



Caymanian Times

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Wednesday, January 12, 2022 Issue No 730

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New Years Resolution

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony.” - Colossians 3:14

By Dr. Basil Springer

Let us address our New Year resolutions within the context of a snap Barbados general election, protection and survival in a COVID-19 environment, embracing the end of the pandemic, stabilizing our minds, and rehabilitation in the face of the devastation caused by the pandemic.

In my column of October 11, 2021, I wrote: “My limited knowledge of political science posits that the Barbados Labour Party, with a massive majority in the Barbados parliament, could call a snap election now as the Democratic Labour Party is still in siesta mode, and easily get a further five-year term with a comfortable majority.”

Now that Prime Minister Mottley has done just that, the opposition benches,

instead of revealing to the electorate what they would do to take Barbados forward, introduced some attempted rhetoric about a “one party state” and the importance of having a balance among parties in the parliament.

May I remind readers once again that Singapore is a democracy.

Elections have been held every five years since 1959, the same party has won each election by a significant margin, a benevolent dictatorship leadership style has been practiced, and opposing views are encouraged to be rationalized within the party in power. Singapore is the leading First World Island state on the planet and among the leading First World countries in the world.

I continued to argue in my column that “... with a large majority in parliament, the

Prime Minister could start making firmer decisions in the interest of the people of the country without having to worry about the political risk occasioned by the utterings of small groups.”

This maybe is what PM Mottley has in mind for Barbados.

One of the first things that the Prime Minister should do is to secure a source of vaccines and introduce compulsory vaccination legislation for all residents of Barbados.

Secondly, instead of paying lip service to reducing the food import bill, the Prime Minister should introduce legislation to “grow what we eat and eat what we grow” on the arable land lying fallow, and design a financial system to deliver these foods at affordable prices to all. In this way we will provide fresh nutritious food for the entire population thus boosting our immune system to tackle any virus that is about to invade.

Compulsory vaccination and boosting the immune system will strengthen our protection against viruses.

In his Christmas message “Joy to the World - A Happy Christmas and a Healthy and fulfilling 2022”, Professor Sir Henry Fraser, a Barbadian doctor, observed that “the lockdowns in Barbados ... created many health problems, mental issues for some, obesity, or weight gain for all, reduced fitness and even painful syndromes. Hopefully, the high infectiveness of the Omicron variant will create the herd immunity to stop the epidemic.”

I have recently explored in this space the solutions for stabilizing our minds so that we can be the best we can be.



► Dr. Basil Springer GCM is a Change-Engine Consultant

It is now left for us to focus on a final new year resolution - rehabilitation in the face of the devastation caused by the pandemic.

I have just experienced a wonderful week with my immediate and extended family in Barbados, which has stimulated many interesting thoughts.

Let us make 2022 the year of love within the family, one family at a time. The family is the basic building block of society. We shall hopefully be assembling those building blocks as we rehabilitate in the wake of the devastation of the raging COVID-19 pandemic over the past two years.

Dr. Basil Springer GCM is a Change-Engine Consultant. His email address is basilgf@marketplaceexcellence.com. His columns may be found at www.nothingbeatsbusiness.com/basil-springer-column/ and on www.facebook.com/basilgf

NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS



- Barbados Snap Election – Benevolent dictatorship
- Protection – Compulsory vaccination, immune system
- End the pandemic – Omicron, herd immunity
- Stabilizing our minds – Be the best that we can be
- Rehabilitation – Family experiences, basic building blocks

Caymanian Times adapts to the changing times

This new year 2022 brings opportunities as well as challenges as Cayman looks to the future.

Adapting to change in this ‘new normal’ is the underlying principle that will see us continuing to succeed.

With that in mind, Caymanian Times will be producing a larger weekly paper

with a wider scope of coverage from government, politics, economics to community affairs, culture and sports.

This will be supported by our recently launched flagship weekly panel discussion programme, The Panel, in which we examine current issues impacting Cayman.

Also, starting this year, Caymanian Times will be expanding our social media offering, as well as exploring other avenues including broadcasting.

As with other businesses, we too are adjusting and adapting to the new social and economic reality caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is clear that going forward we in Cayman have no alternative but to ‘learn to live with Covid’ as it shifts from pandemic to endemic state, meaning that it will be as ever-present as the flu for the foreseeable future.

Our new weekly edition will be published mid-week on Wednesdays starting



later this month with more pages of news, sports and features mainly about Cayman but also reflecting that important ‘world view’ that is central to Cayman’s global outlook.

Thanks for your continued support.



Caymanian Times

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Premier Emphasises Equal Opportunity and Sustainability in 2022-23 Budget

Premier and Minister for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Hon. Wayne Panton put a strong focus on creating equal opportunities for Caymanians and building a sustainable future for the Cayman Islands in his contribution to the 2022-23 Budget debate.

The two-year budget came into effect on 1 January 2022, and Premier Panton addressed key areas for change in the years ahead including education, food security, the minimum wage and affordable housing, among others.

The Premier, who was formerly the Minister for the Environment from 2013 to 2017, outlined funding for his newly created Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency and underscored his commitment to the environment, saying the Cayman Islands can be a model of sustainability for small island states through immediate action.

However, the central theme in the Premier's budget address was one of creating opportunities for Caymanians to flourish while also rectifying existing inequities.

Premier Panton said his Government is committed to tackling "socially corrosive issues like income inequality and wealth disparity" head on and noted that "there are many wins for our people in this budget".

He said, "The story of our country, of our people, is one that says we are too rich to be poor, too talented to be denied opportunities, too blessed to have daily stresses – the daily stresses we do, and too proud to be disheartened without pursuing solutions for a better socially and economically fairer Cayman."

The Premier noted that the Islands' development has not benefitted all citizens, saying, "From the day we took office it has been our mission to protect our people while promoting economic resilience and diversification. The sad fact is economic growth alone is not the solution. It isn't working for our people, not when a two-bedroom apartment costs upwards of \$400,000 today. How many people making \$3,000 a month can afford that?"

He continued, "Access to opportunities and being prepared to succeed must be the norm for Caymanians. Inequality threatens that norm. But the PACT government stands united and unified in our determination to break this cycle for our people."

Before outlining his administration's new policies and programmes, the Premier stated, "Too many of our people are being left behind."

A key feature in the upcoming budget is the Government's free school meals programme, which will provide free school meals first to all children in public primary schools and then be rolled out to public secondary schools as well.

Premier Panton said, "Our precious children, some of whom will become our future leaders, were not getting nutritious meals at home that they need to survive, sustain, and grow. Because their parents or guardians have a challenging time making ends meet. We identify this need sir, and this Government - through the passion and commitment of the Minister



► Premier and Minister for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Hon. Wayne Panton delivers his budget address in Parliament on Friday, 26 November 2021. (Photo credit: GIS)

of Education, stepped up to the plate and made a real investment in our future."

The Premier explained, "In 2022 we have budgeted to enhance food security for children through the school meals programme with a further increase in 2023. The Hon. Minister of Education decided no child should go hungry, so our free meal service began with the primary schools. We all now know how hard it is to concentrate on something important when our bellies are aching from hunger."

Another significant allocation in the 2022-23 budget goes toward affordable homes. Premier Panton explained the need for and provision of these funds.

He said, "We know that students and their families must have decent housing and a place to lay their heads at night. For those families that need help, we have budgeted for housing repairs assistance and for initiatives administered by the National Housing Development Trust and Sister Islands Affordable Housing Trust for the construction of affordable housing options over the two-year budget."

The Premier also outlined first steps to deal with the emerging wealth disparity in the society by reviewing the minimum wage and redressing the legal requirements for advertising local job vacancies.

He said, "We are going to address inequality. That is why we have agreed to reconvene the minimum wage committee early [in the] new year and amend advertising requirements for work permits and increase the visibility of job vacancies that will not require login registration or any personal details."

