &amp; N (boosters)</b>

# Productivity rises with remote working, but worker trust and workload poses challenges for companies: PwC survey of business and HR leaders in the Caribbean

New research from PwC shows that as many companies have boosted workforce productivity and performance during the pandemic, cultural and leadership speed-bumps have arisen that are inhibiting the creation of strong workforce strategies.

The global survey draws upon the views of almost 4,000 business and HR leaders across 28 industry sectors and from 26 countries and regions, including Bermuda and the Caribbean. The survey identifies six 'no-regrets' plays for business leaders to prepare for the future of work.

Remote and hybrid working has provided a short-term productivity boost in most workplaces, with 46% of respondents (57% globally) saying their organisation performed better against workforce performance and productivity targets over the past 12 months; None said their company performed significantly worse.

However, productivity and performance gains may have come at the expense of longer term employee trust. Half of business and HR leaders surveyed strongly believe their organisation is building high levels of trust between workers and their direct supervisors.

Burnout may be partially responsible for the number not being higher – nearly 80% (compared to 74% globally) are not fully confident workload is manageable

enough for employees to make full use of personal time.

The survey reveals that building trust while using data and technology that is human-centred, remains fundamental to workforce strategy. Digitisation and automation, cost pressures, talent shortages, distrust, and burnout – a confluence of factors is impacting the workplace today. It's clear from the findings that lukewarm agreement – or action will not move the needle in addressing today's biggest workforce risks.

Caribbean organisations must act quickly and decisively to strengthen their organisations and prepare for the future of work.

**David Gibbons, Human Capital leader, PwC in the Caribbean**, and partner PwC Bermuda, commented: "People are integral to the tech equation. An engaged workforce is critical to focused, sustained action by leadership. Leaders need to engage with and listen to their people and be responsive to addressing employee concerns and the desire of people to work for organisations that live up to their purpose, values and culture. This is critical to retaining and motivating employees."

There is a strategic planning dividend. The research found effective organisational planning can pay dividends. Companies that undertook both scenario-based planning (where leaders anticipate their



► David Gibbons, Human Capital leader, PwC in the Caribbean



► Bhushan Sethi, Joint Global People and Organisation Leader, PwC US

needs for multiple possible futures) and dynamic planning (whereby leaders build responsiveness into plans) were 30 percentage points more likely to perform at or above financial and other targets than those who use neither approach.

