



Jarvis, 19, will tee up at Masters Page 8





FUTURE OF TOURISM STIPEND PENDING

By Staff Writer

Out-of-work tourism industry staff anxious about the future of their stipend payments could have answers in the coming weeks.

With Cayman now fully reopened in Phase 5 for travel, except cruises, the status of the continuation of the CI\$1,500 per month stipend payments has become a matter of concern for many recipients.

The tourism stipend payments introduced by the previous Progressives administration when Cayman went into COVID-19 lockdown, has been continued by the current PACT government.

The scheme, previously run by Hon. Minister for Tourism Kenneth Bryan - and under the same portfolio in the previous Progressives government - has now been transferred to the Ministry of Labour which is part of the portfolio of the Hon. Finance Minister Chris Saunders.

At one point it was estimated that 87% of Cayman's 3,107 displaced tourism workers were receiving the tourism stipend as they were either completely unemployed or working less than 30-hours a work.

It's currently being re-evaluated in line with the decision to go to Phase full border reopening with changes likely to be instituted by next month.

A hoped-for uptick in the economy this year would mean that fewer workers might need to be registered for the payment. In the interim, no further registrations are being accepted while the review is ongoing and business activity, especially employment uptake is monitored.

When he presented the national budget in November last year, Minister of Finance

and Labour Chris Saunders announced an allocation of CI\$60 million for the stipend to assist displaced workers in the tourism industry.

Giving an update on the status of current payments and the future of the scheme, Hon. Minister of Tourism Kenneth Bryan, said he had received confirmation that the regular payments had already been made for January.

"As for the civil service policy to pay them a little bit earlier in the month of January to the Christmas stipend and expenses and so forth, I've been advised that they will be doing a reassessment in February to try to see who has been back to work, and what's the best steps moving forward to ensure those who are in need still get it and those who don't need can now be removed from that list," he said.

Mr Bryan had also approved a special Christmas one-off uplift of CI\$500 on top of the regular stipend payments of CI\$1,500. That followed an earlier addition to the previous budget last July of CI\$27.5 million to extend the tourism stipend payments to the end of 2021.

With Cayman now fully reopened (except for cruise tourism) having met the ultimate Phase 5 criteria set by the government, the expectation is that economic activity will gradually improve resulting in more people returning to work and more job opportunities being created. But that is not expected to materialise overnight.

An announcement on January 11th had advised of the change of ministry for the stipend programme, advising that "the Displaced Tourism Employees Stipend Programme, launched and managed by the Ministry and Department of Tourism, is being managed by the Ministry of Bor-



der Control and Labour with effect from 1 January 2022."

It also stated that "in the coming weeks the programme will be reviewed and additional needs assessments will be conducted. Recipients will be advised by the end of next week of the new programme requirements to remain eligible for funding."

New applications for the stipend programme are not being accepted at this time, the statement said.

Addressing the future of the scheme in response to a question from Caymanian Times publisher Ralph Lewis during last week's government press conference, Tourism Minister Bryan said: "We've decided to move the stipend responsibility payments to the Ministry of Border Control and Labour because we found it better suited to be with the Ministry of Labour because technically speaking the stipend is unemployment grants been specified specifically to the Ministry of Tourism."

He went on to explain that "as a result as we transition our people back into work and take them off at the stipend, we feel that the (Labour) ministry would be best suited to do that and have the expertise necessary." The stipend programme has been the subject of much debate and speculation across the political spectrum - including last year's election campaign - over the amount of the monthly payments, the eligibility criteria and whether or not persons who did not qualify were collecting payments.

In a government release last year, Hon. Premier Wayne Panton was quoted as saying that the PACT Government has every intention of ensuring that those in the tourism industry are taken care of until the industry gets back on its feet but confirmed that Government will be tapering off the stipend payments as the industry re-grows.

"This PACT Government has done more to promote and protect the interests of the people of this country in four months than the previous administration did in the last four years," Mr Panton said.

"Just as we are monitoring the uptake of the COVID vaccine, we are also monitoring the hiring and placement of tourism workers in other jobs. At some point, the stipend will no longer be needed. Until then, those in the tourism sector who are without work can depend on the Government to continue providing support," he added.