With the tourism industry currently being a hot-button topic for the Cayman

Islands economy, Premier Panton underscored his administration's determination to have more Caymanians working in hospitality at all levels.

He said, "If today we can find Caymanians running some of the largest firms on the island or conducting brilliant work as we see in our Civil Service every day, then we can certainly find a Caymanian capable of bartending or working at the front desk. Many, if not all!"

The Premier made a clear statement to the tourism sector, saying, "We will not support the wholesale granting of tourism related work permits while thousands of Caymanians remain unemployed."

While on the theme of employment, the Premier noted that quality of life and supporting Caymanian families is a top priority for the Government.

He said, "Priorities have changed. People desire greater work life balance. A fair and just society means that we must support families. There's no time that a family, or a child rather, requires greater support than as a new-born. Therefore, I will work closely with the Minister for Labour during this administration to revisit maternity and paternity leave."

Noting the need for a balance between social programmes and economic growth via inward investment, Premier Panton said, "We have to implement policies to assist and protect our middle class while continuing to encourage investment and a global outlook."

Moving on to his core area of responsibility as Minister for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency, the Premier said, "We are committed to making a meaningful and measurable difference by 2030."

He continued, "It won't be easy, yet I am optimistic that working together with the private sector, non-governmental organisations and the various like-minded communities across our three islands we can become a modern model of sustainability as a small island developing state."

The Premier noted that supporting local agriculture is also a part of creating a sustainable future for the Islands.

He said, "If we have learned anything from the pandemic, the global supply chain is fragile. That is why the time to invest in our food security is now."

Premier Panton explained, "Sustainability means reducing the distance between the farm and the fork. We encourage our farmers and local entrepreneurs to grow more products domestically. We're also improving the quality of food available in our local restaurants and supermarkets. It is simply a win-win scenario."

Turning his thoughts toward the National Energy Policy, he said, "We need to set targets for becoming carbon zero; for the electrification of transportation; and adopt a robust plan to make up for doing hardly anything to achieve our renewable energy targets under the current National Energy Policy."

Finding a common premise for sustainability efforts and throughout the diverse areas of the national budget, Premier Panton noted that there is strength in unity.

He said, "We must work together, as that is the way to build stronger communities and a stronger country."

A video of the Premier's budget highlights may be viewed online at <https://youtu.be/3VR-gPz-zec>

RCIPS: 15 speeding tickets, three DUI, one disqualified driver on New Years Eve Weekend

RCIPS 2021 Holiday Season Review, 7 January

The RCIPS commenced its holiday season operations with its annual Winter Guardian campaign, from 1 December through 4 January, which was put in place to help keep the community safe over the busy festive season, with increased police presence in specific areas. The campaign focused on road and community safety initiatives, particularly speeding, drunk driving and policing the night time economy.

Over New Year's weekend, police were pleased to report a decrease in serious incidents compared to the same period last year, and another holiday season with no traffic fatalities. "We thank the public for showing greater restraint and caution when driving, and for prioritising alternate ways to get home when out drinking, particularly over New Year's Eve night, Friday 31st December", says Head of the Traffic and Road Policing Unit, Inspector Dwayne Jones. "We also want to thank the 17 new police recruits and Special Constables who diligently assisted the traffic and road policing unit with their operations over the festive season".

New Year's Eve weekend prosecutions included, 15 speeding tickets, three DUI, one disqualified driver, 19 expired regis-

tration, 20 tint, six cell phone and attendance to 15 MVA's.

"Prosecutions from the first weekend of December, indicated that we may likely follow the same trend as previous years, but the proceeding weekends prosecutions levelled out, and overall we have seen less serious roading incidents than previous years" says Inspector Jones. "Even though these numbers are a positive move in the right direction, it doesn't take away from the fact that already, in the first week of the new year, police have attended a serious collision on Monday, resulting in three persons being taken to hospital, with one still in a critical condition. Followed by a fatality on Thursday, where a man succumbed to his injuries and a women remains in critical condition in hospital".

"We have also seen an increase in hit and run incidents on the road, which is concerning. Not only is it highly irresponsible to leave the scene of an incident, particularly if people are injured, but there can be serious consequences if you are found to have 'hit and run', says Inspector Jones.

Police responded to a number of burglaries that occurred over the festive season - with commercial premises targeted over

residential. "This is something we are not surprised to see at this time of year, as opportunistic thieves target establishments after busy festive season events and activities, says Ag. Superintendent Brad Ebanks. For this reason we strongly encourage premises to remove any large sums of cash each night, ensure all windows and doors are securely locked, and ensure you have working CCTV running inside and outside your premises."

No incidents involving firearms were reported over the festive season, but there were a number of wounding incidents involving sharp weapons. "More often than not, these incidents take place between persons who have consumed too much alcohol", says Ag. Superintendent Ebanks. "We want to remind the public that carrying an offensive weapon, such as a machete or knife, is an offence. What can often start off as a disagreement between persons can quickly escalate when weapons are introduced, and the result can have devastating effects, whether it be life threatening injuries or a deadly confrontation".

While individual incidents are generally not reported publicly, the large number of domestic incidents the police attended



should also be acknowledged. "We know that the festive season, although joyous for many, can be a real struggle for others and we see the result of these pressures within the domestic incidents we attend", says Chief Inspector Malcolm Kay. "Abuse and violence in the home is not acceptable, particularly when children are involved. We encourage anyone dealing with abuse in the home to tell someone you trust, and seek help from the many services within the community that can support you, including the police. And if you are in fear of yours and your children's safety, please do not hesitate to call 911".

Police Investigate Assault Incident on West Bay Road

Shortly before 12:20AM on Monday, 3 January, officers responded to a report of a serious assault which took place in the parking lot of The Strand complex on West Bay Road. It was reported that two men had been in a vehicle at the location when they were approached by two other men who made homophobic remarks towards them. The men who made the remarks subsequently assaulted the first two men, kicking and punching them repeatedly.

Both men received what appear to be non-life-threatening injuries, with one of the men having a broken nose. Emergency services attended the location and the men were transported to hospital, where they were treated for their injuries and subsequently released.

"Although the investigation is still in the early stages, initial reports suggest that the men were assaulted due to their sexual orientation," said Detective Chief



Inspector Richard Barrow, who is overseeing the investigation. "This type of violence is inexcusable and has no place in our community. We are working with urgency to locate the perpetrators and bring them to justice, and we appeal for anyone with any information to come forward."

Anyone with any information regarding the incident is asked to contact George Town CID at 949-4222.

Anonymous tips can be provided directly to the RCIPS via our Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777, or via our website <http://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip>.

Shotgun Ammunition Recovered

At about 11:00AM on Tuesday, 4 January, RCIPS officers conducting checks in the Barkers area of West Bay discovered a container with multiple cartridges of what appears to be shotgun ammunition.

The ammunition was secured by police for forensic examination and further investigation.

Detectives are encouraging anyone with information regarding this ammunition, or any other ammunition or firearms, to call the RCIPS Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777 or submit tips through the RCIPS Mobile App or website <https://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip>.



Fatal Collision on Esterley Tibbetts Highway

Police Investigate Single Vehicle Fatal Collision.

Just before 1AM on Wednesday, 6 January, police and other emergency services were dispatched to a single vehicle collision that occurred on the Esterley Tibbetts Highway, in the vicinity of the Cost-U-Less roundabout.

The collision occurred when a sedan with two occupants was travelling north along the Esterley Tibbetts Highway. The vehicle left the roadway and collided with a concrete structure on the roundabout. Both occupants, a man and a woman, were extricated from the vehicle by the Cayman Islands Fire Service and transported to the Cayman Islands Hospital by ambulance.

The male occupant of the vehicle succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced dead by the attending doctor. The woman remains in the hospital being treated for serious injuries.