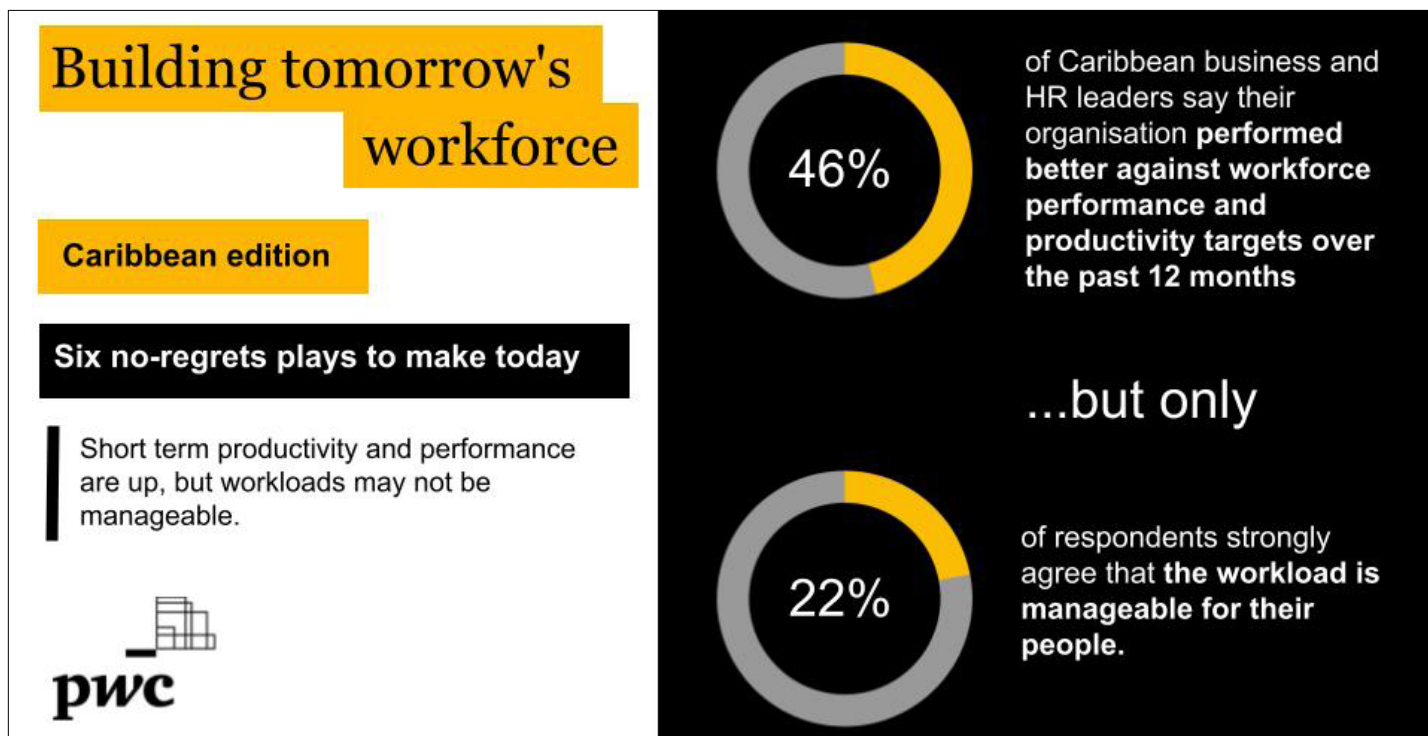
Additionally, companies that undertake dynamic planning alone, compared to those who embark on scenario-based planning alone, see about a 10 percentage point advantage.

**Bhushan Sethi, Joint Global People and Organisation Leader, PwC US**, said: "The pandemic has increased the pressure for more integrated business and workforce strategies, informed by robust scenario planning which for some is delivering tangible financial benefits. As we anticipate greater short and long-term uncertainty, the importance of establishing effective planning practices will be critical to address today's and tomorrow's business and workforce priorities."

Planning must account for the impact of technology on human work. Digitisation will continue to be a top concern for leaders, and there is currently a gap between the heightened role technology will play in the workforce strategy and an understanding of the risks.

Only 7% of Caribbean leaders (21% globally) strongly agreed they can identify the potential risks caused by decisions to replace human work with technology. Furthermore, only 12% (25% globally) strongly agreed they communicate clearly and consistently to employees and other stakeholders about the impact of automation and AI.

A focus on skills needs should also be included as a planning imperative. A third of the HR and business leaders surveyed say it's very important to identify the skills the organisation will need in the future due to technological change but only 12% (26% globally) strongly agree they can currently do this.



## CAYMAN'S 'CAN DO' SPIRIT IS ALIVE AND WELL FOR 2022

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

make sure and spend our money locally. That way we support each other and help others to have jobs and thriving businesses."

*Michael, Caymanian, 63:*

"The best way for everyone to get better is for us to spend our money in the local economy. Our economy was starting to improve for most of 2021 but, I am afraid

that since Caymanians can travel a little more now, they are spending less locally and going back to their old way of doing things- spending money overseas. Not a good trend."

*Kevin, Caymanian, 49:*

"I am going to start my own business, but I am staying away from anything that depends upon tourists or visitors. I want

to cater to our own people, and to provide for my family at the same time."

*Lisa, Caymanian, 50:*

"The best way out of this crisis is to work together and support each other. Shop local, hire local, and treat each other fairly should be our mantra. If we do that, then our economy will recover and more Caymanians will have opportunities to provide for their family."

*Julius, Caymanian, 44:*

"If the government would ensure that Caymanians got a fair chance at the jobs here on island, then things would be a

whole lot better. I think we are headed right back to where we were before, though, because there are more and more work permit holders coming into the country every week and a lot of Caymanians can't find work."