► Hon. Minister for Tourism Kenneth Bryan



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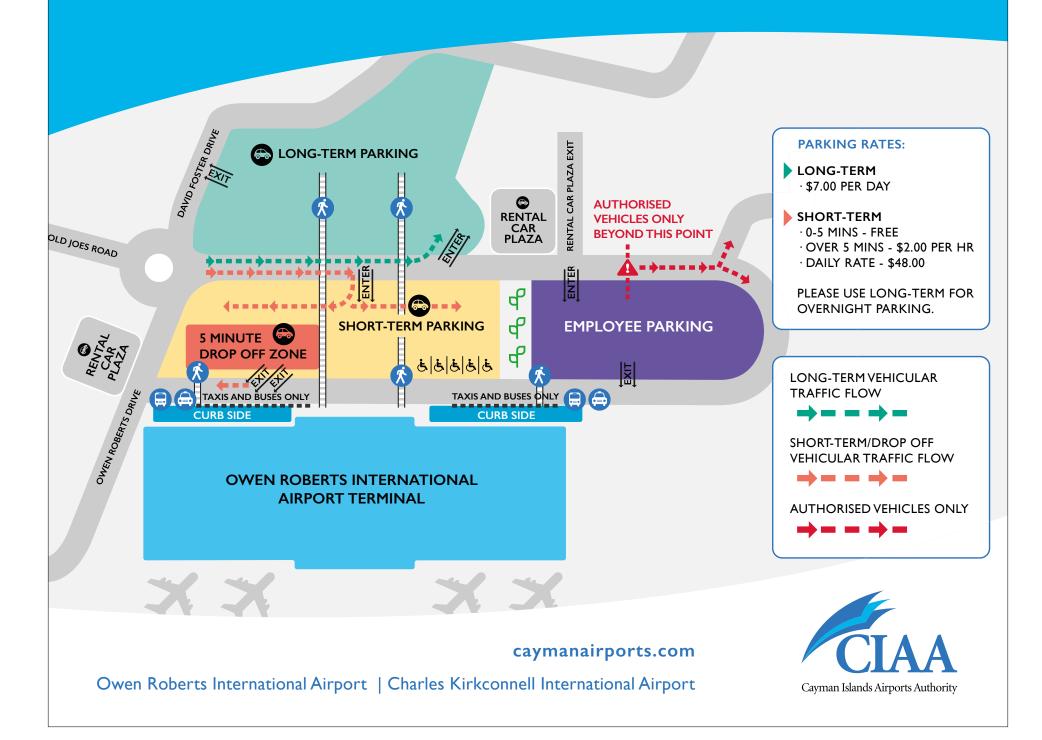
Park. Pay. Go!

Pay Parking at Grand Cayman Airport Resumes, Cards Accepted

Airport customers exiting the Short-Term or Long-Term parking lots at Owen Roberts International Airport will now have the added convenience of being able to pay their parking fees by credit or debit card at the exit machines. The exit machines accept Mastercard and Visa cards and are equipped with an intercom help button should customers require assistance from an Airport Ground Transportation Officer. Customers may also pay their parking fees by cash at any one of the pay stations located inside the main airport terminal.

A drop-off zone in the Short-Term parking lot has been allocated for those persons dropping off departing passengers. Drivers who are picking up arriving passengers must also park in the Short-term parking lot. Parking is free for up to five minutes after which time the standard parking rates apply, which come into effect from 1 February 2022.

Visit caymanairports.com for more information





Cayman Airways takes delivery of fourth B737-8 aircraft

Cayman Airways Limited (CAL), after having been the first Caribbean-based airline to have introduced the Boeing 737-8 aircraft to its fleet in late 2018, on Wednesday took delivery of its fourth B737-8 aircraft from Air Lease Corporation (ALC) at the Boeing Delivery Center in Seattle, Washington.

This delivery, combined with the retirement in 2021 of the National Flag Carrier's last remaining Boeing 737-300 aircraft which were in excess of 25 years old, further cements its position as having the newest jet fleet in the region at this time.

This is the last delivery of four aircraft that were committed to by Cayman Airways by way of operating leases from ALC in June of 2016 after a competitive tendering process, and marks the conclusion of a five year long Fleet Modernization Program. This fourth brand new, state-of-theart Boeing 737-8 aircraft, with registration mark VP-CIZ, arrived in Grand Cayman in the late afternoon of Thursday January 20, 2022, and Cayman Airways expects to commission this aircraft for service by February 2022.

"Cayman Airways presently operates three B737-8 jet aircraft which were delivered to the airline brand new, and the de-



livery of this new fourth B737-8 will help to provide the redundancy needed to deal with the unanticipated circumstances that often arise on the busiest days for travel," explained Cayman Airways President and CEO, Fabian Whorms. "We are looking forward to offering improved service by being able to spread our current flying over a larger number of aircraft, which will provide greater scheduling flexibility and an increased level of redundancy when operational challenges arise."





SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES

Small businesses are the lifeblood of Cayman, entities that offer a wide range of goods and services to locals and visitors, that keep Caymanians in employment and the local economy afloat. Many small businesses have been impacted hard by the pandemic, not always directly just because of a lack of tourists, but often indirectly, as well. The Caymanian Times is therefore reaching out to small business owners to see how they have fared through the pandemic, what has kept them ticking over, and what they are looking forward to in 2022.

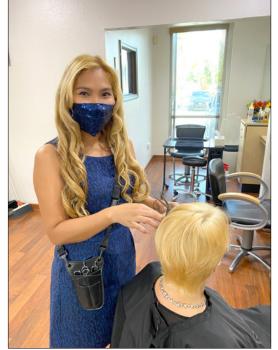
Beauty business managing to stay afloat

Charlene Barnes, the owner of Focus Hair and Beauty, located in the Marquee Plaza off the West Bay Road, said her the balance of her clientele was probably 75% local and 25% visitor before the pandemic, so the lack of tourists on island has been a big dent to her income.

"We lost all our snowbirds," she said. "They would come for a weekly massage or get their hair done, or a monthly facial. That was pretty much from November through to April."

She had also seen a tail off of her regular local clientele as well.

"I think people, especially with children, who travel back and forth overseas reg-



Focus beautician and hairstylist Bhing has been a loyal employee

ularly are spending more time overseas because of the sheer hassle of travelling these days. I have lost count of how many clients I have advised as to their colour details etc., so they can get their hair done abroad."

That said, Charlene advised that the kindness of her clients has helped her to continue on in business throughout 2020 and 2021.