The RCIPS has confirmed the identity of the deceased in the fatal collision as Courtney Oneil Bennett, age 43 of Bodden Town and express condolences to the family of the deceased.

The other person involved in the collision remains in hospital with serious but non-life-threatening injuries.

The incident is being investigated by the police and anyone with information is encouraged to call the Traffic and Roads Policing Unit at 649-6254, or the George Town Police Station at 949-4222.

Woman Arrested for Indecent Exposure

At about 11:30AM on Thursday, 6 January, RCIPS officers on Elgin Avenue, in the vicinity of the Government Administration Building, arrested a woman, age 51 of George Town, on suspicion of indecent exposure, in relation to acts committed on Wednesday, 5 January, in George Town.

The woman remains in custody as investigations continue.



The Appointment of the Hon Alden McLaughlin as a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George

As Leader of the Progressives it gives me great pride, on behalf of the Progressives, to congratulate our colleague and Party Chairman, The Hon Alden McLaughlin, on being appointed by Her Majesty The Queen as a Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George.

This honour is a proud moment for our former Premier and his family, as well as for every Caymanian. For us members of the Progressives it is also a special moment. As a founding member of the Peoples Progressive Movement Sir Alden, along with the Hon Kurt Tibbetts, played a significant role in starting and developing the Progressives. It was Kurt as Leader of the Party who led the Progressives into Government in 2005 and it was Sir Alden, as Kurt's successor, who led the Progressives into Government in 2013 and again in 2017. All three Progressives Government's made significant contributions to modernising our constitution, our politics, our physical

infrastructure, as well as developing our economy.

I agree with his excellency the Governor when he noted that Sir Alden is "one of the most important and impactful political leaders in Cayman over the last 21 years". Having worked first hand with Sir Alden I have a deep respect for his leadership and foresight. These Islands are better for the contribution of Sir Alden to our development. Sir Alden is also a statesman and very capably defended Cayman on the world stage. He has gained the respect of leaders from the region as well as the UK. He is one of a very few Caribbean Leaders who have been invited to speak at Chatham House in London and to have appeared



► Opposition member Hon Alden McLaughlin

on the BBC's HARDtalk television programme. He made us all proud of his defence of Cayman then, and this he continued to do over both terms as Premier. Few people will leave a lucrative legal career to commit themselves to public service. That is the character of the man. In 2010 Sir Alden was recognised by Her Majesty with the award of an MBE. The awarding of the KCMG is further recognition of his unselfish work on behalf of these Islands and people over more than twenty years and is well deserved.

I also acknowledge the award of the MBE to Ms Lucille Seymour. Ms Seymour, a previous recipient of the British Empire Medal, is a distinguished former civil servant, parliamentarian and founding member of the Progressives. Alongside Sir Alden and Kurt (who was also awarded an OBE in 2010) she was also very instrumental in the growth of the party over the decades. This year will mark the 20th anniversary of the Progressives and it is fitting that two of our founders have been recognised in this manner. Congratulations Sir Alden and Lucille!



► Lucille Seymour



► Hon. Roy McTaggart, Leader of the Opposition & Political Leader of the Progressives

Aall Foundation increases donation to Crisis Centre

The Aall Foundation, which has been a long-standing supporter of the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre (CICC), has donated an increased amount of US\$ 50,000 to support the ongoing operations of the CICC organization.

"The AAll Foundation is proud to support the CICC and proud to support the Cayman Islands community. We wish the Board of Directors and staff of the CICC the very best as they continue to provide these critical services to the Cayman Islands", said Sophia Harris, spokesperson for Aall Foundation.

This generous donation will be used to help cover the overhead costs of running the shelter, such as utilities and security. These costs are vital to the daily operations and safety of the shelter occupants and staff of the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre.

"This kind donation will ensure we are able to continue to provide the necessary support and shelter to victims of domestic violence in the Cayman Islands. We are incredibly grateful for the generosity and continued support from the Aall Foundation", said Ania Milanowska, Executive Director for the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre.



► CICC Team



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► Solar Panels completed on at the main campus of the Cayman Islands Hospital

HSA leading Government's green initiative with one of the largest rooftop solar panel installations on the Island

The Health Services Authority (HSA) recently completed one of the largest rooftop installations of solar panels and equipment in the Cayman Islands. This installation puts the HSA among the corporate leaders for environmental sustainability and a leader among Government agencies pursuing green initiatives in the Cayman Islands.

Once powered up, the 250kW system is expected to produce an equivalent amount of clean energy to power 50 private homes in the Cayman Islands.

According to HSA's CEO Lizzette Yearwood, "this project is our flagship solar panel system installation and part of a broader initiative to ensure more healthcare dollars go into staffing and patient treatment, and less into operational overhead. Our efforts in 2021 included replacement of decades old windows to improve thermal protection, replacement of old chiller systems to high efficiency equipment, and the replacement of bulbs across the main campus with more energy efficient LEDs."

HSA Board Chairman, Osbourne Bodden stated "The Board's commitment to sustainable operations is part of the HSA's strategic initiative towards clean energy and overall efficiency improve-



ments. These fit within our current facility modernization programme which will improve the overall patient experience at all HSA facilities and ensure healthcare remains affordable and accessible."

Mr. Bodden also noted that the savings accrued from these combined energy initiatives is sufficient to cover the cost of six nurses. At the same time, it is making the HSA a more sustainable organization, and a local leader in efforts to reach the aspirational goals outlined in the National Energy Policy.

"The HSA procured a full upgrade to its wastewater treatment plant and also rolled out a waste recycling programme as additional green initiatives in 2021" commented the HSA's CEO. "Whilst the environmental benefits are important, these

upgrades will ultimately provide a better experience for our patients," said Ms. Yearwood.

The solar panel installation was carried out by local company GreenTech Solar following a competitive procurement process earlier this year.

ABOUT HSA

As the nation's principal healthcare provider, the Cayman Islands Health Services Authority (HSA) offers the broadest range of medical and specialist services in the Cayman Islands. We have nine locations throughout all three islands, which include the Cayman Islands Hospital in Grand Cayman, four district health centres (East End, North Side, West Bay, Bodden Town), Faith Hospital in Cayman Brac and the Little Cayman Clinic.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Recycle Your Natural Christmas Tree 2022

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) is announcing the beginning of its annual Natural Christmas Tree Recycling Programme. Collection bins have now been placed for the public to drop off their natural Christmas trees in the following locations:

- George Town Cricket Field
- George Town Landfill public drop-off area
- Spotts Dock, Savannah

“Every year, hundreds of enthusiastic residents participate in the Natural Christmas Tree Recycling Programme aimed to reduce the amount of waste entering the George Town Landfill. The trees will later be shredded and free mulch will be made available to members of the public”, explained DEH Director, Mr. Richard Simms.

Residents are reminded to remove all wires and ornaments from Christmas trees before they are placed into collection bins which will be available until January 30, 2022.

Details of the mulch distribution will be provided soon.

For more information, interested persons may contact DEH at tel. 949-6696



or by email at dehcustomerservice@gov.ky. They visit the DEH's website at www.deh.gov.ky or message its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Department-of-Environmental-Health-Cayman-Islands-Government-335107266641072>

2022 Agricultural Show Cancelled

The Ministry of Agriculture and the Cayman Islands Agricultural Society announce that the annual Cayman Islands Agricultural Show will be cancelled due to coronavirus restrictions as well as the loss and damage suffered by several farmers as a result of Tropical Storm Grace.

Minister of Agriculture Hon. Jay Ebanks has said that the cancellation of the show is a setback but the circumstances are understandable. “I have spoken to a number of our commercial farmers who are focused on their farm rehabilitation and recovery efforts at this time. Over the past few months, Government has been working to support many of our farmers and I feel certain that they will be ready for the next staging of the event”, he said.