*Nicole, Caymanian, 40:*

"I am taking some classes at UCCI and I plan on opening my own business in a few months. In the meanwhile, I am saving as much money as I can."

It simply goes to show that COVID-19 notwithstanding, in spite of all, Cayman's 'can do' spirit is alive and well.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

# Liquor Licensing Board Extends Bar and Nightclub Hours on Fridays Only

With effect from Friday, 31 December 2021 (New Year's Eve) liquor licence holders in the category of retail bars are permitted to open until 2 a.m. on Friday nights only, with liquor sales ceasing at 1.50 a.m.

Also only on Friday nights, retail nightclubs may operate until 4 a.m., although sales must cease at 3.50 a.m.

Both these changes are until further notice. Going forward all bars and nightclubs must close at 12 am from Saturday-Thursday. Licence holders are also reminded to adhere to all other conditions of their licenses.



For more details, please contact the Department of Commerce and Investment on 244-2202, 244-6677 or email at enforcement@dci.gov.ky or info@dci.gov.ky.

# Sister Islands Liquor Licensing Board Extends Bar Hours on Fridays Only

With effect from Friday, 31 December 2021 (New Year's Eve) liquor licence holders in the category of retail bars are permitted to open until 2 a.m. on Friday nights only, with liquor sales ceasing at 1.50 a.m. All liquor licenses in the Package category will also have an additional hour and should cease sales at 9 p.m.

In all cases gathering limits of 100 persons indoors and 250 persons outdoors will be strictly enforced.

Going forward all bars must close at 12 am from Saturday-Thursday. Licence holders are also reminded to adhere to all other conditions of their licenses.



For more details, please contact the Department of Commerce and Investment on 928-2400, 244-6677 or email at enforcement@dci.gov.ky or info@dci.gov.ky.

## COVID-19 Vaccine Info

Boosters are available to persons who meet the criteria below and have their 2nd dose MORE than 3 months ago

- HEALTHCARE WORKERS
- TEACHERS
- POLICE, FIRE, PRISON OFFICERS, CUSTOMS AND BORDER CONTROL
- PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER
- CLINICALLY VULNERABLE PERSONS (12+ YEARS OLD), FOR EXAMPLE THOSE WITH:
  - Diabetes
  - Hypertension
  - Cancer
  - Heart disease
  - Lung disease
  - Kidney disease
  - Autoimmune diseases or compromised/weakened immune system
  - Asthma
  - Down's syndrome (adults)
  - Severe mental illness
  - People on immunosuppression therapies
  - People with solid organ transplants
  - Pregnant women
  - Other people who have also been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable,

based on clinical judgement and an assessment of their needs – GPs and hospital clinicians determination

### GENERAL VACCINE INFO

- When receiving your 2nd or 3rd dose, you MUST also bring along your vaccination card reflecting your previous doses
- Dose 1 & 2 are available to persons 12 years and older. Parental consent required for anyone 12 – 17 years old
- Boosters (3rd dose) are available to persons 18 and over, three months after their 2nd dose
- 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
- Facemask required – Please bring your own.
- Do NOT laminate your card

COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule see on page 9.

Most up to date schedule available at [www.hsa.ky](http://www.hsa.ky)



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Ceramics Workshop with Yonier Powery

8 January – The National Gallery is offering a 2-day introduction course on ceramics with Yonier Powery. The cost is \$80 with 10% off for members and all materials are provided. To sign up, email [education@nationalgallery.org.ky](mailto:education@nationalgallery.org.ky).

### Services of Holy Communion

16 January – Services of Holy Communion at St. Alban's Church of England on Sunday January 16th at 9:30am. Morning Prayers will continue on alternate Sundays.

