



Times Caymanian

Sports page



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See on Back Cover

50¢



PACT MAKES STRATEGIC APPOINTMENT

Page 3



Brac bike rental business feeling impact of regulations

Page 5



Health City breaks ground at Camana Bay

See story on page 6 >>

Strong performance by RF Bank & Trust funds
Page 9



Investor Forum 2022



Boyz 2 Men visit the Ritz-Carlton

Page 12

PACT'S CHIEF STRATEGY

The announcement of the appointment of a Chief of Strategy in the Office of the Premier, normally just another (albeit important) appointment, has this time brought with a degree of interest and applause generally not associated with the role.

Pilar Bush, Caymanian businesswoman, Dart Executive Vice President of Marketing, People and Culture, and a former Director of Tourism, has brought her considerable pedigree to the job at a critical time for the government - and the country.

Just how critical is outlined by Hon. Premier Wayne Panton himself in a press release about the surprise appointment.

"With a Chief of Strategy in place, we can more effectively design the cohesive national strategies required to achieve PACT's vision for our three Islands, and implement actionable plans to deliver the results we promised in our budget and Strategic Policy Statement," said Premier Panton.

Implementing strategies by getting them off paper and into reality - and oftentimes getting such strategies on paper in the first place - is crucial to the success of any business or government.

That is clearly something that Ms Bush knows very well and has demonstrated in both her previous tourism director role in government and in the private sector as a key player in the Dart enterprise and her own business pursuits.

Above all, having her in place as Chief of Strategy, that makes this one of the more significant - and strategic - decisions tak-

en by the PACT government, coming as it does as it within the time frame of other recent major developments.

Among those; the PACT coalition administration approaching its first anniversary in office, coming shortly after the delivery of its first budget, and perhaps most importantly, happening within weeks of the equally unexpected timing of the announcement moving Cayman to the ultimate Phase 5 of reopening the borders - although cruise travel is not yet factored in.

By any yardstick, Ms Bush will be pivotal to PACT achieving - and defining - its strategy for the remainder of its first term in office.

"As Chief of Strategy, Ms Bush will effectively serve as Head of the Office of the Premier, attend Caucus meetings, and support the work of Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries to promote the strategic alignment of the PACT Government's priorities. A key area of focus will be the incorporation of economic, social and environmental sustainability guidelines into Government strategies, decision-making and day-to-day operations," the Premier said in his statement.

That underlines just how vital and valuable the new Chief of Strategy will be across all ministries - and we venture to suggest, especially the Ministry of Tourism, given her impressive track record in this sector in both the private and public sector.

Defining an economic strategy, especially around tourism when the govern-



► Hon. Premier Wayne Panton

ment has stated its intention to review Cayman's cruise tourism policy (and strategy), makes the timing of Ms Bush's appointment even more...well, strategic. That word again.

While the particulars specific to the terms of reference for the job have not been disclosed, we also envision that she will bring her influence to bear into balancing (and perhaps calming) the clamour evident in the election campaign and still noticeable especially from within PACT circles, over the dominance of developers versus the interest of Caymanians.

With the Premier taking direct portfolio control of sustainability and the environment, getting that balance right is crucial alongside the publicly stated positions of ensuring that Caymanians have equal and priority access in the job market.

Among her KPI - key performance index as a marketing expert Ms Bush would be aware - is bringing clarity to government's messaging - which has been rather muddled of late. Clarity and simplicity of messaging is a prerequisite for any successful strategy...or campaign. In other words, singing in harmony from the same hymn sheet.

We expect the new Chief of Strategy to feature prominently in (more regular) government press conferences and other forums, utilising her extensive marketing and communication skills.

There's no question about Ms Bush's capabilities and capacity to deliver, but she will need the buy-in across all ministries and ministers.

Appointing Pilar Bush as Chief of Strategy might just have been PACT'S chief strategy so far.

FirstCaribbean International Bank Limited

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS Annual Meeting

When: Friday, March 11, 2022 at 10:00am Barbados time
Where: Barbados - <https://web.lumiagm.com/213949515>
Meeting ID and Password: Shareholders who wish to attend the annual meeting must contact us by March 9, 2022 at agm@cibcfib.com to register and obtain credentials to join the meeting.

NOTICE is hereby given that the twenty-eighth annual meeting of the shareholders of FirstCaribbean International Bank Limited (the "Company") will be held in Barbados on Friday, March 11, 2022 at 10:00am Barbados time for the following purposes:

- To receive audited accounts for the year ended October 31, 2021, and the report of the directors and auditors thereon.
- To elect the following directors to serve until the next annual meeting of the Company:

(i) Mr. Christopher de Caires	(vi) Mr. Brian McDonough
(ii) Ms. Colette Delaney	(vii) Mr. Achilles Perry
(iii) Mr. Robert Frentzel	(viii) Mrs. Paula Rajkumarsingh
(iv) Mr. Craig Gomez	(ix) Mr. David Ritch
(v) Mr. Wayne Lee	(x) Mr. Mark St. Hill
- To appoint Ernst & Young Ltd. as auditors and to authorise the directors to fix their remuneration.
- To discuss any other business which may be properly considered at the annual meeting.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD

Brian Clarke QC
 General Counsel & Group Corporate Secretary
 January 28, 2022



Shareholders should visit cibcfib.com to view the notice of meeting, directors' report, management proxy circular and 2021 Annual Report.

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PACT MAKES STRATEGIC APPOINTMENT

By Staff Writer

In a move that might be just as strategic as the title of the post, Hon. Premier Wayne Panton has announced the appointment of high-profile former Dart VP Pilar Bush as Chief of Strategy.

"I am pleased that Ms Bush has agreed to serve as our Chief of Strategy. She has a sound understanding of the country's economic, social and environmental needs that, when paired with her ability to facilitate strategy development, collaborating across diverse sectors to deliver high-value results, makes her an excellent fit for this role," Mr Panton stated in a press release.

As the government's Chief of Strategy Ms Bush bring to the role an impressive track record of senior positions in both government and the private sector.

Most recently she was Executive Vice President of Marketing, People and Culture at Dart and earlier was Director of Tourism, where she oversaw the country's tourism recovery and repositioning following Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

Prior to her role at the Department of Tourism, she was VP of Marketing and Strategic Planning at Cayman Airways, and later served on the board as Deputy Chair and Acting Chairman. Ms Bush started her career in the Civil Service as an Assistant Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Aviation and Planning.

She is also the founder and managing director of AtWater Consulting, an advisory firm providing strategy, business and communications advice to public, private and non-profit organisations across the Caribbean and North America.

Her new role with the PACT administration will see Ms Bush "effectively serve as Head of the Office of the Premier, attend Caucus meetings and support the work of Ministers and Par-

liamentary Secretaries to promote the strategic alignment of the PACT Government's priorities," the release outlined.

It explains that a key area of focus will be the incorporation of economic, social and environmental sustainability guidelines into Government strategies, decision making and day-to-day operations.

Elaborating on what is widely seen as a key appointment for the government as it seeks to coordinate its policy agenda across the various ministries, Premier Panton said: "As the elected Government, we recognise the advantages of having an experienced professional assist us - in tandem with Senior Civil Servants - with planning, implementing and delivering on our strategic policy objectives.

"With a Chief of Strategy in place, we can more effectively design the cohesive national strategies required to achieve PACT's vision for our three Islands, and implement actionable plans to deliver the results we promised in our budget and Strategic Policy Statement.