He further noted, “We injected the largest one time investment in the agricultural sec-

tor through the Tropical Storm Grace Farmers' Assistance Project as well as provided other grants so they will have the resources to help strengthen their resilience to boost the Islands' food and nutrition security”.

President of Cayman Islands Agricultural Society George Smith stated that “the members of the agricultural society support the cancellation given the situation, and the team at the Ministry and Department of Agriculture have assured us that they will find other ways to highlight the work of the farmers throughout the year”.

The Cayman Agricultural Show, which is held every Ash Wednesday, is a family event that provides farmers an opportunity to sell their produce and display their livestock.

Over 9,000 people attended the last event held in 2019.



DEH Resumes Intake of Scrap Metals, Derelict Vehicles and Equipment

The Department of Environmental Health (DEH) is advising the public of the resumption of the reception of Scrap Metals, Derelict Vehicles and Equipment at the George Town Landfill.

“It is business as usual at the George Town Landfill. We have restarted the intake of these materials as scheduled, following the temporary suspension of this service during the last week of 2021. Members of the public are invited to drop their scrap metal and derelict vehicles to the George Town Landfill on Monday to Friday from 7am to 4pm”, confirmed DEH Director, Mr. Richard Simms.

Members of the public are reminded to comply with the following DEH guidelines:

1) **Derelict vehicles** such as cars and small trucks or trailers shall be provided separately from other wastes and shall not have other waste materials stored inside them

2) **No containers with materials classified as flammable** shall be stored in derelict vehicles and the batteries should be removed

3) **Light scrap metal should be sorted prior to arrival on site** and shall be free of wood, plastic and other wastes and contamination as far as is reasonably practicable

4) For any large oversize metallic objects, vehicles, equipment or structures (for example heavy construction equipment, shipping containers, storage tanks, steel beams etc.) these should be **cut down to dimensions of no greater than 5 feet by 3 feet.**

5) **Drained of all fuels, lubricating fluids and any other flammable fluids and gases** that may be present in all items of motorised equipment, large and

small, which contain a combustion engine with or without fuel tank including but not limited to:

a. Large and small heavy equipment such as excavators, bobcats, cranes, dump trucks etc.

b. Small motorised tools, such as chainsaws, weed ackers, lawnmowers, cement mixers etc.

c. All boats and all personal water craft

d. Generators, fuel tanks and fuel bunds etc.

Note: For fuel tanks, these should be purged / opened to atmosphere such that any flammable vapors are allowed to dissipate over a 24 hr period.

6) **White goods and other electrical items** should be separated from other materials

7) **Batteries** should be separated and disposed of at the landfill drop off for all types. For small batteries, these are accepted at all supermarkets

8) **Gas bottles** of any type shall be made safe by removal of the headworks or safe release of the gas by other means and then separated from other materials

Any segregated mixed waste materials can be disposed of in the landfill as normal. If materials are tipped on site and it is found that the load does not meet the criteria, the removal of these items and their correct disposal at the site is mandatory.

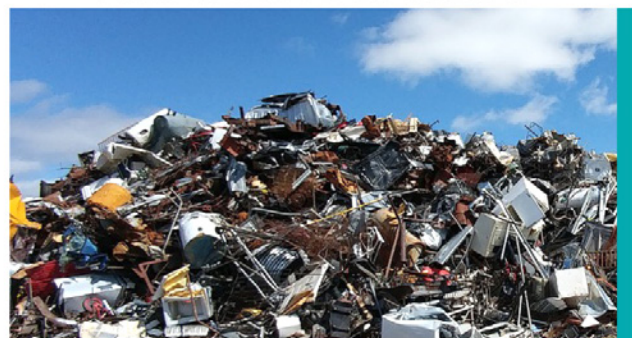
Additional information is available from the DEH at 949-6696. Individuals may also send an email to dehcustomerservice@gov.ky, visit the DEH's website at www.deh.gov.ky or message its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Department-of-Environmental-Health-Cayman-Islands-Government-335107266641072>



DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH

Landfill Advisory

Intake of Scrap Metals & Derelict Vehicles has been resumed



January, 2022



National Trust week to celebrate 35th anniversary

This year, the National Trust for the Cayman Islands (NTCI) is celebrating its 35th anniversary and as such will be holding a special National Trust week during which time the public will be invited to join in with events and celebrations to mark this special milestone in its history.

The NTCI was established in 1987 as a non-profit organisation to preserve natural environments and places of historic significance for present and future generations of the Cayman Islands. The NTCI extends a heartfelt appreciation and deep

gratitude to all of its members, donors, corporate sponsors and supporters internationally and locally over the last 35 years.

It is via the generous donations and dedicated support they have received during this time that has given the National Trust the ability to act as custodians of ecologically sensitive habitats, the endemic blue iguana and historical sites significant to Cayman's unique heritage, they said. The NTCI took great pride in having the privilege to educate schools

and the community about their vital work carried out across the three islands, they added.

The organisation continued to safeguard 12 historical sites (as well as the Clayton Nixon home which currently stands on the grounds of Mission House) and 13 environmental properties on all three islands. In addition, the newly renovated Blue Iguana Conservation Facility, features semi-wild habitats to home a healthy population of blue iguanas, that were once on the brink of extinction.

Chairman for the National Trust, Olson Anderson, stated: "The National Trust looks forward to more incredible work throughout all of our programmes in the new year. Some of our notable achievements from 2021 included the launch of our Youth Stewardship Programme, International Blue Iguana Day, purchasing critical habitat in Little Cayman and Grand Cayman and updating our Heritage Registry. We are inspired by our past and encouraged by our future, as we carry on our legacy."

Air Canada to suspend flights

Air Canada will temporarily suspend flights to Mexico and Caribbean destinations from 31 January.

This is in response to the ongoing COVID-19 concerns, particularly during the spring break period.

Calin Rovinescu, Air Canada's President and CEO, said: "Through consultation [with the Government of Canada] we have established an approach that will allow us to achieve an orderly reduction in service to these destinations that minimises the impact on our customers and will support important public health goals to manage COVID-19.

The flight suspensions will last until 30 April. To help ensure Canadians are



not stranded abroad, Air Canada will operate one-way commercial flights from affected destinations after 31 January.

Suspended destinations: Cayo Coco, Cancun, Montego Bay, Punta Cana, Varadero, Puerto Vallarta, Antigua, Aruba, Barbados, Kingston, Mexico City, Nassau, Providenciales, San Jose.

Canadian visitors still welcome

Nonstop service from Toronto to Grand Cayman continues

The Ministry of Tourism and Transport wishes to update our business community and tourism partners of the unexpected change in Air Canada's Winter service to Grand Cayman. As a result of Canada's non-essential travel advisory and provincial restrictions stemming from the current Omicron surge, Air Canada made the decision to amend its schedule as Canada moves through current pandemic realities. Air Canada's service to Grand Cayman is now on a seasonal pause from January 24 - April 30, 2022. This decision also impacts 13 additional popular sun destinations.

"The Cayman Islands Department of Tourism and trade partners continue with our destination's business development strategy to welcome Canadians to our idyllic shores, offering a wonderful respite from the winter weather, and the opportunity to enjoy our outstanding restaurants, diving and marine activities, cultural attractions and of course sunshine and glorious sunsets. We look forward to continuing to welcome Canadian travellers through alternative routes and airlines



serving Grand Cayman," said Minister of Tourism, Hon. Kenneth Bryan.

The Cayman Islands Government (CIG) will work closely with all partners in the Cayman Islands and abroad to ensure a safe experience for all and will remain in contact with international airlines in scheduling flights and keeping abreast of travel entry requirements. Our goal is to ensure Canadians who elect for a holiday in the Cayman Islands see their dreams become a reality and experience all the bespoke luxuries offered across all three Cayman Islands.

Canadians wishing to enjoy the perfect white sand beaches, turquoise water, and signature luxury in the Cayman Islands can continue to do so via WestJet's weekly non-stop Boeing 737-800 service from Toronto to Grand Cayman this winter.