Send your community events to [wendy@caymaniantimes.ky](mailto:wendy@caymaniantimes.ky)

## DONATE BLOOD TODAY

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URGENTLY NEEDED**



Cayman Islands  
**BLOOD BANK**

**Monday - Friday**

**7am - 6:30pm**


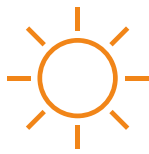





**Saturday 9am - 5:30pm**

\*closed Sundays & Public Holidays

Cayman Islands Hospital

Walk-in or book online [bloodbank.ky](http://bloodbank.ky)

**WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST**

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
						
<b>83° / 76°</b>	<b>83° / 77°</b>	<b>83° / 77°</b>	<b>84° / 77°</b>	<b>82° / 78°</b>	<b>82° / 77°</b>	<b>80° / 76°</b>
Sunny and pleasant	Sunny and pleasant	A passing afternoon shower	Winds gradually subsiding	Breezy with a few showers	Sun through high clouds	A shower in the afternoon

**MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION**

**GENESIS 8:22 - SEASONS**

As you are reading this, you may be experiencing this unfamiliar cold weather. Others in far away places are witnessing snow of a magnitude that is historical. Winter can be a struggle, keeping folks indoors, making communities work harder, and testing our patience. Every season is a reminder of God's faithfulness.

After the flood, God promised Noah He would never again flood the earth and would continue to sustain the seasons that help make the earth a place for us to habitate and flourish. When life is out of sorts, out of control, and feels uncertain, know that the same God who has sustained the seasons will also sustain you.



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[info@creativefashion.com](mailto:info@creativefashion.com)

**DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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**Churchill's** Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mrs. Joan Eldona Frederick, who passed away on Saturday, December 04, 2021. A Service of Thanksgiving will take place at the Webster Memorial United Church, 261 Bodden Town Road, Grand Cayman Cayman Islands on Saturday January 8, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.  
Viewing: Closed Casket  
Interment: New Pease Bay Cemetery  
Special Notice: Masks are mandatory to wear during the service.




Condolences can be registered at [churchillsfuneralhome.com](http://churchillsfuneralhome.com)

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**Churchill's** Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. Alvel Andrew McFarlane who passed away on Tuesday, November 30, 2021. A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Church of God Universal, George Town, Grand Cayman on Saturday, January 08, 2022 at 2:00 p.m.  
Viewing: 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.  
Interment will follow at Prospect Cemetery



Condolences can be registered at [churchillsfuneralhome.com](http://churchillsfuneralhome.com)

## CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

# Grenada lets crypto king Sun rise

A controversial Chinese cryptocurrency tycoon claims he has become a diplomat in Grenada after living there since 2019.

Justin Sun, founder of the Tron cryptocurrency platform and one of the more high-profile operators in the digital-asset world, was appointed Grenada's representative to the World Trade Organisation in Geneva, according to Oliver Joseph, minister of Foreign Affairs, Interna-

tional Business and CARICOM Affairs.

Sun claims to be phasing out his participation in crypto-related projects to concentrate on his diplomat role. That includes Tron, the block chain that's a top network for its controversial coin Tether and supports hundreds of gambling and gaming apps.

Sun, 31, first gained notoriety for a bungled Tesla giveaway then the saga of his delayed

meeting with billionaire investor Warren Buffett in 2020 and a few months later. Sun has faced a revolt at a crypto social network company he acquired. Before getting into crypto, Sun co-founded Peiwo, a popular Snapchat-like app for China with millions of users.

"Our crypto industry has got into the stage, we really need sovereign states and regulators and international organisations to recognise the potential and the benefits of the block chain technology," Sun said. "That's why I think I will focus lots of my energy, to try and push block chain technology and cryptocurrency - the importance of all of this in developing countries and developed states as well. I will also try to promote new technology development in Grenada."

Other crypto entrepreneurs and ventures have been moving to the Caribbean. Exchange FTX recently relocated to the Bahamas. Other island nations



► Oliver Joseph with Justin Sun



► Barbados recently opened Decentraland, a crypto metaverse

have been seeking to be at the forefront of innovation, with Barbados recently opening an embassy in Decentraland, a crypto metaverse. Puerto Rico has become a US tax haven for the crypto wealthy. Latin American countries are starting their own crypto currency projects too.

"The Caribbean has a huge potential to become a very good place for entrepreneurship, and

also be the next Singapore," Sun said. "The reason is, Caribbean states are very close to the United States, which I think is very important. But also it is important you are not in the United States. If you are in the United States, you are going to fall into a lot of very strict regulation, and also taxation. In the US, the regulatory environment is not good to cryptocurrency."