Under the Constitution, the Premier, in his role as political leader and head of Government, oversees the setting and implementation of the Government's policies.

Ms Bush will also assist Ministers and Parliamentary Secretaries develop and implement plans both within their portfolios, and where inter-Ministerial collaboration is required, to achieve key objectives.

With the Chief of Strategy role filled, the Premier said he now expects the PACT Government to better leverage the unique strengths of each member of the team and benefit from the improved coordination and teamwork.

Ms Bush said she is honoured to take on the role.

"Although the past 15 years were in the private sector, I began my professional journey in the public sector. Therefore, I



► Pilar Bush

understand and respect the challenging circumstances under which public servants are required to operate and equally understand the elected officials' sense of urgency to get things done."

She brings more than 25 years of professional experience in both public and private sectors, and has been a dedicated volunteer to youth and education causes.

Ms Bush is also known for her work as an advocate for education, youth and families in the Cayman Islands.

As Chair of Big Brothers Big Sisters, she was instrumental in the expansion of mentoring programmes that support

children and adolescents facing adversity. She is a former director of LIFE (Literacy Is For Everyone) and is currently a director on the R3 Cayman Foundation.

The PACT government's new Chief of Strategy studied undergraduate Economics at the University of Waterloo and obtained an MBA in Aviation and Airline Management from Concordia University. Her professional qualifications include certification in revenue management, marketing, public relations, project management and leading change.

Ms Bush will commence her new role on 31st January.

Onset of Covid, Omicron variant highlights importance of data protection

International Data Protection Day 2022

The Office of the Ombudsman noted on 28 January 2022, International Data Protection Day, that data protection legislation is more crucial to privacy and information rights than ever, given the onset of the Omicron variant of the Covid-19 virus.

"Our office has released public guidance within the past year on data protection issues related to employees' Covid vaccination data," said Deputy Ombudsman (Information Rights) Jan Liebaers. "We also continued to receive more reports of data breaches and complaints about data protection during 2021 - the second full year Cayman's Data Protection Act (DPA) has been in effect."

The Ombudsman's office saw a 15 per cent increase in data pro-

tection queries from the public during 2021 and a more than 50 per cent increase in the number of data breaches being reported, where we were notified that personal data had been accessed, lost, altered or disclosed in an unlawful or unauthorized manner.

The DPA contains important rights for individuals, including the right to be informed about how personal data is being used. Individuals also have the right to request corrections to inaccurate personal data, to object to direct marketing and to request access to their personal data. The Act also sets rules for the use of personal data by public and private sector organizations based on eight core data protec-

tion principles. Those cover fairness, adequacy, retention and security of personal data processing, among other requirements.

The Office of the Ombudsman oversees and enforces the DPA. Individuals have the right to complain to the Ombudsman if they believe their data is not being processed in compliance with the Act. Those complaints also increased in 2021, compared to the prior year.

"Letting individuals know about their data rights and investigating complaints and data breaches is now the single busiest area within our office - particularly as more day-to-day commerce and public interactions have moved online in the



► Deputy Ombudsman (Information Rights) Jan Liebaers

wake of Covid shutdowns and work-from-home solutions," Mr. Liebaers said.

Please visit the Ombudsman website for more information including FAQs, guidance and

other resources to help you understand your data protection rights and obligations: www.ombudsman.ky/data-protection or send your questions to: info@ombudsman.ky

CAYMAN AIRWAYS CAUGHT UP IN CUBA-JAMAICA DIPLOMATIC SQUABBLE

Cayman Airways has found itself at the centre of a multi-country diplomatic squabble over a scheduled flight taking Cuban passengers from Havana bound for Jamaica en route to Nicaragua.

According to officials of the national carrier, on Friday afternoon the airline was in the process of boarding 86 passengers - including Caymanians and other Cayman residents, along with Cuban passengers - for the flight to Cayman.

The Cuban passengers were in-transit via Cayman and Jamaica on their way to Nicaragua.

But word came from Jamaican immigration authorities notifying Cayman Airways that "they could not guarantee that some 86 passengers travelling from Havana, Cuba (with onward connections to KX606 to Kingston and subsequent connections from Kingston to Nicaragua) would be allowed to land in Kingston, Jamaica despite their tickets and itineraries being in order."

As a result of this notification, Cayman Airways said flight KX833 from Havana to Grand Cayman, was delayed while a resolution with the Jamaican authorities was sought.

According to the airline, when it became apparent that a timely resolution was not forthcoming, they determined it would be unable to transport the 86 passengers on that flight.

No reason was stated for the decision by the Jamaican authorities in the situation which was then further complicated by the Cuban authorities stepping in and preventing Cayman Airways from boarding any passengers on that flight.

As a result, Caymanians and residents who were due to fly back to Cayman from Havana had to overnight in Cuba and update their COVID testing requirements to return to the jurisdiction.

According to the Cayman Airways statement, "With the Cayman Airways flight crew in Havana approaching their duty time limitations, and with the aircraft needed back in Grand Cayman for subsequent flights, the airline was eventually forced to cancel (Friday's) KX833 flight, and return the aircraft to Grand Cayman without passengers."

This development has impacted Cayman Airways' schedule operations with two other flight rotations on Friday evening encountering minor delays.

Cayman Airways said passengers from Havana, who were not travelling to Jamaica but were nonetheless affected by Friday's flight cancellation are being accommodated and will travel to Grand Cayman on the next available flight.

Up to late Friday, Cayman Airways was reporting that "a formal resolution to the matter remains uncertain at this time" and it was still unclear on Satur-



day whether or not the issue was resolved."

The airline had further stated that until it receives confirmation from Jamaican Immigration authorities that passengers will be allowed to land in Jamaica when originating in Cuba with onward connections to Nicaragua, it has no choice but to restrict travel between Havana and Kingston for those passengers (with onward connections from Kingston to Nicaragua).

There has been so far no word from the Jamaica consulate in Cayman, the government in Kingston, or the Cayman Islands Government - including the Governor's Office on the reason for barring the Cuban passengers from landing in Jamaica.

This development is seen as potentially impacting Jamaica's international relations with both Cuba and Cayman..and by extension the British government.

While Cayman does have some say over aspects of international relations, this area largely falls within the purview of the Governor.

Also, the decision by the Cuban government to consequently bar any passengers - including Caymanians and Cayman residents - from boarding the Cayman Airways flight has added another dimension to the issue.

Cayman Airways said it regrets any inconvenience this situation has caused for our valued passengers.

WHITHER THE CARIBBEAN?

By Basil Springer

There has been a plethora of comments in the media following the outcome of the Barbados general election, including last week's column which evoked a few interesting responses from readers.

Of great concern are (1) periods of no opposition may pose a debilitating threat to democracy; (2) views of non-Barbados Labour Party (BLP) voters may not be voiced in parliament; and (3) the lack of formal political party training inhibits solid party growth.

The impact of all this on Caribbean leadership, financial security, life, growth and

sustainability (through workforce development) has seamlessly broadened the discussion to "Whither the Caribbean?"

Specific suggestions to mitigate the threat to democracy and give voice to non-BLP voters include (1) an election system which combines first-past-the-post with proportional representation; (2) a BLP-elected member to resign from the party and become leader of the opposition and sacrificing his/her political career as was done in 2018; and (3) for legal minds to interpret the constitution in such a way as to accommodate Prime Minister Mia Mottley's proposal to appoint opposition members of the Democratic Labour Party (DLP), the party with the next highest percentage of votes cast, to the two senate seats that are provided for the opposition in the constitution.