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CAYMAN'S OMICRON SURGE SHOWS NO SIGN OF ABATING

By Staff Writer

The current new wave of COVID-19 shows no sign of abating with another 432 new cases reported on Friday January 7th.

Of that number, 403 are from the virus contracted within the community with the other 29 among travellers.

Just one day earlier on Thursday, another 466 new cases were recorded of which again the majority by far - 425 - were attributed to community spread.

According to the update issued by Health Service Agency (HSA) under Interim Chief Medical Officer Dr. Autilia Newton, there have been 89 confirmed cases of the Omicron variant in the Cayman Islands to date.

Meanwhile, the number of probable Omicron cases reached 1,073 on Friday with the number of reported active cases at 3,470 of which 3,221 are linked to community transmission.

Four COVID-19 patients were hospitalised in the Cayman Islands as at midnight on Friday, 7 January. There was one new admission during this period.

Specific to the Sister Islands, 33 new cases have been found bringing the total there to 214 with 128 recovered. The report for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman also shows that 132 residents were fully vaccinated, seven were partially vaccinated, and 75 were unvaccinated.

The percentage of the Cayman Islands population who are reported COVID positive currently stands at 4.88 percent. The number of cases recorded here since the start of the pandemic is 10,618.

The current surge of new COVID-19 cases across Cayman, especially the now dominant Omicron variant reflects a pattern of the explosive spread of this strain of the virus around the world.

It remains a cause for concern despite not being regarded as severe as the Delta strain. The Omicron variant has forced many people into isolation including those in the workforce, especially the essential services even if they have not tested positive.

The latest reports from the Cayman authorities have not been stating the number of people currently in isolation. No explanation has been given.

A Cayman Times tracker shows that by the end of September last year there were 1017 persons in isolation, rising to 1,555 by around mid-October, surging to an estimated 4,500 (pending confirmation) by the end of November, and falling back to 3,550 by the end of last month.

The resulting economic and social impact of having people, especially workers and essential staff in isolation has forced many governments, including the UK and US, to relax some of their restrictions and protocols. They argue that the Omicron strain is now so widespread that the only option is to adapt and live with it to avoid further economic dislocation.

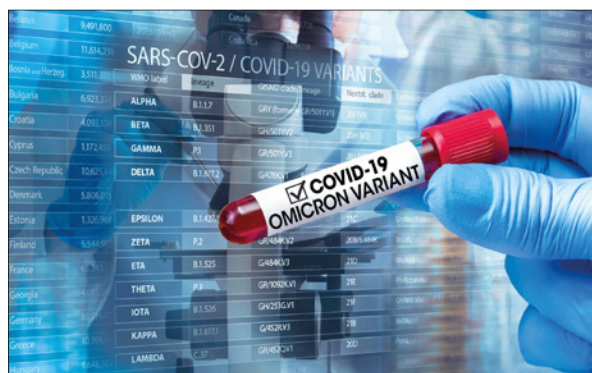
On the other hand, other governments such as France, The Netherlands, and Australia have adopted draconian measures to suppress the rampaging spread of Omicron.



Despite their different methods for dealing with COVID, in particular this strain, governments around the world are nonetheless placing a heavy emphasis on vaccination.

Throughout the Cayman Islands, 82 per cent or 58,965 persons (of 71,106 est. population) have had a first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Those who have received two doses account for 80 per cent - or 57,403 - while 17,784 persons (representing 25% of the estimated population) have received a third or booster dose.

Despite the rate being relatively static over the past few months, Cayman remains one of the global COVID-19 vaccination leaders.



COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule – JAN 2022 (v1.3)

The COVID-19 vaccine (dose 1 & 2) is available to ALL persons 12 years and over. Boosters (3rd 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
JANUARY 3	4	5	6	7	8
NO CLINIC	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	PROSPECT COMMUNITY OFFICE 4pm - 7pm (833 Marina Drive)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	131 CENTRE** 1pm - 4pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)
	SURNAME A-C (boosters)	SURNAME D & E (boosters)		SURNAME F-H (boosters)	SURNAME I-L (boosters)
		SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 - 4pm		SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 - 4pm	
10	11	12	13	14	15
SAVANNAH & NEWLANDS MLA OFFICE 4:30pm - 8pm (#8 Homestead Crescent, behind Wendy's)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	BODDEN TOWN PUBLIC BEACH 5pm - 9pm	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	131 CENTRE** 1pm - 4pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)
	SURNAME M & N (boosters)	SURNAME O-Q (boosters)		SURNAME R-T (boosters)	SURNAME U-Z (boosters)
		SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 - 4pm		SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 - 4pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22
131 CENTRE** 1pm - 4pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	WEST BAY DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRE 5pm - 8pm	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	131 CENTRE** 1pm - 4pm (*131 Maclendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)
SURNAME A-C (boosters)	SURNAME D & E (boosters)	SURNAME F-H (boosters)		SURNAME I-L (boosters)	SURNAME M & N (boosters)
		SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 - 4pm		SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 - 4pm	

41 Permanent Residence Grants Revoked for Non-payment

Workforce Opportunities & Residency Cayman (WORC) is reminding residents who hold Permanent Residence (PR) certificates that they are required to pay their annual fee or risk revocation of their PR status.

Up to 31 December 2021, 41 people had their PR status rescinded for non-payment. This followed the issuance of 53 warning letters advising PR holders to make delinquent payments or face the loss of their PR certificates.

"It's important for permanent residents who hold PR certificates to remain in compliance with the requirements that come along with holding such a certificate. Permanent resident status should be respected, and seen as a privilege and not a right. When holders of PR certificates do not abide by the law, the certificate can be taken away. Making the required payment annually is the right thing to do to avoid revocation," said Acting Interim Director of WORC Laura Watler.

All residents holding PR certificates are expected to comply with the country's immigration laws by taking the necessary steps to ensure payment is made on or before the annual due date.

As per Sec. 51 (1) (m) of the Immigration (Transition) Act, (2021 Revision), individuals have up to 90 days after their annual due date to pay. After this time, they are issued "mindful to revoke" letters. If payment still remains outstanding, the letters are referred to the Cayman Status Permanent Residency Board or the Director of WORC, who have the authority to revoke permanent residency certificates for non-payment.

"I welcome this decision to address the longstanding issue of non-payment of Permanent Residence fees. It has been absolutely unfair to the many hardworking permanent residents of these Islands who have played by the rules and paid their annual fees faithfully every year to have people be delinquent and face no consequences," said Hon. Chris Saunders, Deputy Premier and Minister for Border Control & Labour.

He said, "We understand that these are challenging times, but there are options available for those having difficulties. Ignoring the warning letters and not paying the fees at all is not the way to go."

Parliamentary Secretary for Labour Hon. Dwayne Seymour said, "The non-pay-



ment of PR fees has been an issue since I was first elected to Parliament back in 2009, and I'm very pleased to see that it is being dealt with effectively and in accordance with our laws."

Ms Watler thanked her staff at WORC for their vigilance. She said, "I am grateful for our teams who work diligently to verify and ensure compliance within our laws and the collaboration within sections to bring these delinquencies forward for enforcement."

In addition to the annual fee payment, permanent residency holders are reminded of their obligation to submit annual

declarations as mandated by Sec. 37(12) of the Immigration (Transition) Act, (2021 Revision). The PR holder's failure to provide such declaration to WORC is both an offence and cause for revocation of the PR Certificate as well.

PR holders can make their annual payments in person by visiting the WORC office at Apollo House West, 87 Mary Street, George Town or by using the stand-alone payment portal accessible via www.worc.ky through the JobsCayman portal. Instructions on how to use the payment portal can be found on the website.