## Barbados calls snap election

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has called a snap general election for 19 January. It's a calculated call by Mottley on the back of Barbados recently becoming a republic and her popularity is backed by the knowledge of a landslide victory at the last election.

The move came just weeks after Barbados removed Queen Elizabeth II as its head of state, becoming the world's youngest republic.

The island elected Sandra Mason as the country's first-ever president in October and she was sworn in on 30 November.

In a political address broadcast on social media, Mottley listed her government's economic and financial achievements. She added that Barbados' economy was recovering despite that the damage the COVID-19 pandemic did to its crucial tourism sector.

Several minority opposition political parties are holding talks with a view to forming a coalition to contest the election that Mottley announced last week, 18 months ahead of the end of her first five-year term in office.

Political observers say Mottley's Barbados Labour Party which won the 2018 general election by a 30-0 sweep, will face



► Mia Mottley addressing her supporters

its sternest test from the long established Democratic Party that it trounced in the last general election.

But the outgoing Opposition Leader, Bishop Joseph Atherley has already announced the formation of a new coalition, the Alliance Party for Progress that includes the United Progressive Party led by Lynette Eastmond. Eastmond, will serve as deputy leader in the APP.

The leader of Solutions Barbados, Grenville Phillips II, says his party will be forming a coalition with three other undisclosed political parties to contest the polls.

In response to criticism of her government's handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, Mottley said that the country had entered a "silly season" and that it was time to put aside partisan squabbling.

## Omicron means Cuba increases virus rules

Any Cayman Islands residents intending to visit Cuba in the near future should be aware of new COVID-19 protocols from 5 January.

As virus cases began to rise in recent days, Cuba's official media announced new rules for travellers arriving to the island from Wednesday.

Given the appearance in other countries of a new variant, Omicron, Cuba has decided that all international travellers must meet the following requirements upon entering the country:

- Present a complete vaccination certificate. The only exception to this measure are children aged 12 years or younger, or a person who has a certified medical condition that prevents the vaccination.

- The negative result of a PCR test carried out a maximum of 72 hours prior to travel. Travelers from South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, Malawi and Eswatini (formerly

Swaziland), in addition to the stated requirements must also adhere to other protocols.

All new arrivals in Cuba need medical insurance that includes COVID-19 coverage. Random checks are made. Visitors to Cuba also need to present a tourist card which is usually included in the cost of a flight ticket and is given out an hour or so before landing. Two additional paper forms are given out on the airplane: a COVID-19 health questionnaire and a customs form, both of which have to be handed in to customs officials on the ground.

From 1 January, Cuba simplified its arrival process with a new online form called D'Viajeros which amalgamates the immigration and health forms in a digital format. You will be able to fill out the information up to 72 hours before arrival and will receive a QR code in return.



► Cuba has reset its Covid protocols

# SUDOKU

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

## Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

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

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### Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/17

## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 39 Suit
  - 1 Egotist's material focus
  - 40 Takes in
  - 41 Flight part
  - 9 Be of use
  - 11 Love affair
  - 13 Pigeon perch
  - 14 Don Diego's alter ego
  - 15 Some amount of
  - 16 Corrected
  - 18 Calls for
  - 20 Compete
  - 21 Is bold
  - 22 U2's lead singer
  - 23 Danger signal
  - 24 Bud
  - 25 Los Angeles team
  - 27 Gung-ho
  - 29 Memorable time
  - 30 Running track material
  - 32 Noble knight
  - 34 Yoga need
  - 35 Mirror sight
  - 36 Unaided
  - 38 Factions
- DOWN**
- 1 Light lunch
  - 2 Made flat
  - 3 1974 Labelle hit
  - 4 Pear-shaped fruit
  - 5 Puzzle book features
  - 6 "That's my cue!"
  - 7 Harry Potter's nemesis
  - 8 Entice
  - 10 Inclined
  - 12 Western contest
  - 17 Hosp. workers
  - 19 God of war
  - 22 Rock group
  - 24 Bamboo eaters
  - 25 TV's Philbin
  - 26 Pal of Porthos
  - 27 Espionage org.
  - 28 Juice
  - 19 God of choice
  - 30 Mating game
  - 31 Costly
  - 33 Writer James
  - 37 "— Misérables"