"So many of my clients bought gift vouchers. I'm not sure if they ever mean to use them, but they certainly helped keep my cash flow moving when things were really difficult," she said. "My staff have also been amazing. They have been so loy-

> al throughout these two years and determined that we keep the business going."

"In addition, my landlord has been absolutely fantastic and without his kindness and support I would not still be here!" Charlene said.

Work permit and staffing woes have been a barrier to recovery for Charlene's business.

"I had a beautician whose oneyear work permit was up for renewal in 2020. At that stage I had no idea whether I would still be in business in three months' time as we were in lock down and I was struggling to survive. I therefore wanted to put the girl's permit in for a temporary three months; however, officials said absolutely not. It had to be a year or nothing, so I had to let her go," she advised. "Flexibility then would have been massively helpful."

The offer of business loans by government was also unhelpful, Charlene said, because of the fear she would not be able to repay the loan – with interest – should the pandemic take a turn for the worse and her business actually close its doors. However, other government financial assistance was extremely useful, although it was quite a lot of hard work getting the paperwork together, she advised.

Having just said goodbye to a loyal and long-serving employee, Karen, because of rollover, Charlene said she was trepidatious about the future of the business.

"Had Karen not left because of rollover, I would have said I was optimistic about the future, but I have had to find a replacement for the year that she is away."

Replacing staff in normal times is hard enough, Charlene said.

"I would absolutely always choose a Caymanian hairstylist and beauty therapist if they were available and I am very pleased that the new cosmetology school is up and running and, in the future, this will be able to supply staff to businesses such as mine. However, I am still having to look overseas for staff," she advised.

But with lengthy paperwork, vaccination and quarantine requirements, finding replacement staff from abroad will not be easy either

Since the borders have opened, she hasn't seen a huge uptick in business.

"I think people are still scared to travel," she said. If she manages to get her staffing num-

bers up to where they need to be, Charlene believes that there is room for optimism for 2022.



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Beautician and hairstylist Bhing at Focus Hair and Beauty

"I just want things to be back where they were before the pandemic," she confirmed. "We were doing very well, but at the moment I am having to work six days a week and I and my staff would all like a break! My staff have been so loyal and haven't had any breaks or travelled anywhere in two years and neither have I, but they naturally want to see family this year, as do I. I hope the business will be able to withstand any time we take off this year, because we all really need it."

Are you a small business owner? Would you like to share your experiences of keeping your business afloat during the pandemic? Email lindsey@caymaniantimes.ky

Scotiabank Introduces Instalment Plans for Credit Card Purchases

Scotiabank has launched SelectPay -a revolutionary payment programme that allows customers the ability to convert large credit card purchases into fixed, flexible and affordable monthly instalments.

"We have been listening to our customers, collecting their feedback and analyzing their payment patterns. Scotia Select-Pay is a great payment programme and we know our customers will welcome the freedom and convenience of repaying their larger credit card purchases using this option," said Chervain Stuart, Senior Manager Retail Banking — Scotiabank Cayman.

This timely initiative was introduced just before the Christmas shopping season and so customers are currently benefitting from the instalment payment option on purchases they may have made. All Scotiabank credit card purchases over USD\$250 or its equivalent are now eligible for Scotia SelectPay. Primary cardholders can access these flexible repayment options via the Bank's digital platforms — Scotia Mobile App or Scotia Online Banking — to convert these amounts into smaller monthly instalments.

"Customers will be charged lower interest than their usual credit card rate and will have monthly payment options to choose from ranging from three, six, nine and 12 months. This will be a great offer for emergency, unplanned or any large expenses customers may have" noted Stuart.

After making a credit card purchase, customers can log into the Scotiabank app, or online banking, immediately after a purchase is posted and select their Scotiabank credit card. Tap the 'SelectPay' icon, choose any eligible purchase of US\$250 or more, review the summary and submit.

"For Scotiabank credit card holders, Scotia SelectPay will be a real benefit, saving them time and money as the programme offers a lower interest rate than the traditional monthly credit card interest rate and can be accessed without further applications or credit checks. It can even be used to simplify monthly household or personal budgets," Stuart further noted.

Scotia SelectPay is only available to primary credit card holders with their account in good standing, and the flexible payment option must be set up within the statement period in which the purchase was made.



 Chervain Stuart, Senior Manager Retail Banking — Scotiabank Cayman

Caymanian announced as designate Chief Fire Officer

Mr. D. Randy Rankin has been selected as the designate Chief Fire Officer (CFO), following a rigorous and highly competitive recruitment process led by the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The recruitment exercise entailed a series of assessments, including submission of a ministerial briefing paper; leading an in-studio multi-agency media/press briefing (simulating a major incident); delivering a presentation on the key challenges facing the department; and answering questions posed by an interview panel.

Acting Chief Officer for the Ministry of Home Affairs, Michael Ebanks, said, "It has never been clearer just how important the Fire Service is to the prosperity and resilience of our Islands. Our fire fighters are always poised to push the boundaries on modernisation to protect, rescue, and save lives. So it's a privilege for the ministry to nominate a Caymanian to continue leading the Fire Service in pursuit of that mission."

Deputy Governor and Head of the Civil Service, Hon. Franz Manderson, said "The Fire Service has continued to invest in the professionalisation of its workforce and it's paying dividends. Mr. Rankin has demonstrated his versatility as a leader in the emergency management space and as a first responder who serves the public with an obvious sense of urgency and passion. I call on the entire Fire Service and public to support Mr. Rankin in his new role and to join me in celebrating the appointment of a Caymanian as the next Chief Fire Officer."