Poitier was great for civil rights too

When the death of Sidney Poitier, beloved Bahamian-American and trailblazing movie star, was announced last Friday, black people worldwide were the most saddened but such was his brilliance that everyone of a certain age with even a smattering knowledge of the silver screen was dismayed too. Poitier passed away on Thursday evening from natural causes.

Hailed as the first black actor to majorly breakthrough in Hollywood as a conventional leading man, in uncompromising roles that subverted the film industry's archaic stereotypes, one of Poitier's finest speeches came at the 2001 annual NAACP Image Awards. He stressed the importance of all the NAACP's great contribution to black issues in the US. "That same encouragement was always on hand to inspire us all, to stand firm, hold our ground and refused to be moved whenever the question of survival was at stake," he said.

He broke racial barriers in the post-war years in Hollywood like no other which is why Kyle Bowser of the NAACP said: "When Sidney Poitier gets slapped by a

white man on camera and in a millisecond he turns and slaps that white man back, as a young man growing up black in America that was like someone turning on a light in a dark room. It was synonymous with James Brown saying: 'Say it loud, I'm black and I'm proud.'"

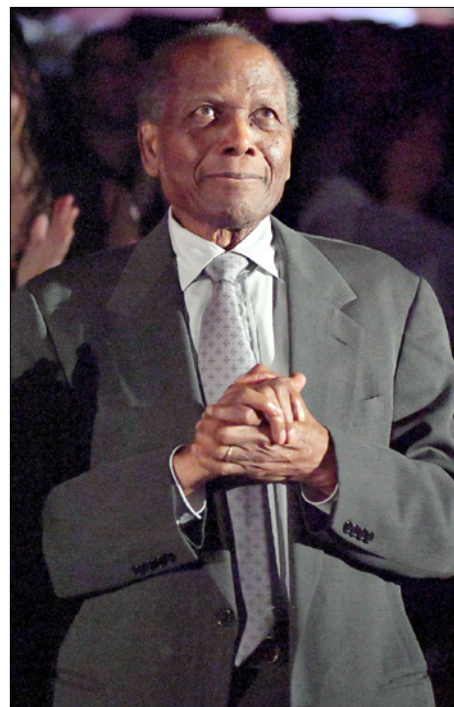
Poitier was born in Miami, two months prematurely, while his family was visiting for the weekend. From humble beginnings, he went on to become a beloved US household name and impactful actor through his works on the big screen. No wonder Bahamian flags are officially flying at half-mast this week in his honour.

He grew up in the Bahamas, moved to Miami at 15, then to New York City a year later. Whilst doing menial jobs, Poitier joined the North American Negro Theatre in New York and landed a breakthrough role as a high school student in the film 'Blackboard Jungle' in 1955.

In 1964, he became the first black male and Bahamian actor to win an Academy Award for Best Actor, and went on to win two more, Golden Globes nominations,

Emmy Awards nominations, BAFTA nominations, Laurel nominations, and one Screen Actors Guild Awards nomination. Poitier's acting career spanned 71 years. He was the oldest living and earliest surviving male Academy Award winner.

Many of his best-known films explored racial tensions as Americans were grappling with social changes wrought by the civil rights movement in



► Sidney Poitier's legacy is unsurpassable



► With Harry Belafonte, another celebrity civil rights leader



► Poitier excels in 'In The Heat of the Night'

the Sixties. Poitier was as committed as the other black luminaries of the time, including Harry Belafonte, James Baldwin, Rosa Parks, Angela Davis, Jesse Jackson, and, of course, Martin Luther King Jr.

From his successful buddy movies ('The Defiant Ones', 'Duel at Diablo') to his spate of critical hits ('To Sir, With Love', 'In the Heat of the Night', 'Guess Who's Coming to Dinner'), Poitier played roles that broadened the range and repertoire of black masculinity.

His talent, charisma, vast intellect and good looks made him a superstar unlike any black actor before him, many of whom were caricatured or overlooked during Hollywood's studio era. Yet even with his

huge fame, Poitier was criticised for not instigating more projects highlighting the complexities of the black experience.

Poitier remained in New York - Mt. Vernon in Westchester County, where he raised six daughters from two marriages until his death. He also had eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Humble and personable to the end, he once said: "I think about death, but I'm not fearful of it. I've reduced the concept of my existence, by saying, 'I truly, truly try to be better tomorrow than I was today.' And I mean better as simply a better human being, not a better actor. That will please me well. And, when I die I will not be afraid of having lived."

Desmond Tutu: The Stuff of Greatness



► Dr. Livingston Smith is a Professor at the University College of the Cayman Islands. He is also Director of the CXC Education Volunteer programme

and the psychological strength and discipline to endure suffering.

Whatever the fulness of these qualities, when they are possessed, we instinctively know and without a doubt, Desmond Tutu was great.

South Africa would not have been able to survive its long and horrendous attempt to experience a society of freedom and human dignity, without Desmond Tutu. It is not that they have achieved this fully, but the contribution of Tutu is overwhelming. He was not placed on Robben Island, but while the other leaders were, Tutu was the voice of hope, asking the world to account, defending the right of existence of the ANC, and attacking the hypocritical and racial foundations of the apartheid state which was fully known to be propped up by powerful western democracies. What personal courage, what bold and defiant human spirit so possessed Tutu that he spoke truth to power whatever the color of those who have such power, while bringing hope to those under the barrel of the gun? The very stuff of greatness.

When apartheid eventually fell, Tutu was put in charge of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, the attempt by Mandela to move South Africa away from the brink of what seemed to be certain bloodshed, toward racial harmony and the possibility of having what Tutu called a 'rainbow nation.' While history is written from the vantage point of time, we must never doubt the importance of what the South African government under Mandela achieved, and what Tutu did when he was asked to oversee the process of reconciliation.

For me personally, my admiration for the greatness of Tutu grew with his stern ongoing criticism of the ruling African National Congress (ANC). Power in whatever

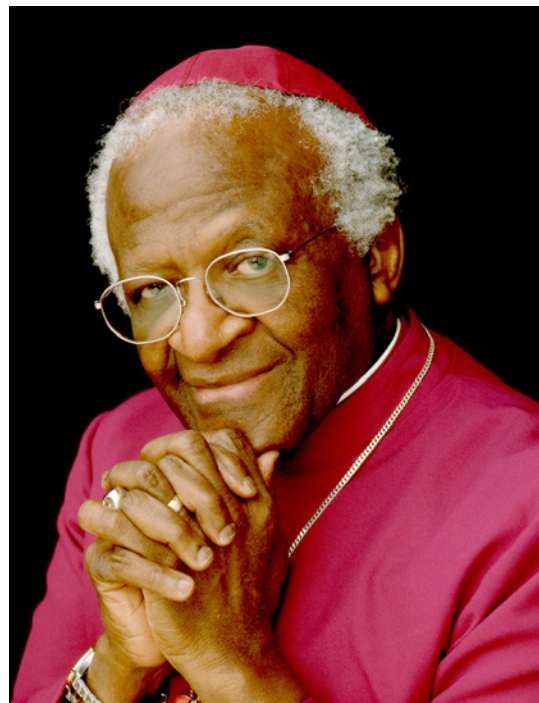


context must be spoken to and reminded of why government exists, because in no

time, if left unchecked, the human factor takes over, and the larger project of securing human dignity for each citizen is forgotten and replaced by selfishness and corruption.

The Arch is dead. His ash has been placed in the Cathedral in which he ministered for decades. The tributes have been many- some calling him 'moral compass', 'iconic spiritual leader', 'patriot without equal', 'A man of extraordinary intellect, integrity and invincibility...' and so on. I have read that one South African media caption said, 'The Sun has gone down,' which is very true, because Tutu was not only a voice in South Africa, his 'moral fury' as Andrew Harding, the BBC's African correspondent described it, was for all peoples, oppressed and downtrodden, who face obstacles of all kinds to their full liberation.