In the context of political party training, a female British reader who spends four months a year in Barbados, shared as follows: "I liked your article on Mia's triumph. I myself have thought for some time that the weakness in Barbadian leadership stems from the lack of people who have had

university education abroad. The first generations did, and even if it was left wing study at the London School of Economics, it gave them a world view and perspective which is now lacking. West Indians talking to each other at UWI is no substitute for getting out of their own warm bath and seeing how things operate, or fail to, in other countries.

"If I had the means and influence, I would be sponsoring scholarships in politics, governance, and economics in the U.K. and scattering this in different universities."

Last week I was interviewed by a team of Jamaican consultants who were undertaking a human resource development (HRD) audit for Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO).

I summarized my contribution by stating that that the future of the Caribbean will be secured if we nurture strong public and private sector leaders, with problem-solving skills, complemented by appropriately skilled professionals at all levels.

Prime Minister Mottley is a contemporary example of exemplary problem-solving leadership but can she design a disruptive way of representing the Caribbean globally to the mutual benefit of all Caribbean counties?

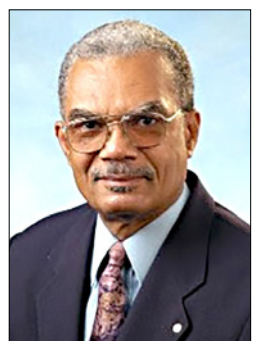
Another example of what the Caribbean must continue to produce has been articulated in the tributes to celebrate the life of my friend Jean Holder who has made significant diverse contributions to Caribbean development over many decades.

By way of a personal tribute our paths only crossed marginally at Harrison College in the 1950s. We met again in 1963 when he was in the Eastern Caribbean Commission in London. He was instrumental in arranging for my admission to the statistics department at the University of Wales (Aberystwyth), which turned out to be an excellent choice to pursue my Master's degree. Our families became friends when I was in London pursuing further studies.

Professionally, Jean engaged me as a consultant in Barbados when he headed the Caribbean Tourism Research and Development Centre, the predecessor organization to CTO.

As a family friend and professional colleague, may I offer condolences on his passing to his loved ones. May he rest in peace!

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



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

WHITHER THE CARIBBEAN?

DEMOCRACY

marketplace
EXCELLENCE

- Does absence of an opposition pose a threat to democracy?
- Non-BLP voters have no voice in parliament
- Political party training will strengthen the system
- Whither Caribbean leadership and sustainability?
- Personal tribute to a Caribbean leader

SUPPORTING LOCAL BUSINESS

The Caymanian Times continues its investigation into how Cayman businesses have been impacted by the pandemic and whether/how they hope to get back on their feet in 2022. Here, we chat with Ken Hydes, former President of Cayman Islands Tourism Association and current Chairman of the Cayman Turtle Centre, who owns Active Pursuit, a bike rental company on his adopted home island of Cayman Brac, to see how his business has weathered the storm of Covid.

Brac bike rental business feeling impact of regulations

Always a lover of the outdoors, Ken Hydes realised that he wanted to open a bike rental business on the Brac after training for a 220-mile, two-day bike ride from Ottawa to Kingston, Ontario in Canada in 2017, which saw him traverse some incredible, hilly terrain.

"I've always loved being outdoors," Ken advised. "If I can be outdoors, I'll be outdoors. I've always had an affinity with the Brac – the Brac really is Cayman's outdoors adventure playground. I trained for the Canada bike ride on the Bluff on the Brac and it was great."

And so, the idea for Active Pursuit was born, a bike rental company that also offers tours which take in the caves, beaches and general scenery of the island.

"In 2018, I decided to open up the business in a bid to help complement other outdoor activity businesses on the Brac, such as rock climbing and diving, with a view to expanding in the future to include fly fishing," Ken said. "In October 2019 we opened and our first customers was a DOT familiarisation group which kicked things off."

Ken said he was quite surprised how well the business was doing in December of that year, with profits covering expenses. Even with the shutdown of the borders in March 2020, Ken said he was fairly upbeat and could keep the operation open and staff in employment thanks to his landlord offering a grace period on his rent.

After Cayman shut its borders to tourists in March 2020, the Sister islands of Cayman Brac and Little Cayman began to see a pick-up in interest by residents of Grand Cayman, with people desperately seeking a change of scenery without actually going abroad.

"As we began opening up, we were doing OK. We didn't go back to the success of January 2020 but we certainly gained a real boost with local travel," he confirmed.

The business was even successful in attracting school trips, which saw a decent boost to the business.

"We weren't doing exceptionally great, but at least I didn't have to pay staff out of my personal salary," Ken advised, adding that he has taken no stipend or grant from government.

Downward turn

However, things were not to continue to look so upbeat once government required vaccination cards for travel.

"This really slowed the pace and was a real turning point, as others on Cayman Brac would no doubt agree," he said. "At most, we were getting just a couple of bikes rented per week."

Fast forward to latest regulations whereby travellers to and from the Sister islands must get a negative LFT to fly, and the business has been pretty much decimated.

"There is no doubt the new policy has made a big impact," Ken said. "I am not objecting to the need for regulations; however, I'm just stating how these regulations have impacted businesses like mine on the Brac."

It was normal for Ken to travel to the Brac (where he has his home, his business and is a registered voter) every weekend. Now, the thought of the disruption that might occur should he have to take an LFT and be positive when he is without symptoms, is preventing him from travelling there.

"I get the concept of life over business instead of business over life, but I think we need to take a look at how the rest of the world is dealing with Covid," he said. "There has to be a level of personal responsibility."

Ken believes Cayman must decide how it is going to get back to normality and make the transition back following global trends.

Ken notes a level of interest from customers wishing to return and use his services.

"It would really be great to get stayover tourism back on the Brac," he said, "but the current regulations are not helping. The impact of these new regulations can be seen all over the Brac. Where last year there were no rental cars available, now the car rental companies have car parks full of cars. I was at Barracudas bar and restaurant over Christmas and it was just me and the barman!"

Ken also worries that now that local residents are able to travel off island more



► Ken Hydes



► Staff at Active Pursuit have been retained



► Active Pursuit bikes ready for hire



► Ken Hydes at his Active Pursuit business on the Brac

freely, the lure of the Sister islands will fade. He hopes that interest in the Brac will not wane too much and that people will still want to visit and even live on the Brac.

"During the first part of the pandemic, the Brac saw a big upsurge in interest. People bought homes and real estate was doing really well, so it has definitely seen its ups and downs. I just want the government to understand that every action and regulation has an impact and is very real for me as a business owner," he said. "At the moment, there is definitely a level of frustration creeping in."

Health City breaks ground at new Camana Bay location

By Georgia Austin

Construction is due to begin this week on Health City Cayman Islands' 70,000 square foot medical facility located in the south of Camana Bay. The ground breaking ceremony, held on Thursday, was attended by Premier Wayne Panton, Minister for Health Sabrina Turner, Clinical Director for Health City Dr Binoy Chattuparambil, and Dart Director Jackie Doak, alongside members of Cabinet, healthcare professionals, and members of the public.

The completion of the US\$100 million hospital is scheduled to take 12 to 18 months; however, radiotherapy services will be available within nine months. The completed hospital will provide a neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) and a Cancer Care Centre with an advanced oncology unit, offering services which are currently unavailable in Cayman.

