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WESLEY HOWELL - MAN AT WORC

By Staff Writer

Under the leadership of Chief Officer Wesley Howell, WORC (Work Opportunities and Residency Cayman) seems poised to enter a new phase of its mission to ensure that Caymanians are prepared, prioritised and placed in the jobs market.

Operating under Hon. Minister for Border Control and Labour Chris Saunders, the WORC agency is in the process of further streamlining its operations under the guidance of Mr Howell.

WORC has had its challenges in fully realising its potential since being established in 2018 by the then Progressives-led Unity government.

Accessibility and a user-friendly interface with employers and job-seekers have been among the main drawbacks of WORC.

Under the discerning oversight and capable guiding hands of experienced Chief Officer Howell - who also functions as the jurisdiction's Supervisor of Elections - WORC could be on the verge of a significant turnaround.

That was a key takeaway from Mr Howell's appearance on the first edition for 2022 of the Caymanian Times live-streamed programme, The Panel, hosted by publisher Ralph Lewis.

Also putting their extensive insights 'to work' on this issue were regular panellists Roy Bodden - a former Minister of Labour, and Mario E Ebanks, who once headed Cayman's Department of Labor and Pensions.

Adding to the pool of expertise, Caymanian Times publisher Lewis has also been prominent in establishing a pioneering jobs portal in the Cayman Islands.

Overcoming persistent technological hurdles especially with registering on the WORC site has been one of the challenges which Mr Howell said is now being addressed in line with other policy changes.



"There was a policy decision around making sure that Caymanians were the only ones that were able to see these jobs that weren't being advertised that Caymanians could apply to and the only way we could do that on a technology base is to have them registered," he outlined.

"That has presented his own issues, and it's often worked to restrict the number of persons viewing the jobs so a policy change has been made. But the technical bits are now catching up with that where the first change you'll see coming up quite shortly here is that the available jobs will be quite searchable without registering for them."

Mr Howell went on to explain the importance of the registration process saying that it's the key in that it guides decision-making on Caymanians interested in jobs being advertised and work permit requests being submitted.

"So, if there's a work permit being requested and there are qualified Caymanians interested in applying for it, then decision-makers will have the ability then to reject that application and encourage the employer to go out and hire the Caymanians to develop the local talent pool."

He also stated that the jobs pool needs to get to the point where employers are demonstrably looking for Cayman workers before selecting non-nationals.

Major ministerial policy announcements are said to be forthcoming regarding WORC, including how jobs are job advertised.

Scholarships, skills training and development were also highlighted in this edition of The Panel with sage interventions



**SPECIAL GUEST
WESLEY HOWELL**

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 3 | 8 PM | CAYMANIAN TIMES

► Chief Officer Wesley Howell, WORC

by panellist Bodden academic and former Labour minister) and Mario Ebanks a previous director of the Department of Labour and Pensions and a human resources consultant.

Bodden: "I follow the changes that are being made but one of my concerns is that we still lack a sound scientific base for our development in terms of manpower, and labour, because we have never, to my knowledge, had a proper manpower needs assessment conducted. And so, in the absence of that, how can we be precise?" he wondered.

He also suggested that labour and immigration should be separated rather than falling under the same umbrella relating to the WORC agency.

In giving an assessment of WORC, Dr Bodden said: "As former Minister of Labour myself, I am well aware of some of the challenges. I took cognizance when WORC came in and it was developed and hyped up, and I thought that that would have been more effective than it really has been."

However, he gave Chief Officer Howell his full vote of confidence in his ability to bring about the changes needed to enable WORC to live up to its potential for Caymanian workers.

Panellist Mario Ebanks, who also gave Mr Howell a 'thumbs-up' to drive the

needed improvements at WORC, called for a defined strategy to essentially "make WORC work" better.

"Unless the government sets up a vision we want to be and a strategy, the private sector is not going to go and do it on their own without direction," he suggested.

"What is the vision? What is the plan? If you have a vision, then we can work towards something. I'm concerned about Cayman as a world-class service economy. We export services, not products. But what are we doing enough to develop the critical human capital that's required to support that service economy?" Mr Ebanks wondered.

While diplomatically deflecting the political issues, Mr Howell outlined that in terms of policy and operational issues - which fall within his scope of responsibility - there is a commitment to addressing these and to strike the right balance.

"The PACT government is aligned in promoting employment as it cuts across various areas including Labour and Immigration, Tourism and Education...I know that the government is indeed interested in a joined-up approach."

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Cruise Tourism Industry in focus

A wide range of tourism industry movers and government officials came together at the Kimpton hotel, along the Seven Mile Beach in Grand Cayman on Wednesday night for a networking reception.