Mr. Rankin has been at the forefront of fire-rescue and national emergency management, frequently overseeing major operational incidents on land and on the ocean. With 28 years' experience and



New Divisional Managers appointed in 2019

training, Mr. Rankin has contributed to the implementation of strategic policies related to Home Affairs, including the establishment of the CIFS Inshore/Maritime Search & Rescue Unit, working in collaboration with the Cayman Islands Coast Guard and UK Navy. He was also instrumental in delivering other policies such as the amalgamation of the 911/Fire dispatch to improve response, coordination, and safety in conjunction with the Department of Public Safety Communications. Recently, Mr. Rankin has also helped to advance regional cooperation opportunities for the Cayman Islands, serving as the Deputy Chair of the UK Overseas Territories Search & Rescue Committee.

Outgoing Chief Fire Officer Paul Walker QFSM said, 'As a panelist, I was impressed with all of the candidates and will continue for the remainder of my tenure with the CIFS to provide direct support for each in respect of their personal development. In conjunction with other senior managers, I am looking forward to working even more closely with Mr. Rankin to progress the department's identified priorities, projects and activities together with the ministry."

Over the next 6 months, Mr. Rankin will work closely with Mr Walker and alongside CIFS senior managers, in tandem with the ministry's executive team, to align the department's strategic plans with the Government's new budget and strategic broad outcomes. Key responsibilities will entail assessing emerging risks to better inform policy decisions, strengthen operational governance, and drive administrative efficiencies. Mr. Rankin will also continue building strategic partnerships locally and overseas to advance the Fire Service's programme of employee engagement and talent management.



 Chief Fire Officer Designate Randy Rankin

Additionally, Mr. Rankin will support the ministry to advance policies related to enhancing pathways to careers in public safety through collaborations with youth leadership organisations such as the Cayman Islands Cadet Corps.

"As part of the Fire Service's evolving mission to prepare for, prevent, mitigate and respond to all hazards, I look forward to working alongside my colleagues, our partners, and community members to tackle several strategic priorities," Mr. Rankin said. "I am proud to be a part of an experienced and dynamic team of fire-rescue and public safety professionals. Together we will work tirelessly for the people of the Cayman Islands, strengthening our culture of safety, investing in the professionalism of our fire fighters, and embracing service innovation - all while ensuring that we retain the traditions of the Fire Service which are the source of much pride for so many."

COMMUNITY NOTICE

Daily PCR testing at South Sound Community Centre relocates to Sports Complex

The Public Health Department has announced that the daily PCR testing walkin clinics normally held at South Sound Community Centre will be changed to a drive-thru at the Truman Bodden Sports Complex parking lot effective Friday, 21 January 2022. The new drive-through clinic will be available 7am – 10am daily.

Isolation/quarantine exit testing and confirmation PCR from a positive lateral flow test will be accommodated at the new drive-thru site.

"We are aware of the heavy traffic of persons requiring PCR tests at the South Sound Community Centre and have been working on alleviating this issue by identifying a more suitable location," said Dr Samuel Williams-Rodriguez, Medical Officer of Health.

"After the successful launch of the new drive-thru clinic at Truman Bodden Sports Complex parking lot earlier this week, we have determined that this site meets the needs of this daily testing clinic and allows for better crowd control, a more streamlined process for patients as they will be tested from the comfort of their vehicle. We would like to thank the Department of Sports for their collaboration and use of this space as part of our ongoing COV-ID-19 response."

Public Health directed PCR testing clinics are as follows:

Isolation/Quarantine Exit PCR Testing Centres – Open Daily

Truman Bodden Sports Complex (parking lot drive-thru) – 7am - 10am
Ed Bush Sports Complex – 10am –

12pm

• Bodden Town Civic Centre – 10am – 12pm

Positive LFT Confirmation PCR Testing Centres – Open Daily

• Truman Bodden Sports Complex (parking lot drive-thru) – 7am - 10am

• Ed Bush Sports Complex - 1 – 2pm

 Bodden Town Civic Centre – 1 – 2pm The public is reminded that persons who test positive on LFT must isolate immediately, report result on www.exploregov.ky and attend the next available designated HSA clinic for your PCR test. This confirmation PCR test is a Public Health requirement. Results will state "Not valid for travel". These confirmation tests are **not conducted** at the Cayman Islands Hospital, COVID clinic, nor private institution.

Individuals who require PCR or Certified Lateral Flow testing for outbound travel or other optional screening may attend the clinic at 131 Centre MacLendon Drive.

- Monday Friday 7:30am 12pm
- Saturday 10am 12pmSunday 10am 2pm
- Public Holidays 10am 12pm



Phase 5 details announced: new regulations for travelers

New regulations have come into play on Thursday 20 January which are seeing Cayman now moving into an updated phase five of the border reopening plan.

At a press conference on Thursday, Premier Wayne Panton said these new regulations would ease travel restrictions for children, allowing children who are travelling to take the vaccination status of their parents.

"We are also decreasing quarantine times for all travelers currently required to quarantine. In moving to phase five, this will apply to everyone whether they are visitors or residents and Caymanians," the Premier said.