Attendees were reminded of the vision of internationally celebrated Dr Devi Shetty: "to set up the most advanced facility for cancer care, heart care, neonatal care, and organ transplant for the entire Caribbean [...] so that no Caribbean citizen needs to



► Health City Camana Bay Ground Breaking



go elsewhere for any of the advanced care."

With Health City's 110-bed East End location now the largest hospital in the Caribbean to have earned the Gold Seal of Approval from Joint

Commission International (JCI), Dr Shetty commented: "Our goal is to solidify the Cayman Islands as the best medical destination in the entire Western Hemisphere."

The hospital will be the first in the region to offer CAR-T Cell therapy, and bone marrow transplantation. Dr Chattuparambil explained that the new technology, including robotic surgery, will mean the provision of effective, precise, and less invasive cancer treatments.

Commenting on the state-of-the-art facilities, Minister Turner expressed amazement at the cutting-edge capabilities of the new hospital, noting that such high-quality facilities are often found in countries with a significantly higher GDP, not small islands such as Cayman.

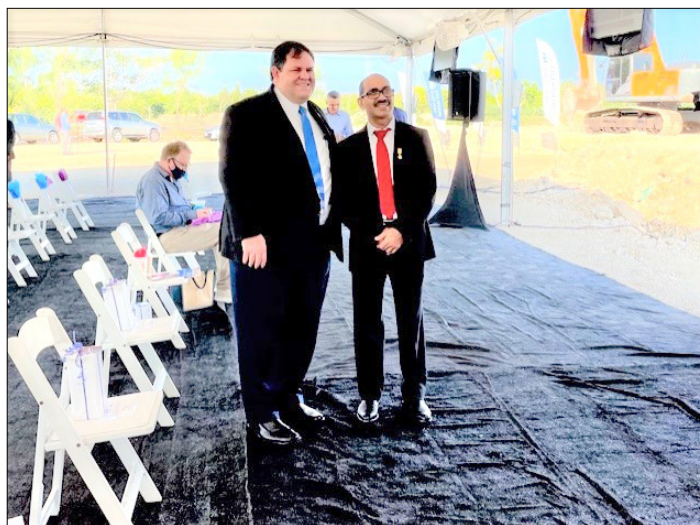
The neonatal intensive care unit was of particular significance to Minister Turner who recounted the premature birth of her son 28 years ago, whereby she was airlifted overseas to access a NICU. Alongside the trauma of leaving home and family, the added cost of overseas living caused an additional burden that affects many of Cayman's families and high-risk newborns to this day.

Dr Chattuparambil said: "Our specialised NICU will mean babies and families can stay together, at home, and focus on what is most important – positive outcomes for these new-borns."

Premier Panton welcomed the vote of confidence in his administration, whilst Health City Cayman Islands' Chief Business Officer Shomari Scott recognised the PACT government's role in the realisation of this high-end medical endeavour, stating: "This new facility demonstrates the power of partnerships between the community, government and private sector."



► Dr. Shetty's recorded speech as he was unable to travel back for the event



► Premier Wayne Panton and Clinical Director for Health City Dr Binoy Chattuparambil

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Prisons see spate of Covid cases

Thirty-one prisoners (one woman and 30 men) and 16 prison staff members currently have Covid-19, with only 60% of prisoners currently fully vaccinated with at least two doses of the vaccine. The numbers of staff who have been vaccinated are far higher, at 91.42%. Only one prisoner has had to be admitted to hospital as a result.

Official said that throughout the pandemic, Her Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison Service (HMCIPS) had made it a priority to safeguard people in custody and its management and staff continued to work tirelessly with the support of health care practitioners to reduce the impact of Covid-19 while balancing the management, safety, and security of the community.

HMCIPS Acting Director Daniel Greaves said:

"As we have seen a surge in Covid-19 positive cases in the community, it was inevitable that at some point, HMCIPS would also be impacted," he stated. "While there are a number of challenges with managing any communicable disease within an establishment such as a prison, our response has had to be fluid and evolving to match the situation. Over the last two years, we have accordingly implemented a number of measures to properly manage and safeguard our prisoners and staff."

Prisoners participate in mass testing daily to detect any positive cases, and a series of mitigation measures are in place to manage the risk of transmission, to enable

early identification of positive cases, and allow people who test positive to receive the best possible treatment, he advised.

Those who test positive are moved to an isolation wing where they have access to regular checks and care, as necessary, from the nurse(s) on-staff. The current isolation wing can safely accommodate 35 socially distant prisoners. As prisoners test negative, they are moved off the isolation unit.

Plans are already in place to safely accommodate prisoners in an additional isolation unit should the number of positive cases increase, he confirmed.

Prisoners who are categorised as low to medium risk inmates would also be kept on the isolation wing, if they are positive. At times, prisoners may need to be kept at high-risk units when there are serious internal breaches against Prison Regulations and Discipline.

Where a prisoner's symptoms require a higher level of care, the health care staff will make a recommendation for hospitalisation, working in conjunction with Public Health officials.

Prisoners with particular underlying health conditions that place them at higher risk are monitored more closely by nursing staff.

The Registered Nurse assigned to HMCIPS, Nurse Winslett Blake, confirmed that there was a continuum of medical care for prisoners which included the option of transporting them when hospitalisation was required.



► Her Majesty's Cayman Islands Prison

"Prisoners' health is something we take very seriously," she said. "In the event that a prisoner is in need of hospitalisation, they will have access to appropriate hospital facilities and medical practitioners."

To reduce interaction between the prison community and the outside community, social visits have stopped and, instead, prisoners have been encouraged to conduct virtual visits via social media to keep in touch with family and loved ones.

If a visitor requires entry to HMCIPS for any reason they must have a negative lateral flow test; masks and hand sanitisation is also required before entry to the prison. All HMCIPS staff and prisoners are required to wear masks at all times. Prisoners required to leave the premises

for attendance at court or transportation to the hospital are also LFT tested beforehand, if required.

HMCIPS staff are required to do observed LFTs daily before they enter the prison to report to work. Any staff member who tests positive is then required to comply with Public Health guidelines of confirmation testing and the required isolation period. To ensure adequate staffing of the prison, management enlists healthy personnel to work extra hours to keep the service operational. Thankfully, since the start of community spread only two staff members have required hospitalisation, both of whom have since returned to duties, the nurse advised.

A deep cleaning programme is also being utilised.

How to count days in isolation when testing positive for COVID-19

Please see below Public Health guidelines for counting the number of days in isolation when testing positive for COVID-19. These guidelines have not changed.

The day that someone tests positive for COVID-19 is considered Day 0. This includes positives by Lateral Flow Test (LFT) or by PCR.

Example 1:

Day 0 (January 1) - Person tests positive on lateral flow January 1st. Report positive result to www.explore.gov.ky

Day 1 (January 2) - Attends a LFT Confirmation PCR Testing Site and takes a PCR test.

Day 7 (January 8) - If fully vaccinated, attends Public Health PCR exit isolation testing clinic.

Day 10 (January 11) - If partially or unvaccinated, attends Public Health PCR exit isolation testing clinic.

Example 2:

Day 0 (January 1) - Person takes a PCR test. (date of collection)

Day 1 (January 2) - Receives positive PCR test result.

Day 7 (January 8) - If fully vaccinated, attends Public Health PCR exit isolation testing clinic.