The evening was as an opportunity for cruise tourism partners to meet and greet Senior Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association (FCCA) Executives, led by FCCA President Michelle Paige.



► (L-R) Tourism Minister Kenneth Bryan with Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association Michelle Paige

The group was visiting the Cayman Islands for several days to discuss the timeline for the re-introduction of cruise-tourism market in Grand Cayman and the product that passengers can expect the future.

It has been nearly two years since the last cruise ship graced the George Town Harbour and between a fatigued government stipend programme, frustrated merchants and tour operators and a slowing economy, the need for the return of the industry has never been more crucial.

Though the government in Cayman has been pushing for Cayman to be the first port-of-call on voyages to the Caribbean and had high demands and expectations from the cruise industry representatives, the demands were just as high from their counterparts.

FCCA President Michelle Paige noted that while it was important to get ships back to Cayman, it was also necessary to focus on elevating the product that is being offered.

She explained that cruises have several tiers of paying passengers who are all seeking different experiences and pointed out that the Cayman Islands had much more to offer than the product that was currently on the market before the covid-19 pandemic.

'I still don't know what your culinary experience is,' she noted, adding that lots of guests want to see a more authentic Cayman experience. Cayman cannot simply hide behind the Caribbean and not show its truly amazing uniqueness and Caymanian essence.

'People want to see Cayman. They want a unique product that showcases the culinary and cultural aspects your Island. You're not just in the Caribbean, you're in the Cayman Islands' she remarked.



► Members of the Cayman Islands Government, along with Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association representatives at the Kimpton Hotel for networking reception

There is also an opportunity for Cayman to have excursions to the Sister Islands for cruise ship passengers who wish to see them during their short visits and more exclusive packages are a great selling point, according to the FCCA representatives, who referred to Cayman as being one of their best relationships.

'Cayman is the highlight of many cruisers and the re-emergence of cruise-tourism is going to be a rewarding time. We are prepared to come back as many times as necessary to make it happen and we hope to also see more Caymanians hired on ships,' noted the visiting contingent.

'We are on the cusp of a winning combo and we have had the time now to reevaluate the product, they said.

In his remarks Tourism Minister, the Honourable Kennet Bryan said he had high hopes for the beleaguered cruise industry and noted that discussions with the visiting industry partners had been extremely promising.

'Our discussions have centered largely around health and safety protocols and

how to get folks back to work in the most important pillar in our economy.

'Something like this was important to do in person and having the group from the FCCA here to look at the finer details was extremely important.'

Mr. Bryan explained that December was a learning experience, referring to the late decision to have a scheduled cruise-liner not call to Cayman as a port due to concerns around the Omicron variant of Covid-19.

He said the discussion with the group had given the government insight into how to approach Cayman's product going forward and way to capture more market share.

'For years we have been told that we need to offer a more authentic product and I think that needs to be another focus as we grow,' said the Minister, who added that a press release would be forthcoming from his Ministry regarding the plans for the immediate future that have been agreed upon conclusion of the talks with the visiting contingent from the FCCA.

A new Covid death, but positive rates easing

The Ministry of Health and Wellness reported this week that an 86-year-old had passed away from Covid-related causes on Wednesday 2 February, bringing the Covid death toll to 16. The individual was fully vaccinated and suffered from severe co-morbidities.

On the 31 January Public Health saw 132 new positive cases (although this figure is

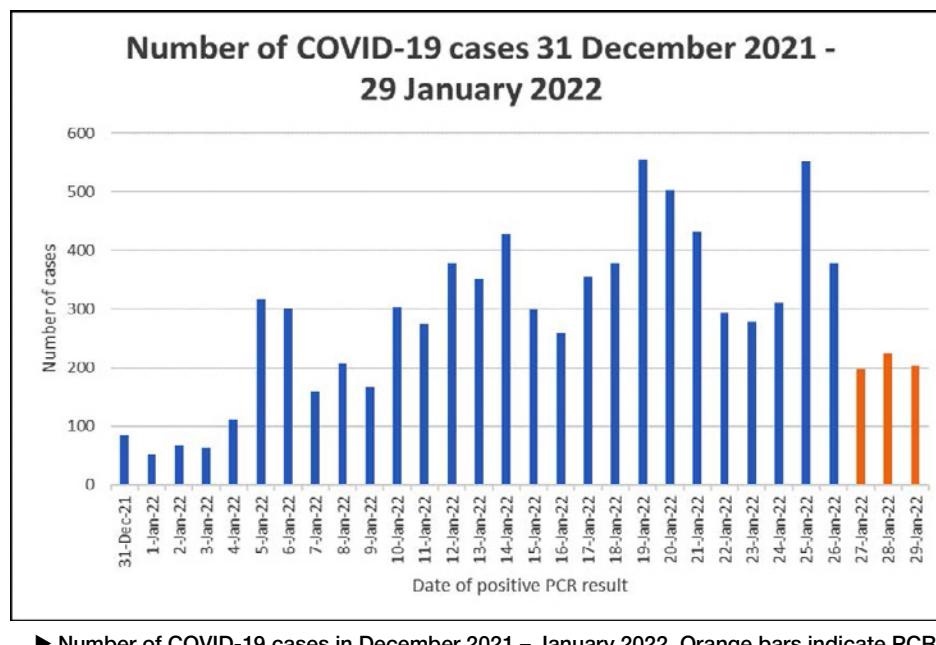
subject to change when more data becomes available), and 15 people were in hospital with Covid as of Wednesday 2 February. Two new patients were included in this figure and three had been discharged, officials said. As of the same date, eight new cases were reported on the Sister islands, which brought the number of cases the Sister Islands has had to date to 412.