Children aged zero to 11 will now take on the vaccination status of the adult they are travelling with. If Caymanian or resident children are travelling unaccompanied and have spent the preceding 14 days in a country that has a vaccination rate of less than 60% for first doses of an approved vaccine, they will now see their quarantine period drop from 14 days down to seven days. Unvaccinated children who are tourists aged zero to 11 will not be allowed to travel to the Cayman Islands unaccompanied, however. Children zero to four will not have to do any testing, while children who are five to 11 will do the same testing regime as adults, the Premier said.

LFT accepted for exit test

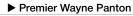
Isolation measures will decrease for all securely verifiable passengers who are travelling from countries with less than 60% for first shots from 10 days down to seven days and all unvaccinated travelers will have their quarantine period dropped from 14 days to 10 days. Travelers in quarantine can now exit via a certified lateral flow test and a PCR test is not specifically required though it could be done, the Premier said.

In addition, vaccinated occupants of residences where a traveler is allowed to quarantine will now not be required to quarantine as has been the case in the past, the Premier advised.

"These changes are welcome changes by our community, but particularly welcome by those families who have returned from travel with children and are in quarantine. For families currently in quarantine due to travel, we have made provisions for their release after receiving a certified lateral flow test from a local provider and we'll have Travel Cayman get in contact with them subsequently to provide the details as to exactly how they are going to be accomplishing that," the Premier said.

He warned that people should remember for those to whom this applies, people are not free until they have had the test and received the negative result. People









should not self-release and that would be a violation of the current regulations and people could face prosecution as a result.

"Our goal is to be equitable in our regulations for families with children unable to get vaccinated. These reductions in quarantine time now align with the reductions to isolation times implemented this past Wednesday by Public Health for our community cases of both those who are vaccinated and unvaccinated," the Premier said.

Premier Panton said tourism partners had been adamant for a long time that to truly reopen the tourism industry, visitors must be able to bring their children with them under the same vaccination status as their parents, so the changes to the regulations would accomplish this, he said.

Testing between islands

New inter-island policy now required all passengers, regardless of their vaccination status, travelling between the islands to have a negative result on a certified lateral flow test or PCR before travel. These changes have come into place because of the higher numbers seen on the Sister islands of late and protecting the vulnerable communities on Cayman Brac had to be protected, Health Minister Sabrina Turner said.

Given the higher numbers on the Sister Islands, Public Health would be implementing stricter enforcement of isolation and quarantine measures and offering more opportunities for getting a booster.

Gathering limits remain

The regulations that came into place on Thursday did not address gathering limits because Covid was far from over in the Cayman Islands and was still impacting Cayman's sick and elderly. Gathering rates would remain as they stood, with a total of 100 people able to gather indoors and 250 outdoors.

"Our transmission rate is just still too high," the Health Minister said, adding that Cayman had to continue to manage risks, especially 'super spreader' events where large gatherings took place.

Plans for cruise return

Tourism Minister Kenneth Bryan said he would be meeting with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Line Association in February to discuss the cruise safety protocols and other matters relating to the development of cruise tourism. The government's intention was to move away from mass cruise tourism to higher value cruisers. He would also be taking the opportunity to rebalance the equation when it came to the profits shared between locals and the cruise lines, to ensure local businesses got a better slice of the pie. Minister Bryan said he would be able to give an update as to when cruise passengers would be returning to Cayman after this meeting.



Sellers finishes first at 33rd CUC 800m sea swim

The 33rd CUC 800m open water sea swim took place on Saturday, 15 January at Governor's Beach.

Seventy nine swimmers took to the sea for the 800m swim, and an additional 9 swimmers took part in the fun 400m swim.

It was a beautiful day and despite the slight swells top finisher, Seven Mile Swimmers' (SMS) Will Sellars finished in a respectable 10:02.95 followed closely by SMS team mates Jordan Lisle (10:29.06) and Dominic Hilton (10:35.12). First female to finish was Lola Haworth, Stingray Swim Club (SSC) in 10:48.42, with second and third going to SMS's Jasmine Lambert-Wragg (11:11.43) and Sierrah Broadbelt (11:25.04).

"In addition to being a competitive sport, swimming is a life skill," commented CUC's CEO Richard Hew. "The 400m swim was added a couple of years ago to encourage younger swimmers to take part in their first open water events and I was delighted to see nine young swimmers taking part in what may well have been their open water swim."

Cayman Islands Aquatic Sports Association (CIASA) Director Martin Trott added, "It's always a great day when we are able to host an open water sea swim and the 33rd CUC 800m swim had the perfect weather window - between two cold fronts. Thank you to our sponsor CUC - for 33 years of supporting Cayman swimming, for supplying so many incredible volunteers and to Mr. Richard Hew - CUC CEO for swimming and then presenting our age group winners with trophies and medals."

Trott also extended his thanks to all the volunteers who were beach or sea based



CIASA Top ten finishers. (L-R) Will Sellars, Jordan Lisle, Dominic Hilton, Connor MacDonald, Lola Haworth, Jasmine Lambert-Wragg, Sierrah Broadbelt; Jack Clark-Terrell, Riley Watson, Tate Hilton.

safety marshals, the Royal Life Saving Society for providing life guards and the always present swim parents who registered, marked, handed out finishing numbers and cheered on all the swimmers.

All swimmers received a T-shirt and a good bag courtesy of CUC and sandwiches provided by CIASA.

The next event of CIASA's calendar is the CIASA National Championships 5K Open Water Swim on Saturday, 19 February.