BELL				HAGAR				
AVAIL				OPINE				
CANDO				LEFTS				
ODD				WRESTLE				
NESTLE				BEN				
				AIDS				ART
				SURF				TAGS
HUM				ECRU				
ORB				PESTLE				
TRESTLE				WAX				
EERIE				TRIBE				
LATTE				SANER				
SLOES				MELT				

### Yesterday's answer

## Word Search

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

- |            |           |
|------------|-----------|
| Beckett    | Mann      |
| Bellow     | Mistral   |
| Eliot      | Morrison  |
| Faulkner   | Paz       |
| Galsworthy | Shaw      |
| Gide       | Singer    |
| Hamsun     | Steinbeck |
| Heaney     | Tagore    |
| Hemingway  | Undset    |
| Kipling    | Yeats     |
| Lewis      |           |

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9				10		11			12
13						14			
15				16	17				
18			19					20	
	21						22		
			23			24			
25	26				27			28	
29				30					31
32			33					34	
35						36	37		
38						39			
	40							41	

8-6



Have fun with  
**CAYMANIAN  
TIMES**

### CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley

Panel 1: "WHAT'S BUGGIN' YA, CURTIS?"

Panel 2: "NUTTIN' I'M YOUR BROTHER... I CAN TELL WHEN SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT WITH YOU!"

Panel 3: "WELL, THIS GIRL-- A GIRL?? WAIT, BEFORE WE GET INTO THIS..."

Panel 4: "I NEED A TALL, ICE-COLD GLASS OF PEPTO BISMOL!"

### THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

By Stan Lee

Panel 1: "I'VE BROUGHT ROMAN..."

Panel 2: "EVEN BEFORE I ASK WHY--HOW'D YOU TALK THAT GUY INTO DRIVING HIS TRUCK HERE?"

Panel 3: "IT'S NOT HIS TRUCK ANYMORE. I BOUGHT IT!"

### JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

Panel 1: "ANOTHER FIRE ENGINE! WHERE DO YOU THINK THEY'RE ALL--"

Panel 2: "OH..."

## Gayle's force has finally ebbed

West Indies veteran batsman Chris 'Universe Boss' Gayle will not get his desired farewell from international cricket before his home crowd, as he is not included in the squad for the one-off T20 International (T20I) against

Ireland at Sabina Park, Jamaica on Saturday.

Gayle was also omitted from the T20I team for the series against England from 22-30 January at Kensington Oval in Barbados. The 42-year-old Jamaican wanted to play one final West Indies match at home, after their abysmal campaign at the T20 World Cup in October.

In the squad announced by Cricket West Indies, Keiron Pollard returns, having missed the tour of Pakistan with a niggling hamstring injury he sustained at the World Cup, to lead the One-Day International and T20 sides in the white ball series while COVID-19 has ruled two key players out of selection.

In his absence, Nicholas Pooran captained in the T20Is against Pakistan while Shai Hope was set to lead the side in the ODIs before a postponement due to COVID.

Former skipper Jason Holder is also back in both the ODI and T20I squads while Fabian Allen has also been passed fit to take part in the T20Is against England. There is no recall for all-rounder Andre Russell. Obed McCoy will be unavailable as he completes his rehabilitation from a shin injury while Evin Lewis and Anderson Phillip are unavailable due to recent positive COVID tests.

Head coach Phil Simmons said: "We have tried to maintain the general make-up of the squads from the Pakistan Tour before Christmas, with the captain and some senior players coming back in. COVID-19 has also played a part in the final make-up of the squad. The challenges in the next couple of months are getting the young players in both squads to not only improve on their skills but maintain the attitude and desire we saw in Pakistan.

"We do need to start the year on a high. And we know both Ireland and England have very good teams, so we expect a very strong challenge as we look to improve



► Chris Gayle is no longer wanted at 42

our chances of automatic qualification for the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2023 and building the T20 team for the ICC T20 World Cup in 2022."