While we will miss his capacity to show emotions, his sense of humor, his indomitable spirit, we also know that his contribution to the project of human liberation cannot be erased.



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► (L-R) Cdr. Robert Scotland, RCIPS Commissioner Mr. Derek Byrne, Acting Governor, Hon. Gloria McField-Nixon, Premier Hon. Wayne Panton, the Governor, Mr. Martyn Roper, Deputy Premier, Hon. Chris Saunders, special guest Tyler Anglin and Lt. Cdr. Leo Anglin. (Photos by Bina Mani (GIS) and Renita Barnes (Office of the Governor))

Coast Guard Commandants Commissioned and Appointed

The first Commandant and Deputy Commandant of the newly established Cayman Islands Coast Guard received their commissions and letters of appointment.

His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Martyn Roper, at the Government Administration Building (GAB) on Wednesday, 5 January 2022, formally issued the commissions to Commander (Cdr.) Robert Scotland and Lieutenant Commander (Lt. Cdr.) Leo Anglin, thereby appointing them to the two top positions in the Cayman Islands Coast Guard (CICG).

Present during the ceremony were Premier, Hon. Wayne Panton, Deputy Premier, Hon. Chris Saunders, Acting Deputy Governor, Hon. Gloria McField-Nixon and Commissioner of Police, Mr. Derek Byrne.

Also, participating as a special guest at the ceremony was Lt. Cdr. Anglin's seven-year-old son Tyler Anglin.

The two officers took their oaths of office before the Governor and the assembled attendees, prior to signing the documents that formalised their commissions and appointments. The Governor congratulated them on behalf of all present and noted the historical significance of the occasion.

The issuing of the commissions and letters of appointment was done in accordance with Section 55 of the Cayman Islands (Constitution) Order 2009 and Section 14 (2)(a) of the Cayman Islands Coast Guard Act 2021.

With his appointment, Cdr. Scotland is now charged with the command, superintendence, and direction of the Coast Guard as per Section 8 of the Coast Guard Act (2021), and for ensuring that the maritime safety and security of the nation are preserved.

As Deputy Commandant, Lt. Cdr. Anglin will assist Cdr. Scotland in ensuring that the strategic and operational objectives of the Coast Guard are delivered in a timely and professional manner.

"Both Lt. Cdr. Anglin and I are proud and humbled by the trust and confidence reposed in us, and pledge to continue doing our best to build the Coast Guard into an entity that the people of the Cayman Islands will always be proud of," Cdr. Scotland said.



► The Cayman Islands Coast Guard first Commandant, Commander (Cdr.) Robert Scotland and Lieutenant Commander (Lt. Cdr.) Leo Anglin take their oaths before His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Martyn Roper and attendees at the ceremony, Premier Hon. Wayne Panton, Deputy Premier, Hon. Chris Saunders, Acting Deputy Governor, Hon. Gloria McField-Nixon and RCIPS Commissioner Mr. Derek Byrne.



► The first Coast Guard Commandant and Deputy Commandant sign the documents of being commissioned.



WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
82° / 75°	81° / 72°	80° / 73°	80° / 73°	78° / 74°	78° / 75°	80° / 76°
A little morning rain	Clouds breaking and pleasant	Mostly sunny and breezy	Sunny and pleasant	Sunny and pleasant	Partial sunshine	Partly sunny with a shower

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

MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION

RESISTING THE TRAP

Genesis 4: 1-8, "Sin is crouching at your door, it desires to have you, but you must rule over it."

The Venus Flytrap can digest an insect in about 10 days. The process commences when an unsuspecting bug smells nectar on the leaves that form the trap. As the insect investigates it crawls into the jaws of the plant. The leaves clamp shut within half a second and digestive juices dissolve the bug. Amazing! This meat-eating plant reminds me of sin, the way it devours someone.

Sin entices us with tempting us with a new experience, convincing us that living right does not matter. This is deception. Sin and continually living in sin has consequences. But you do not have to continue, JESUS CHRIST, can break every chain, the shackles and fetters of this cancer to our lives. Choose to serve Jesus, you and your household, and see what a bright and glorious difference life would have.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Churchill's

Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Margaret Bodden who passed away on Saturday, January 01, 2022.

A Thanksgiving Service will be held at Webster Memorial United Church, Bodden Town, Grand Cayman on Saturday, January 15, 2022 at 3:00 p.m.

Viewing: 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Interment: New Pease Bay Cemetery

Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

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CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Antigua on CNN but recovery stalls

Antigua and Barbuda has been listed among the top places to travel to in 2022 by CNN Travel. The only problem is that its COVID-19 cases is increasing at an alarming rate.

Minister of Tourism, Charles Max Fernandez says the CNN exposure is acknowledgement of the work of the ministry and the Tourism Authority. The popular news agency lists the twin island state as part of 22 destinations it deems are the best to travel to this year.

Antigua was not only highlighted for its numerous beaches and attractions like Shirley Heights but the publication notes that cricket will take centre stage there with the official Test match between Eng-

land and the West Indies at the Sir Vivian Richards stadium in March.

Antigua and Barbuda's strides in sustainable development was also recognised, with the country's ban on single use plastics and its green corridor also highlighted.

Fernandez said the tourism teams – both there and overseas continue to do a tremendously professional job in promoting the destination.

He added that in addition, the incentives given by the Cabinet during the down time in 2020, to the hotel properties, allowed them to take advantage and improve on their product.

He added that recognition is given to the Government through the Environment Department for strides made in sustainability and the protection of the environment which is key to the tourism product.

Unfortunately, many resorts across Antigua and Barbuda are seeing a trend of cancellations which has affected December occupancy and now January and February booking trends. This trend, the Antigua & Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association predicts, will continue until COVID-19 cases are controlled in the key source markets of the United States, United Kingdom and Canada.



► Antigua's steel pan culture was mentioned on CNN



► CNN highlighted four Antiguan women, the first black women to row across the Atlantic Ocean

These cancellations are being forced by potential visitors hesitating for immediate travel and are opting to re-book for future dates. Re-bookings are a positive sign and a glimmer of hope as it could translate to a strong performance in the summer months.

Based on the reported loss of bookings over the January to March quarter, cancellations are being seen from all source markets with the performance in the US market being the most negatively impacted.

Vernon Jeffers, Executive Chairman of the Tourism Authority, said: "We will continue to keep an eye on the performance of our members, understanding very well that we are a long way from full recovery. Should cancellations continue at this pace, we will see the effects trickling down to employees in the sector where reduced work weeks and rotations will have to be employed. This a fear we do not want to see realized."

Cubans turn to healing plants now

Cuba's medical supply scarcity is so bad many are resorting to gathering medicinal plants and consulting curanderos (traditional healers). Typical curanderos live in rural area where clients tell them their ailments which determines which plants they'll be foraging the next day.

Cuba has a long history of using medicinal plants in religious ceremonies and for the treatment of common illnesses. With many prescription drugs in short supply—especially during the COVID-19 pandemic—plant-based medications and alternative treatments such as acupuncture, cupping (local suction created on the skin with the application of heated cups, and therapeutic massages have become increasingly important.

Some Cubans grow their own medicinal herbs in the countryside or on small urban plots. Others consult curanderos or buy plant-based medicines at government pharmacies and from private entrepreneurs.

Cuba's economy has been ailing for decades, exacerbated by mismanagement, US sanctions, the collapse of the



► A Cuban vendor sells natural medications

Soviet Union —Cuba's former benefactor — in 1991, and limited trade with friendly nations including Venezuela, which has endured its own economic crisis. Tighter US restrictions during the Trump administration restricted travel there which reduced the amount of money and parcels that could be sent from the mainland, both of which have been a source of medicines. Most recently, the pandemic has decimated tourism, a vital source of revenue the government needs to buy essential supplies.