CIASA is the recognised national governing body of all Aquatic Sports (comprised of competitive swimming, open water swimming, diving, high diving, water polo and synchronised swimming) in the Cayman Islands and is an affiliated member of FINA, PanAm Aquatics, CCCAN, Island Games Association of the Cayman Islands, CARIFTA and the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee. For more information email ciasaboard@gmail.com or visit the CIASA website at www.ciasa.ky.

LOCAL SPORTS

Jarvis, 19, will tee up at Masters

Caymanian golf prodigy Aaron Jarvis has qualified to play with the world's top pros at the sport's most prestigious competitions - the Augusta Masters and The British Open - after winning an amateur tournament in the Dominican Republic.

The Augusta National in Georgia is in April and The Open is at St Andrew's, Scotland in July. Jarvis made birdie on the final hole Sunday for a 3-under 69 and a one-shot victory in a tense ending to the Latin America Amateur Championship at La Romana.

Victory meant Jarvis, a 19-year-old UNLV freshman, earns those coveted spots and he is also exempt into the final stage of US Open qualifying. To put into perspective his achievement, qualifying for a major evades many seasoned professionals. Jarvis will be competing with the likes of champion pros Rory McIlroy, Dustin Johnson, Jordan Spieth and veteran Phil Mickelson - if he qualifies. Tiger Woods is still recovering from last year's horrendous car crash.

"I can't even put this into words. What a day," Jarvis said. "It means the world to me. The opportunity to go to the Masters, the British Open. There's no young golfer who doesn't dream of anything but going to those tournaments.

He will be the first player from the Cayman Islands to compete at the sport's two most prestigious tournaments.

Jarvis was one shot behind on the Teeth of the Dog course at Casa de Campo. He two-putted for birdie and posted at 7-under 281. Then the waited nervously to see if his rivals would surpass him.

Fred Biondi, a Florida freshman from Brazil, had a one-shot lead until he hit a poor shot at the 17th. It was just as painful for Santiago De La Fuente of Mexico and Vicente Marzilio of Argentina who also had victory in sight until they lost their nerve at the death.

Jarvis had seven birdies in his round and although he made some wayward shots and even landed in the water on the



Aaron Jarvis is Cayman's first grand slam entrant

par-3 16th, he recovered impressively and finished with a flourish to win.

"I just stayed patient," Jarvis said. "I especially with the holes coming in."

Jarvis grew up in George Town and honed his talent at the David Leadbetter country well."





Golf Academy in Orlando. "I hope to get knew out there anything could happen, more kids involved and represent the **Caymanian Times Newspaper**





► Tour of Pharmacy, with Colin Medford

Inside one of the lovely new waiting rooms

HSA cuts ribbon on Smith Road Medical Centre

By Christopher Tobutt

Hon Sabrina Turner, Minister for Health & Wellness joined senior HSA staff and Board Members in cutting the ribbon to a large suite of purpose-built rooms at the Smith Road Medical Center, intended to compliment will include a general practice clinic, a large pharmacy, and a phlebotomy department. The HSA began its phased acquisition of the building in 2018, and now owns approximately 80% of the 45,000-square-foot building, with a view to owning it all, sometime in the future. There will be a shuttle-service to help transport patients between the main hospital and the new facility.

HSA CEO Lizzette Yearwood remarked, "This investment will more than double our capacity for serving patients by allowing the transition of most outpatient services from the main Cayman Islands Hospital campus to this location. This will provide greater patient convenience through access to a wider range of specialists, primary healthcare, behavioral health services, and pharmacy. It has also given us the ability to introduce new services including complimentary alternative medicine, sports medicine and chiropractic services.

"This shift from a hospital-centric model is in keeping with our 30-year master facility plan to help expand service, reduce wait times, and improve the overall patient experience. This is also in keeping with our mission statement, 'to provide highest quality healthcare through accessible, sustainable, patient-focussed services.'"

HSA Board Chairman, Osbourne Bodden said, "The covid 19 pandemic has surpassed any healthcare crisis we have ever witnessed. It has been unprecedented especially for the healthcare sector, testing their ability to deliver quality and compassionate care. Yet, due to remarkable vision, strategic planning and foresight, our clinicians and healthcare administrative teams were able to remain focused on the growth and advancement of the H.S.A and the services for the benefit of the Caymanian public. The investment in the Smith Road Centre has allowed us to expand our services substantially and create a more comfortable environment for both patient and staff."

Mr Bodden went on to explain that of the main benefits of the new facility is the ability that patients will have to seek the care they need, right here in Cayman and still be around their friends and family, without facing the trauma of having to seek medical treatment overseas.

Hon. Sabrina Turner, Minister of Health & Wellness said, "It is indeed an honour to



Ribbon-cutting (Left-to-Right) Colin Medford Chief Pharmacist HSA, Joy Vernon, Osbourne Bodden, Hon Sabrina Turner, Lizzette Yearwood, Dr. Courtney Cummings, and Nellie Pouchie

be with you, and witness proof of growth, maturity, and stepping up to the needs of the country, and as the minister for Health & Wellness, being in this position at a national level, we will grow with you. We will also give you your support. I am quite sure that for years to come we will see more improvements." When showing guests around the big new pharmacy, HSA chief pharmacist Colin Medford explained that the pharmacy had been ergonomically-designed, and anticipated that waiting times would be nearly cut in half by the new facility, which also possessed extra layers of soundproofing in the consulting room, to protect patients' privacy.