### T20Is vs Ireland and England

Kieron Pollard (captain), Nicholas Pooran (vice-captain), Fabian Allen (England T20Is

only), Darren Bravo (England T20Is only), Roston Chase, Sheldon Cottrell, Dominic Drakes, Shai Hope, Akeal Hosein, Jason Holder, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Rovman Powell, Romario Shepherd, Odean Smith, Hayden Walsh Jr.

COVID-19 Reserves: Jayden Seales, Alzarri Joseph, Devon Thomas



► Jason Holder returns to the international scene

## World beater Atkinson quits pool

Jamaica's world record holding swim champ Alia Atkinson has announced her retirement from the sport after 20 glorious years.

Atkinson, 33, announced her plans via her Instagram account after finishing her last race at the World Short Course Swimming Championships just before Christmas. She specialised in breaststroke and competed at five consecutive Olympics from 2004-21.

She was born in Roehampton, Jamaica and her family moved to Florida in 2000 where she is based, training at the South Florida Aquatic Club in Pembroke Pines. Atkinson started swimming aged 3 and was immediately brilliant. Comparisons were always made with Janelle Atkinson, who was the first Jamaican swimmer to finish in the top four at an Olympic Games, in 2000.

At her first Games, Athens 2004, Alia placed 32nd overall in the 100 metres breast and was 25th in the 200m breaststroke 4 years later in

Beijing. She had an Olympic breakthrough in 2012 when she just missed the 100m breaststroke podium in London, finishing in fourth place.

Atkinson returned to the 100m breaststroke final in 2016 with an eighth place finish in the event at Rio and swam the prelims of the event at Tokyo 2020, finishing 22nd overall.

The Olympic disappointments were tempered by her collecting numerous world long course medals. Among those podium finishes include a 50m breast silver and 100m breast bronze at the 2015 World Championships. She also won 50m breaststroke silver at both the 2014 and 2018 Commonwealth Games, 100m breast bronze at the 2018 Commonwealth Games, and a pair of Pan American Games silvers in the 200 individual medley (2011) and 100m breast (2015).

Atkinson has been most dominant, however, in the short course races and retires as world record holder in both the 50m and 100m breaststroke. She set the 50m time in 2016 in 28.64 seconds to break Jessica Hardy's 28.80secs mark from 2009. Atkinson lowered it again with a 28.56secs in 2018, which still stands.

She shares the 100m breaststroke short course world record with Lithuanian Olympic Champion Ruta Meilutyte who broke it in 2013 in 1 minute 02.36secs. Atkinson matched that time at the 2014 World Swimming Championships and became the first black woman to win an individual world swimming title. Atkinson swam the exact same time at a 2016 World Cup meet.



► Alia Atkinson had a glorious career

## Irving triumphs after anti-vax stance

It looks as if Kyrie Irving's very public defiance in not taking the coronavirus jab has been justified after all. NBA officials have given him permission to play in road matches as unvaccinated players are not allowed to compete in New York matches. His defiance has cost him millions in unearned income but Irving has not relented.

Irving is eligible to make his Brooklyn Nets season debut as a part-time participant on Wednesday at Indiana.

Prior to Saturday's game against the Clippers, head coach Steve Nash said Irving has looked "great and gifted" in ramping up with the "stay-ready" group at HSS Training Center after returning to the team first from his banishment then from the league's health and safety protocols.

Irving is only eligible to play in the remaining 22 road contests for Brooklyn. The next road game for Brooklyn after Indiana is the Bulls, in Chicago, a week later on 12 January.



► Kyrie Irving got his way in the end

Meanwhile, Irving was in what has now become his customary place courtside for Seton Hall games at the Prudential Center in Newark.

And whatever hope fans might have harboured that new mayor Eric Adams might relent on regulations covering indoor venues evaporated when in his first hours at City Hall, Adams renewed them.

Coach Nash wouldn't commit to that date for the road-only Irving's return to game action, but he said the seven-time All-Star "looks great, considering" and his comeback is "getting close."