"There are shortages of everything," said Richard Feinberg, a Cuba scholar and professor emeritus at the University of California, San Diego. "Cuba doesn't have the foreign exchange to import medicines or many other things."

Jamaica's murder rate is alarming

Jamaica's homicide rate increased substantially last year with 1,463 murders. Jamaica Constabulary Force said this was 132 or almost 10 percent more than the murder total for 2020.

The troubled St Andrew South Police Division, which covers more than 20 inner-city communities, accounted for 164 murders in 2021, the most in any single police division.

In 2020 the St Andrew South Police Division also had the dubious distinction of the most murders across the island with 143. Last year represented an almost 15 percent increase. It had several curfews and a short-lived state of emergency.

Westmoreland, with 128 murders, recorded the biggest increase last year, a 60 percent jump over the 80 murders reported in 2020.

In addition, the Kingston Central Police Division, where a bloody conflict is playing out between criminals linked to the Genasyde and Darkside gangs, saw a 55 percent increase in murders.

In communities dubbed Tel Aviv, South Side, Spoilers, and Rae Town, are well below a number of other police divisions.

An emotional Prime Minister Andrew Holness lamented the crime epidemic, saying he goes to his bed at nights with the murders of innocent Jamaicans on his conscience.



► Jamaica's security forces are stretched as murders soar

Addressing the congregation at the annual 'Heal the Family, Heal the Nation' National Day of Prayer service in Portmore, St Catherine, Holness made reference to the murder of 10-year-old Jezariah Tyrell in Central Kingston and the double-murder of two brothers in Westmoreland, which happened in the last week.

Holness said that he has tried his best to put measures in place to fight crime, but hasn't received enough support from the opposition, People's National Party.

"It's a minefield. I have to wonder, are they in support of the criminals in the country? The 10-year-old didn't have to die, man. We had the state of emergency down there; we put it in Westmoreland. The two brothers never had to die."

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/18

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 43 Bar bills
 - 1 Pump, e.g.
 - 5 Obsessed captain
 - 9 Squall
 - 10 Bar supply
 - 12 Happened
 - 13 City on the Missouri
 - 14 Set out
 - 16 Meditative school
 - 17 "— Maria"
 - 18 Approval
 - 20 "Camelot" lyricist
 - 22 Track figures
 - 23 Pueblo material
 - 25 Prayer finish
 - 28 Low points
 - 32 Decline
 - 34 OSS successor
 - 35 Band blaster
 - 36 Cooperate
 - 38 Strand unit
 - 40 Parson's house
 - 41 Boredom
 - 42 Spring sign
- DOWN**
- 44 Pouchlike parts
 - 1 Tried hard
 - 2 Profes-sional dancer
 - 3 Words of approximation
 - 4 Came into view
 - 5 Hilo hello
 - 6 That fellow
 - 7 In awe
 - 8 Decapitate resort
 - 9 Katey of "Sons of Anarchy"
 - 11 Smooths, in a way
 - 15 Raptors' home
 - 19 Worked the garden
 - 21 Billionth: Prefix
 - 24 Atlantic
 - 25 Visibly shocked
 - 26 Bit of time
 - 27 Sevilla's nation
 - 29 Serving as a symbol
 - 30 Frees of suds
 - 31 Wise ones
 - 33 Wrinkly fruits
 - 37 Zhivago's love
 - 39 Massage

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

Yesterday's answer

	1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	
9						10				11
12						13				
14					15			16		
17				18				19		
20			21				22			
			23			24				
25	26	27			28			29	30	31
32				33				34		
35				36				37		
38			39			40				
41						42				
	43					44				

8-7

Word Search

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

- Magnus
- Malcolm
- Manuel
- Marcus
- Marius
- Mark
- Marshall
- Martin
- Matthew
- Maurice
- Michael
- Mick
- Mike
- Miles
- Milton
- Monty
- Mordecai
- Morgan
- Morris
- Moshe
- Murray

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

CURTIS, TOMAURA IS TROUBLE! WHY DO YOU BOTHER WITH HER?!

I FIGURED MICHELLE WOULD LIKE ME IF I WAS NICE TO HER COUSIN!

SO ALL THIS IS ABOUT MICHELLE LIKING YOU?

PRIME EXAMPLE OF MALE ADOLESCENCE HORMONES GONE STUPID!

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee

WHY'D YOU BRING ROMAN HERE?

IF HE MANAGES TO REUNITE WITH THE SENTRY-THINGS'LL JUST GET WORSE.

TELL ME AGAIN, TIGER - HOW THEY COULD GET ANY WORSE!

STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 8-7

JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

WAIT, THAT CAN'T BE THE NEW WAREHOUSE. WE--

OH NO...

SOPHIE?

NO NO NO NO!!!

WOODY WILSON & MIKE MANLEY 8-7



Local sports legends retire

After decades of devotion to the local sports scene, three Cayman Islands stalwarts have retired from service with the Department of Sports.

Roy 'Huta' Ebanks, Reginald Ramoon and Kenrick Williams left their government jobs in the last quarter of 2021.

Football coach Huta hung up his whistle after 18 years service. Respected as a great motivator, mentor and innovator, coach Huta was a tireless sports ambassador, passing on his immense life skills as well as football prowess in West Bay and throughout the Cayman Islands.

Coach Williams wrapped up 25 years as the Cayman Islands national track and

field coach. He leaves an impressive record of training and conditioning hundreds of athletes for regional and international competition.

They included five-time Olympian Cydonie Mothersill, three-time Olympian Ronald Forbes and three-time Olympian Kemar Hyman who competed at last summer's Tokyo Games, as did Shalysa Wray.

Coach Williams also founded Hy-Tech Tigers Track and Field Club. Not just a coach, he helped secure scholarships to universities and colleges in the US for at least 35 athletes.

Mr Ramoon was a co-founder of North Side Football Club (later North East FC).

When coaching he played an integral role in developing football throughout Grand Cayman. Enticed out of retirement seven years ago, Mr Ramoon managed maintenance of the Jimmy Powell Oval, the Truman Bodden Sports Complex and other facilities.

Kurt Hyde, Director of Sports, said: "On behalf of the Department of Sports I want to acknowledge their outstanding service. Between the three of them, they have given the department and the nation decades of knowledge and experience. The impact that these gentlemen have made in our communities is immense and their hard work has positively touched the lives of many."

Melissa Whorms, Acting Deputy Chief Officer, added: "From coach Huta's grassroots football programs, to coach Williams' track club and national program, and Mr Ramoon's diligent efforts to provide safe and clean facilities, they have each gone way beyond creating outstanding athletes. They have also supported countless 'at risk' children through providing and facilitating numerous after school programs and clubs. Their retirement is our loss but we wish them all the best in the future."

All three retirees were recently recognised at events held by the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage.

Frisbee Throwers Aim for Ultimate 2022 Start

Ultimate frisbee in the Cayman Islands will be back in action this year after its brief holiday break.

Cayman Islands Ultimate (CIU), the sport's local organizing association, will host its first game of the New Year tonight (Wednesday, 5 January 2022) from 6:30pm to 7:30pm at the Annex (formally

known as the T.E. McField Sports Centre) in George Town. All fitness and ability levels are welcome.

Going forward, CIU will stage its casual, coed pick-up games on Wednesdays at the Annex from 6:30pm.

Prior to its winter break, CIU held its AGM and elected a new 2021-2022 execu-

tive board. The following names and positions were ratified on 15 December 2021:

- Michael Kader – President
- Adam McSharry-Downie – Vice-President
- Flip Du Plessis – Secretary
- Joshua Browne – Treasurer
- Matthew Yates – Public Relations

• Alexandra Ebanks – Executive member

Ms Ebanks is a newcomer to the CIU board, with the others having served in leadership positions since 2018.

For more information, visit the CIU Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/541374389232198/>).



► Ultimate frisbee is returning to the Annex in 2022. (Photo credit: Cayman Islands Ultimate)