Hon. Sabrina Turner



Lizzette Yearwood

New art show more than up to scratch

By Lindsey Turnbull

Cayman's art lovers have been able to appreciate the development of Avril Ward's work over the years, as she continually experiments with new techniques, themes and mediums to engage, delight and intrigue. Her latest work, a solo show entitled 'Scratching the Surface', does not disappoint, an exciting mixed media collection that draws in and challenges the viewer with every piece.

The exhibition launched last week and runs until 3 March, and so there is plenty of time to view Avril's talent. It's located at a cool spot called Parcel 110, a community art space which is on the third floor in Cardinal Avenue in George Town, a few doors down from Victoria's Secret. Parcel 110 is a light and airy, relaxed and laidback location where artistic minds of all genres can come together and share their poetry, artwork, music and general artistic expression.

"Parcel 110 reached out to me late last year and asked me if I wanted to do a show," she advised. "My gallery Awardart has been closed since lockdown and I haven't had a solo show for a long time as, before lockdown, I had been showing other people's work, so I thought this was a great opportunity to do a solo show."

Avril said she had been working on this particular theme and so just expanded it for the show. Most pieces are new for the theme, 'Scratching the Surface'.

New direction

The pandemic had given Avril the chance to develop her talents along new lines. "The last few years I have really been

learning to trust myself and my instincts. I started painting in my studio just expressing myself," she advised.

Avril said the series started when she began working over an old painting that she didn't like.

"There is something very freeing about working over an old painting. It's not as intimidating as a new canvas. You just feel: I don't like this anyway, so if I mess it up it doesn't matter! I began by applying paint then scraping it off and initially just exploring colour and textures," she ventured.

Avril said she had always been fascinated by layers, with paint on paint on paint, found especially in old cities in places such as those in South America, for example. Then she slowly started to developing a more personal theme.

"There was a conceptual theme that started to come through: what am I actually exploring here? More than just physically playing with paint; it's just about scratching the surface of what is happening in the world today. What's real and what isn't? What is underneath the layers of deception?" she explained. "I realised then, when I saw the whole body of work, I started to think internally about what lies under the façade that we all have?"

From that, Avril said she began to explore the mystical side of Christianity

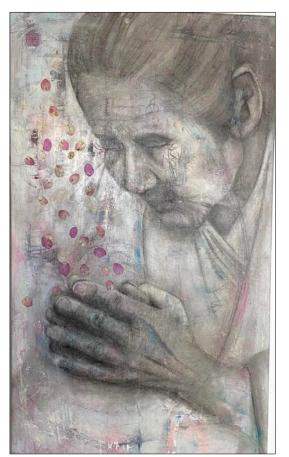


Artist Avril Ward at her new exhibition at Parcel 110



A new piece called Smell the Roses

through her work, with scriptures included in mixed media pieces and thought-provoking words written onto the canvases.



Meditation by Avril Ward

The result is a beautiful collection of abstract work that often includes portraits that Avril has depicted on top of the abstract layering. She uses all kinds of media to build up her work, including acrylic, oil, oil pastel and charcoal, bougainvillea petals and even upcycled contact lens containers, some of which contain or have messages written on them, such as the scriptures. Her trademark sculptures also featured in the exhibition. Moving between different mediums has been an interesting challenge for the artist.

"Charcoal used to be my main medium years ago, so it's nice to go back to it," she said.

Colours are contrasted and textures reinforced through the scratching and layering process to give a very pleasing and thought-provoking collection that is bound to be enjoyed by her viewers.

Always a curious and adventurous artist, Avril has also experimented with a technique called encaustic painting, a technique with which she has had previous experience. Encaustic painting is a technique whereby pigments are mixed with hot liquid wax.

"I'm actually studying the technique online at the moment, using hot wax or cold wax," she advised. "I like the technique of layering the hot wax."

With art, she confirms, you never stop learning.



ANOTHER ELECTION CLEAN SWEEP VICTORY FOR MIA MOTTLEY

By Michael Jarvis, London UK

Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley has chalked up another historical first by leading her ruling Barbados Labour Party(BLP) to an unprecedented second consecutive clean-sweep at the polls.

In snap elections held on Wednesday January 19th, Mottley's BLP again won all 30 seats in the Barbados parliament.

And again suffering the rejection of the Barbados electorate was the Democratic Labour Party(DLP) which Mottley had swept from power in 2018 by the same margin.

Addressing cheering supporters at a victory rally the day following her second electoral thrashing of the DLP she declared, "We stand today on the morning of the 20th of January confident that the people have spoken with one voice - decisively, unanimously and clearly."

It's another resounding victory Barbados' first female prime minister whose international profile has been soaring with persuasive speeches at major global forums.

Her powerful stance on climate change at the recent COP26 summit, and on socio-economic challenges for small states at the United Nations General Assembly has



► Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley

earned her the respect of the major world powers and developing nations alike.

Just last November, Prime Minister Mottley, an attorney, added to her growing impressive list of historic achievements when she removed her independent nation from under the remaining vestiges of the British monarchy by declaring Barbados a republic. But her significant political victories

and soaring international profile aside,

Prime Minister Mottley is still faced with the huge task of turning around Barbados' tourism-based economy, which like many other countries, has been hammered by the COVID-19 pandemic.

During the campaign her stewardship of the economy and management of the pandemic came under scrutiny from her opponents, but that she was again able to lead the BLP to such a resounding victory seems to have been the ultimate vote of confidence.