Day 10 (January 11) - If partially or unvaccinated, attends Public Health PCR exit isolation testing clinic.

Isolation requirements

Vaccinated Positives

- Fully vaccinated persons who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 6 days, with a negative PCR test required on day 7 to exit isolation.

Vaccinated Contacts

- Vaccinated persons who are primary contacts of COVID-19 positive persons must conduct daily lateral flow testing for 7 days, but may continue usual activities

Unvaccinated Positives

- Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated persons who test positive for COVID-19 must isolate for 9 days, with a negative PCR test required on day 10 to exit isolation.

- Unvaccinated children (0-11) isolate based on the vaccination status of parent/guardian

Unvaccinated Contacts

- Unvaccinated persons in the household of a positive must quarantine for 10 days.

- If a primary contact is a negative, unvaccinated child (under 18 years of age), they should conduct daily lateral flow tests (LFT) for 7 days. They can attend school if daily LFT results continue to be negative

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Penny Series Tri-league Meet 2022

The first of the annual Penny Series Tri-league Swim Meets takes place on 21st and 28th January and 4th February at the Lions Aquatic Centre.

Hosted by the Stingray Swim Club, the three-day event takes place on three consecutive Fridays and will feature competition among swimmers in the 11 and over age group.

SSC partners closely with Special Olympics Cayman Islands (SOCI). SOCI swimmers train and compete with SSC swimmers and are included with the competitive team in many international competitions. This was the legacy of the

late Mrs. Penny McDowall, and with her passing in 2019, SSC has made it a core mission to continue this legacy of inclusion of SOCI swimmers as part of the SSC team.

We are very honoured to have known Penny and would like to take this opportunity to honour and memorialize Mrs. Penny McDowall and her incredible contribution to the swimming community.

The league series is a face off/battle of the 3 clubs. Each Friday, two clubs will battle against each other with the winning club getting the overall 'Penny' trophy. Each Friday will have different events with

each team allowed only 2 persons swimming in each event.

The series is meant to instil team pride, team spirit, fierce competition and camaraderie like no other competition on Island. All attributes that Ms. Penny commanded.

Rather than seeking corporate sponsorship for this series, SSC are asking for donations from Friends, Family of SSC and any members of the community who would consider supporting this event. No donation is too small!

Please do not hesitate to contact us at Stingraycorporate@gmail.com should you wish to consider donating.



Caymans Hepseba Angel returns to training camp in Ireland

Cayman boxer Hepseba Angel has returned to training camp in Ireland at coach Liam Brereton's gym. The return to camp kicks off the Cayman Islands Boxing Associations ("CIBA") agenda for 2022.

The association continues to face challenges with the ongoing pandemic and training athletes in Cayman for international competition is impossible given the Covid-19 regulations applicable to gymnasiums which, pursuant to the Control and Management of Covid-19 Regulations, currently mandate social distancing and proof of vaccination for all users, unless the gymnasium can be designated as not substantially enclosed, defined as having an aggregate area of more than fifty percent open walls. These regulations prevent current on-Island competition preparation like pad work, sparring and other methods which involve contact or breaking social distancing.

For the boxers to reach the skill and fitness levels necessary to perform and represent the country internationally, CIBA will be working to send boxers overseas to train and compete. While this is a costly ambition, the board of directors are pushing to ensure that the association continues to fulfil its mandate to promote and develop amateur boxing in the Cayman Islands.

CIBA stated that it was very grateful for the efforts being made by everyone involved in youth and amateur boxing,

including its coaches, sponsors, the Cayman Islands Government, the Olympic Committee (CIOC) and the Department of Sports. All the aforementioned organisations are working to fulfil their mandates in extremely challenging circumstances and within a constantly shifting landscape of postponed events and changing regulations at both a national and international level.

CIBA remains confident that it can continue to develop the sport and our athletes and, rather than wait for conditions to improve, to soldier on as much as possible. CIBA further noted that it had very high expectations for Hepseba who has demonstrated the commitment and determination to make it to the Commonwealth Games, and it was equally committed to organising camps for other athletes such as the youth squad, subject to their ability and willingness to travel for camps."

Hepseba will travel to Bulgaria from Ireland in February for a week of training and to compete in the 73rd International Boxing Tournament "STRANDJA". The tournament will host boxers from around the world and is an excellent opportunity for Hepseba as she prepares for the Commonwealth Games in July.

CIBA is presently working through logistics to hopefully send other boxers to Ireland to train and compete throughout the year.



► Hepseba Angel returns to training camp in Ireland

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APPLEBY REAL ESTATE TEAM CONTINUE TO DOMINATE LEGAL RANKINGS IN THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

The Appleby Cayman Real Estate team continue to prove themselves as leaders of the industry, remaining the only firm to be recognised as Band 1 in real estate in the Cayman Islands in both the Chambers Global and Legal 500 rankings.

The independent legal directories recognise the high regard for our team in the industry, and praised our expertise in large-scale development and finance projects involving residential, commercial, retail and tourism real estate. Our team's experience and excellent client service were noted, with a client commenting, "The responsiveness and display of knowledge and experience are impressive strengths that make Appleby stand out. They always provide a detailed response that is easily understood." Another source stated: "I think their main strength is having the combined reputation, knowledge and experience to be able to deal with very complex and bespoke matters."

Norman Klein, the Cayman Managing Partner and Group Head of the Property



► (L-R) Norman Klein, Adam Johnson and Tim Swallow

department has once again been ranked Band 1 by Chambers Global as well as held out as a "Leading Individual" in Legal500, praised for his "thoughtful and considered advice, as well as his encyclopedic mind for Cayman Islands property transactions." Partner Adam Johnson joins him in Band 1 of Chambers Global and has also been ranked as a "Next Gen-

eration Partner" by Legal500. Sources report that "Adam is honestly one of the most efficient, proactive and supportive lawyers I have come across," adding that he is "incredibly well versed in real estate law". Legal500 also noted Associate Tim Swallow as a key lawyer, who excels in an array of real estate law issues and handles headline deals.

Our strong reputation and global recognition is only possible because of the hard work and dedication of the entire Property team, which would not be complete without Conveyancing Manager Wendy Denman, Commercial Transactions Manager Christine Demsys, Paralegal Debbie Cowper and Legal Secretaries Sandra McLaughlin and Carla Watler.

Strong performance by RF Bank & Trust funds

At their 2022 Investor Forum on 25 January, RF Bank & Trust's David Slatter, VP of Investment Management, confirmed that two out of four of the investment bank's mutual funds significantly outperformed benchmarks in one-year returns ending in December 2021. Mr Slatter reported that the top performing fund was the RF Global Balanced Fund which had a 19.48% one-year return, 12% above benchmark.

Mr Slatter explained why he believed the funds had done so well:

"Currently the objective is not to buy indices but to use active asset manager who have a strong track record of stock picking. We think we've done a good job of selecting those managers and we think our funds will outperform the market as a whole," he said.

Positive GDP growth ahead for Cayman

Mr Slatter also spoke about the economic outlooks for the year and gave an analysis of the global market's performance over the past two years. According to his report, strong GDP performance was projected for Cayman between 2022 and 2023 supported by good fiscal policy and a robust construction sector. Similarly, the global markets are expected to have strong but slower GDP growth in 2022 with US interest rates forecasted to rise and anticipated challenges from headline inflation.



Guest speaker Steven Brod, CEO of Crystal Capital Partners, also presented during the virtual Forum, introducing upcoming private equity trends and opportunities. RF Bank & Trust, in partnership with Crystal Capital Partners, will be providing access for institutional investors to international Private Equity funds that include some well-known and established brands such as SpaceX, DoorDash and Instacart.

"Companies today are increasingly reaching \$10Bn in value pre-IPO," Mr Brod stated. "This creates an amazing opportunity for investors to gain access to these companies as private equity. A strategy many Ivy League schools such as Harvard are already taking advantage of by investing up to 30% of their portfolios."

RF Investor Forum was hosted by Jackie Cleare, RF Assistant VP of Operations and will be available on demand via the RF website: www.rfgroup.com. For more information, email marketing@rfgroup.com.





Investor Forum 2022

Private Equity Opportunities:
Investing in high quality, high growth companies

Catch up on the event highlights on-demand!

What are the global investment projections for 2022?

How can individuals and institutions take advantage of private equity as part of their 2022 investment strategy?

Find out the answers to these questions and much more in the recap of the 2022 RF Investor Forum.

Visit the website to watch today:
www.rfgroup.com



David Slatter
VP of Investments,
RF Bank & Trust



Steven Brod
CEO, Crystal Capital Partners



Hosted by:
Jackie Cleare
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POLICE NEWS

Man Arrested on suspicion of assault GBH

On Thursday, 27 January, a man, age 33 of West Bay, was arrested on suspicion of assault GBH in relation to the assault incident which took place at The Strand complex on West Bay Road on Monday, 3 January.

This arrest is related to an incident that occurred on Monday, 3 January when 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.

The suspect has been granted bail with conditions as investigations continue.

Police Investigate Stabbing Incident on Hirst Road

Shortly after 2:00AM today, 28 January, officers responded to a report of a stabbing on Hirst Road, Bodden Town, in the vicinity of Butterfly Circle. It was reported that two men at the location were involved in an altercation with each other and both had received multiple stab wounds.

Officers attended the scene and immediately located one of the men. Emergency Services attended and the man was transported to hospital for treatment for his injuries. A short time later, the second man was located and was also transported to hospital for treatment. Both men remain in hospital being treated for serious injuries.

The matter is currently under investigation and officers are appealing for anyone who may have been on Hirst Road

at about 2:00AM or earlier this morning and who may have seen either of the two men, or anyone who has any information about the incident, to contact Bodden Town CID at 947-2220.

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>.



RCIPS Reminds Public to Beware of Scams

The RCIPS Financial Crime Investigation Unit is continuing to note an increase in scams and is reminding the public of the following information for community awareness.

The scams are usually sent to recipients via messaging services such as WhatsApp or via text message. Some of the recent scams that have been reported include the following scenarios:

- Messages purporting to be from a banking institution and advising the recipient to update their banking details via an included link
- Advising of a (fictional) transaction which the recipient has not authorised and advising them to click a link to dispute or cancel the transaction
- Advising of lottery winnings from prominent brands and requesting bank

details or administrative fees to collect winnings

- Purported cryptocurrency investments that use the names of public figures to entice people to invest

If persons receive messages of this nature the RCIPS advises blocking the sender.



RCIPS Conducts Targeted Traffic Operations in Eastern Districts, 28 January

Over the past few weekends, 14 - 16 and 21 - 24 January, the RCIPS has been conducting targeted traffic operations in the Eastern Districts in response to concerns from members of the public of excessive speeding and other unsafe driving in East End and North Side, particularly during the weekend.

Over the two weekends 79 persons were prosecuted for various driving offenses. 69 persons were ticketed for speeding, while 2 persons were found to be travelling at speeds exceeding twice the speed limit, and warned for intended prosecution for dangerous driving. In addition, 3 persons were arrested for DUI; additionally, there were also persons prosecutions for careless driving, excessive tint, driving without being qualified, driving with expired registration and driving with no insurance.

"These targeted operations will continue going forward as part of our overall strategy to reduce unsafe driving behavior across the islands," says Acting Superintendent Brad Ebanks. "As the numbers show, there are many motorists who continue to speed and drive

dangerously in these areas. They should be warned that our officers are out and will prosecute them if they are caught breaking the law."

"Although the speed limit is higher in several areas in the Eastern Districts than in other parts of the island, that still does not give drivers license to exceed it excessively," says Inspector Dwayne Jones. "It is also important for persons to remember that there are several residential areas in East End and North Side and speed limits do change from time to time. Therefore, motorists should ensure they are paying attention to speed limit signs and obeying them. Doing so is for your own safety, and the safety of everyone who lives in, works in, and visits the area."



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Earthquake awareness efforts launch on anniversary of 2020 quake

Two years after the 7.7 Magnitude earthquake that rocked the Cayman Islands on 28 January 2020, Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI) is launching a social media campaign and earthquake roadshow to raise awareness of how local residents can limit the risks associated with earthquakes and tsunamis.

Recalling how residents experienced heavy shaking for over a minute, Premier and Minister for Sustainability & Climate Resiliency, the Hon. Wayne Panton said the incident prompted a number of improvements to readiness, response and recovery efforts.

“While we were fortunate that the earthquake did not cause significant damage in our community, the experience resulted in a number of lessons learned that are now incorporated in our country’s readiness, response, and recovery efforts to ensure we are continuously improving our ability as a country to respond to emergencies and disasters,” Panton said. “But being prepared is a collective responsibility and everyone in our community should have a plan in the event of an emergency and follow official guidance to stay safe. I encourage everyone to take part in the earthquake awareness events being offered by HMCI.”

HMCI Director Danielle Coleman explained that after every emergency, HMCI

carries out a comprehensive debrief to ensure an effective, efficient response.

“In the incident, we immediately triggered the radio interrupt system and disseminated safety messaging across social media and our website, but the earthquake re-emphasised the need to get alert messaging to the public as directly as possible, and in most cases that is to people’s phones,” Coleman said. “HMCI’s National Emergency Notification App - which includes SMS and e-mail alert capabilities - will be launched imminently.”

Another lesson learned from the incident was that parents are naturally inclined to go straight to schools to pick up their children after a large earthquake.

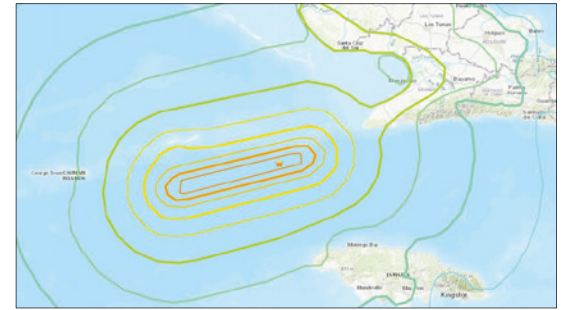
“With 53 recorded sink holes opening up, damage to some roadways and the island under a tsunami warning, it became clear that parents needed additional reassurance that children are safer remaining in place at school until after the ‘All Clear’ is issued,” explained Coleman; “As a result of our many years providing hazard presentations in local schools, the majority of children and teachers responded appropriately, but we recognised a need to reach the parents as well to emphasise the dangers of getting on the road during an emergency. We have also spent consider-

able time reviewing school earthquake and response plans and we encourage parents to familiarise themselves with these plans. During a tsunami, the safest place for your children is at school. Please wait for the ‘Tsunami All Clear’ prior to venturing out on the roads.”