The polls were constitutionally due by next year but Prime Minister Mottley called a snap election seeking to consolidate her hold on power and the electorate's approval of her policies which include tough COVID protocols that were unpopular in some quarters.

The main challenger, the Democratic Labour Party (DLP aka Dems), had attempted to block the snap election by seeking a last-minute court injunction in the past week on the grounds that it would effectively disenfranchise around 5,000 voters in COVID isolation.

But the court disagreed and the election went ahead.

In her concession speech, the new DLP leader, Verla De Peiza, said that the party will now have to "regroup".

"The Democratic Labour Party will concede, as we must," she said shortly after the final vote count was announced on Wednesday night.

She indicated that the party must now determine how it recovers from another 30-0 thrashing at the hands of Mia Mottley's BLP, including whether or not it needs another change of leadership.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO

BRING YOUR

OWN FACE

MASK

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.

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CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Allies betray Honduras president

Honduras's first elected female president suffered a rebellion within her leftist Libre party on Friday as allies threatened her ability to pass laws and appoint officials even before she takes office this week.

Xiomara Castro swept into power on a popular vote in November, promising to restore democracy and eradicate the endemic corruption and organised crime that has driven her compatriots en masse to flee to the US order. But plans to overhaul the system has been thwarted even before Thursday's inauguration.

The split may also complicate matters for the Joe Biden admin-

istration, which has increasingly seen Castro as an ally in addressing the root causes of Central American migration. Vice President Kamala Harris plans to attend the ceremony.

Castro's party divided after she tried to fulfil a campaign promise and install a member of an allied centrist party as congressional speaker. A group of 22 Libre lawmakers opposed the move. With the help of other major parties, they instead swore in Jorge Cálix, a prominent Libre lawmaker, as the speaker. His swearing-in occurred amid scuffles within the congressional chamber and impassioned protests from Castro's loyalists, who stormed into the building from the street.

Castro is calling the rebellion "treason". Her husband Former President Manuel Zelaya, is the head of Libre. He responded by expelling the rebels from the party. The expulsion, if it stands, would reduce Libre's congressional bloc to 38 out of 128 lawmakers, though officials said there was a chance that some would return to the fold.

Political analysts say the division will make it far more difficult for Castro to find enough votes to meet campaign promises, like bringing back international an-

ticorruption investigators, loosening Honduras's highly restrictive abortion laws and exposing drug trafficking from the highest levels of government and the security forces.

Drug trafficking to America is so rampant in Honduras that the Federal Bureau of Investigation is offering a \$100,000 reward for information to hunt down fugitive MS-13 gang leader in Honduras who was indicted in a New



Xiomara Castro got in on a wave of anti-corruption measures

York court for trafficking tons of cocaine to the United States.

Yulan Andony Archaga Carías, 39, was charged with racketeering conspiracy, conspiring to import cocaine, and possessing and conspiring to possess machine guns.

Harris has been appointed by Biden to oversee diplomatic efforts in the Northern Triangle to address immigration, but it's not clear what policy-related efforts she'll undertake while in Honduras. In her most recent public efforts in the diplomatic role, Harris announced a new slate of commitments from the private sector to invest in the Northern Triangle, as part of its attempts to address the root causes of migration from the region by promoting economic opportunity.

The Honduras visit will mark Harris's second visit to the Northern Triangle since taking office. In June, she visited Guatemala and Mexico.



Hondurans regularly protest over poor and corrupt governing

Cuba's cigar festival up in smoke - again

Cuba's annual Habano cigar festival has been cancelled for the second year running. Held in Havana for cigar aficionados, attracting thousands domestically and from abroad, it is a vital source of national revenue to promote a commodity Cuba is world renowned for.

The XXIII Habano Festival, scheduled for next month, was cancelled over concerns of the spread of COVID-19. Cigar enthusiasts will have to wait a while longer to learn about new, premium cigars coming to the market for a second consecutive year.

Hundreds of cigar lovers will also be missing out on the gala dinner and live Cuban music, parts of Cuban culture that cannot be fully experienced through a virtual presentation. The factory visits, tours of tobacco plantations and occasions to share with manufacturers, suppliers, artisans and collectors will also be missed opportunities.



Cuba's cigar festival is a highlight of the island's calendar

Grenada medics condemn prank calls

Prank calls to Grenada's main hospital are affecting the quality of health care to genuine sufferers.

Grenada's acting Medical Director Dr Tyhiesia Donald has called for an end to the number of prank calls being made to the Accident and Emergency Department of the General Hospital, saying they are affecting the health care service.

"I can confirm that we have had these pranks calls and it's actually very sad that this is happening in the midst of the pandemic with the number of cases that we have and persons seeking medical care," Donald said, adding that hospital operations are already affected because of numerous coronavirus diagnoses among medical staff, including doctors.

Grenada began its second wave of an upsurge in COV-ID-19 active cases a month ago and Donald shared that by 19 January, 16 doctors, 32 nurses,



Grenada's General Hospital has had a spate of prank calls

and other auxiliary staff within the public health care system have been infected with the virus.

Pleading with the public to end making such calls, Donald said when an ambulance is deployed, people's lives are at stake because they are being deprived of urgent care. "So, I will really like to ask the public to work with us, please work with us. If you do a prank call and there is someone, a family member who actually needs to have that ambulance call, what could have happened is that the resources would have been deployed to an area where it is not needed," she said.

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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.