The social media campaign and earthquake roadshow will focus on raising awareness of the steps residents can take to limit the risks associated with earthquakes and tsunamis. As part of the programme, HMCI is offering awareness presentations free of charge to schools, businesses, churches and civic groups. HMCI also produced an earthquake awareness film sponsored by the R3 Cayman Foundation which was screened prior to the start of films at the Camana Bay cinema; this video will be posted on the Cayman Prepared website.

“To arrange a free-of-charge earthquake and tsunami awareness presentation for your school, business, church or civic group, please reach out to HMCI directly by emailing hmci@gov.ky,” said Coleman.

In the days following the initial 7.7 Magnitude event there were a further 31 aftershocks, including a 6.1 magnitude event later in the day on 28 January 2020.



Panton attributed the minimal physical damage to the high quality of construction in the Cayman Islands but emphasised the need for continued readiness.

“That our buildings came through the events without significant damage is a testament to the quality of construction in the Cayman Islands, but we were fortunate that the epicentre of the 2020 earthquake was 80 miles away. The uncertainty of when the next emergency will strike or how it will affect our community means it is incumbent upon us all to be prepared and follow the guidance of official sources,” Panton said.

For additional information or to arrange an earthquake awareness presentation, please contact HMCI at 244-3145 or HMCI@gov.ky

COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule – JAN/FEB 2022 (v1)

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 24	25	26	27	28	29
NO CLINIC	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME O - Q (boosters)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME R - T (boosters)	PROSPECT COMMUNITY OFFICE (#33 Marina Drive) 4pm - 7pm	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME U - Z (boosters) SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 - 4pm	131 CENTRE** 1pm - 4pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME A - C (boosters)
31	FEBRUARY 1	2	3	4	5
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) SURNAME D & E (boosters)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME F - H (boosters)	NORTH SIDE HEALTH CENTRE 4pm - 6pm	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME I - L (boosters) SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 - 4pm	131 CENTRE** 1pm - 4pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME M & N (boosters)
7	8	9	10	11	12
131 CENTRE** 3pm - 7:30pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME O - Q (boosters)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME R - T (boosters)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME U - Z (boosters)	BODDEN TOWN PUBLIC BEACH 5pm - 8pm	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm - 8:30pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME A - C (boosters) SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 - 4pm	131 CENTRE** 1pm - 4pm (*131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport) SURNAME D & E (boosters)



► Steve Ndegwa shows some of the boys around the ballroom area



► Marius Slazar Director of Banquets, shows the boys around one of the Ritz-Carlton's outside dining areas

Boyz 2 Men visit the Ritz-Carlton

By Christopher Tobutt

Two yellow school busloads, one from Clifton Hunter and the other from John Gray High School, pulled up outside the beautiful fountain in front of the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. They had brought this year's cohort of Boyz 2 Men, a mentorship program aimed at helping teenage boys become young gentlemen. They were visiting the hotel for the morning to learn some important tips on fine dining etiquette, before being shown all around.

Boyz 2 Men was begun by John Gray High School Counsellor, Christopher Murray, more than ten years ago, when he felt that the boys he saw, many of them estranged from their fathers, could do with some positive male role models to help them avoid the pitfalls of negative peer pressure, as they navigate the choppy waters into successful adulthood.



► Boyz 2 Men, from John Gray High School and Clifton Hunter, along with mentors, sponsors and supporters of the program (seated in the front row)

Taking their seats in the Ballroom, they were given a presentation on the importance of etiquette by Marius Slazar, Director of Banquets, and Steve Ndegwa Food & Beverage Manager. "This is crucial. It's a training we all wish we had when we were at their age," Mr Slazar commented. "It's going to be an amazing opportunity to learn what etiquette means, and how to apply that in society moving forwards. My hope is what they will be taking from this is little things, like how to behave when they go out for dinner, and how to behave when they

have an interview, and what's important, from how to dress up, eye contact, or just by being five minutes early, that shows respect."

Mr. Ndegwa added, "We want to give them that mindset so that they feel empowered in order to know how to become a gentleman, and we are going to be showing them all the skills that need to transition for you to be a gentleman. We want to give them that mindset so that they feel empowered in order to know how to become a gentleman, and we are going to be showing them all the skills that need to transition for you to be a gentleman, so they are prepared for special dates, business meetings, important family events and job interviews.

Jerry Allen, 15, said that he had already gained much from joining Boyz 2 Men, "The entire program has showed each of us as how to excel as a man and how to grow properly, to be prepared for life as well as to have values. Having etiquette and learning different types of rules is a key," he said. Andrew Baptist, also 15, said, "I learned the different things that the Ritz has like art gallery and ballroom. I think it is impacting me by showing me that there are other things to do in Cayman other than sit around."

In the Ballroom, Jordon, 15, gave a toast with a glass of fruit punch. "We'll grow together as one. We will eventually turn from boys to men. We will get rich and come back to this place, and represent boys to men," he said.



► (L-R) Marius Slazar Director of Banquets, and Steve Ndegwa Food & Beverage Manager



► Marius Slazar shows the boys around one of the lovely bedrooms



► Jordan, 15, gives a toast to the future



► Boyz 2 Men, from John Gray High School and Clifton Hunter, gathered together in the Ritz-Carlton Ballroom

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

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

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/24

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Reduce to extreme hunger
 - 7 Forum wear
 - 11 Right away
 - 12 Spoken
 - 13 Wicker material
 - 14 Gambler's giveaway
 - 15 John of music
 - 16 Kelly's former cohost
 - 17 Mailbox part
 - 18 Like cows and sows
 - 19 Flock reply
 - 21 Take home
 - 22 Michigan city
 - 25 Sought a seat
 - 26 Hold power
 - 27 Classroom item
 - 29 Scheme
 - 33 Book parts
 - 34 Wave setting
 - 35 Land unit
 - 36 Assurances
 - 37 Bogus
- DOWN**
- 38 Turmoil
 - 39 Watch reading
 - 40 Slob's creations
 - 1 Going rates
 - 2 In any way
 - 3 Words to live by
 - 4 All told
 - 5 Checkout swipe
 - 6 Brood tender
 - 7 Clan symbol
 - 8 Pizzeria herb
 - 9 Pisa genius
 - 10 Ready to go
 - 16 Kidney-related
 - 18 Largest bone
 - 20 Stable mothers
 - 22 Pakistani port
 - 23 Servant for taverns, e.g.
 - 24 Light breezes
 - 25 Meal
 - 28 Note from the boss
 - 30 Places last
 - 31 Happened
 - 32 Comfy spots
 - 34 Reasonable
 - 36 Total

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

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			

8-14

Word Search

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

- Biblical
- Chemical
- Comical
- Conical
- Ethical
- Fiscal
- Focal
- Local
- Logical
- Lyrical
- Magical
- Medical
- Musical
- Nautical
- Optical
- Physical
- Radical
- Rascal
- Stoical
- Topical
- Typical
- Vocal

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



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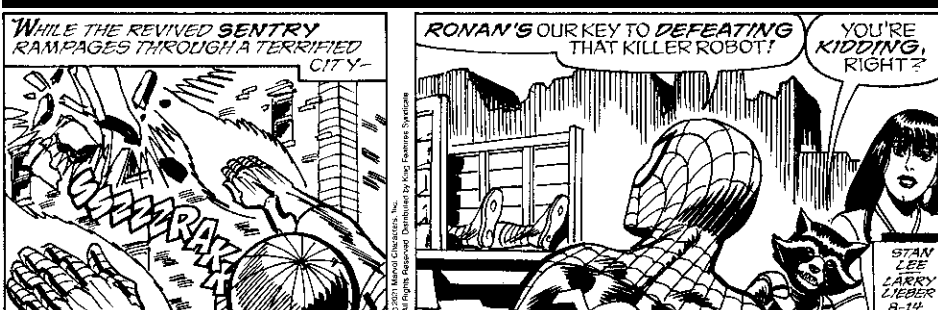
CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



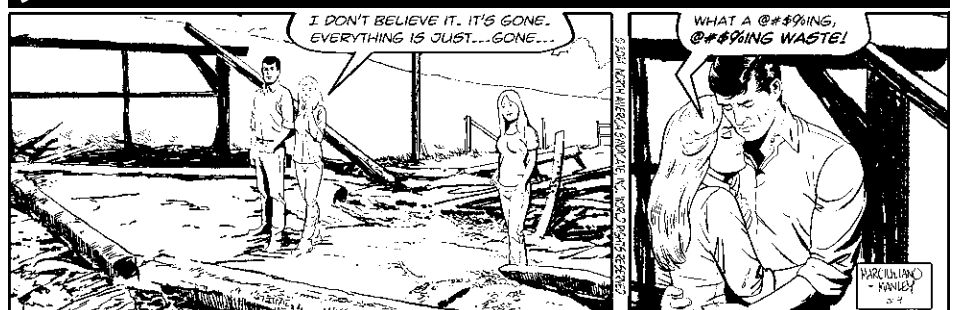
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley



Brady's supremacy can't be denied

Whether Tom Brady has officially retired or not, there can be no argument he is the greatest quarterback in NFL history and up there with players in any position.

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers ace is 44, has won seven Super Bowls in an astonishing career spanning 22 seasons and even after such a long and storied journey with absolutely nothing else to prove, he is still wavering about hanging up his helmet.

It was widely reported on Saturday evening that he had decided to retire, but his company TB12 Sports then deleted a tweet confirming the news. Brady himself made statements about owing it to his family not to put his long-term health in danger anymore.

The news was muddied by Brady's father, Tom Snr, speaking to the NFL Network, said his son had not yet "made a final decision".

Brady is a five-time Super Bowl Most Valuable Player. He won six titles with the New England Patriots before his final triumph with the Buccaneers last year.

His most recent game was a 30-27 defeat by the Los Angeles Rams in the playoffs, when his heroics narrowly failed to end with the Bucs successfully fighting back from 27-3 down.

Brady, a three-time NFL season MVP, has a year remaining on his contract and has previously talked about playing be-



► Tom Brady's achievements are unlikely to be surpassed



► Brady won seven out of 10 Super Bowls

yond his 45th birthday, which is a month before the start of next season.

Brady's decision to retire would be based on several factors, including family and health. The NFL paid tribute to Brady on Twitter with a series of #ThankYou-Tom messages.

In a statement to NFL.com, his agent Don Yee said: "I understand the advance speculation about Tom's future.

"Without getting into the accuracy or inaccuracy of what's being reported, Tom will be the only person to express his plans with complete accuracy. He knows the realities of the football business and planning calendar as well as anybody, so that should be soon."

The NFL Network reported that Brady does intend to retire but "the pushback appears to be based on timing, rather than his eventual decision".

Brady has played in 10 Super Bowls, including a miraculous comeback from 28-3 down against the Atlanta Falcons in 2017, and had a perfect 16-0 regular season with the Patriots in 2007. He won a Super Bowl in three different decades.

Asked about his future after the defeat by the Rams, Brady said: "I haven't put a lot of thought into it. We'll just take it day by day and see where we are at."

"Tom Brady should be the first player in history to be in the Hall of Fame while he's

still playing," two-time Super Bowl champion Osi Umenyiora told BBC One after Brady won his seventh ring in February 2021.

"What this man has done is almost beyond belief, almost beyond words. I cannot describe the level of difficulty, what it took for this man to do what he's done.

"What this guy is doing in the quarterback position - the hardest position to play in sports - winning over and over again... my hat's off to this guy."

Meanwhile, the LA Rams will meet the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl in Los Angeles on 13 February.

UFC champ Ngannou has a heavy heart

UFC heavyweight champ Francis Ngannou is in a fight against an opponent who never loses.

That's because he's in dispute with UFC president Dana White who has never lost when locking horns with the sports previous superstars, including Conor McGregor, Jon Jones and Georges St Pierre.

Ngannou feels unappreciated and undervalued. The Cameroonian-Frenchman is so dominant that he wants White to clear the way so he can box Tyson Fury or another big boxing star. But the UFC are not interested in giving him that kind of freedom.

More to the point, Ngannou feels as heavyweight champ he should get heavyweight earnings. Fury made \$30 million for his trilogy clash with Deontay Wilder while Ngannou made a paltry \$600,000 for his undisputed title fight with Cyril Gane at UFC 270 last month. Ngannou's fight fee is probably less than Fury's training camp expenses.

Ngannou says his days of fighting for "\$500,000 or \$600,000 are done" but White has shown no interest in breaking the notoriously measly UFC pay structure.

Compared to other sports, UFC pay their



► Francis Ngannou always overcomes his UFC challengers

elite fighters a lower percentage on their profits, but with names like social media star Jake Paul constantly digging at White to change their policy, it's more than likely he won't.

White is standing in the way of Ngannou chasing a fight with Fury and it is Paul who is agitating the situation.

Ngannou said that, ahead of his fight on Saturday, his agent, Marquel Martin, told him the UFC had sent Martin an email threatening to sue him.

The UFC allege that Martin discussed Ngannou negotiating with Nakisa Bidarian, business partner of Jake Paul, to have a boxing match while under UFC contract.

With the YouTuber-turned boxer investing in the UFC's parent company, this is a story that could run for a while yet.

Holder's four finale sinks England

Jason Holder is the toast of the West Indies after taking four wickets from the final four balls to send England to a 17-run defeat in the deciding Twenty20 and give West Indies a 3-2 series win in Barbados.

With England needing 20 from the last over, Barbadian Holder had Sam Billings, Chris Jordan and Adil Rashid caught on the leg-side boundary and then bowled Saqib Mahmood.

West Indies earlier overcame being subdued by England's spinners to take advantage of some poor death bowling in their 179-4. Royman Powell clubbed 35 not out from 17 balls and captain Ki-

eron Pollard supported with an unbeaten 41.

James Vince looked to be carrying England in the chase, but crucially top-edged Akeal Hosein to the mid-wicket boundary for 55. Left-arm spinner Hosein took a wicket in each of three successive overs, his 4-30 reducing England to 119-6.

Sam Billings kept them afloat with 41, only for Holder to give England's seamers a lesson, ending with 5-27 as the tourists were bowled out for 162.

England return to the Caribbean in March for a three-Test series, with a squad due to be named in the coming weeks.

While England ultimately lost this game by unravelling at the end of West Indies' innings, former captain Holder's achievement in becoming only the fourth man to take four wickets in four balls in a T20 international, on his home ground, was electrifying.

Curiously, both teams had 160 going into their final over, but the difference was Holder, even if he did start with a no-ball.



► Jason Holder swung the series in West Indies' favour