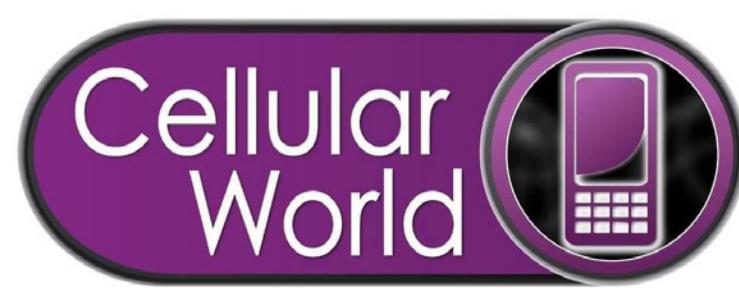
Looking back over the data from the week of 23 to 29 January, there were a total of 35 inpatients and no new deaths during that week. The majority of inpatients continued to be among unvaccinated individuals. In a positive move, 48 children, who are either immunocompromised or live in a household with an immunocompromised person, received their first vaccine on Saturday 22 January and work is in progress to finalise plans to increase local coverage of booster vaccination, they said.

As far as the local trends are concerned, officials said the number of new cases has

started to reduce, especially when compared to the two previous weeks.

For the week 23 to 29 January, Cayman had 15,934 reported cases, 4,553 of which were the Omicron variant. Health officials had conducted 7,930 PCR tests and there had been 2,146 new positive cases reported, an average of 307 per day. As of that week, there had been 35 inpatients due to Covid-related illness, with 48% of admissions having been vaccinated. There had been 21 new admissions, six were on supplemental oxygen and one was being ventilated, while four were in intensive care.





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► CBC new high-tech scanner at CBC FSI Facility



► CBC high tech scanner scans a container

Cayman's border protection enhanced with new high-tech cargo scanner

By Martha Connolly

Customs and Border Control Service (CBC) now has greater capability in intercepting contraband and undeclared items entering the country thanks to a newly installed high-tech cargo scanner at the Freight Security Initiative (FSI) location.

The scanner combines high-energy x-ray imaging with integrated equipment identification to help the relevant officers inspect cargo containers for nuclear material, weapons, hazardous material, contraband, undeclared cargo, and other items of interest.

CBC Director Charles Clifford said, "This new scanning system will enhance CBC's law enforcement capabilities and support our interdiction efforts to reduce the illicit importation of drugs, firearms, and other

weapons. It is a critical component of our overall border control strategy and is complemented by tactical physical inspections and intelligence-led risk management activities."

On average, the Cayman Islands receives approximately 20,586 containers, ranging in size from 20 feet to over 45 feet, for distribution per year. Past experience has demonstrated that non-intrusive screening of containers entering the Islands is successful at detecting undeclared goods and various contraband.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Border Control & Labour Hon. Chris Saunders said, "The Cayman Islands Government considers border security a high priority and will continue to take all necessary measures to keep our Islands safe. As a Government, we are steadfast in our com-



► MoBCL Project Lead explains scanner attributes to DP Saunders and Governor Roper



► AG Bulgin, Governor Roper, Minister Turner DP Saunders invited in to see scanner demo findings

mitment to ensuring that the Cayman Islands remains one of the safest places in the world to live, work and vacation. This project is certainly an important part of our overall strategy to achieve this objective."

The new non-intrusive cargo scanner uses low-dose radiation, which allows it to be installed without shield walls or containment structures of any kind.

Senior CBC Deputy Bruce Smith said, "This new cargo scanner allows CBC to strengthen its law enforcement capabilities by using advanced screening technology that can anticipate and detect potential threats quickly and safely. This helps us to facilitate the legitimate flow of cargo entering the country while also ensuring that our officers can carry out their duties in a safe manner."

American defense, aviation, information technology, and biomedical research com-

pany Leidos was chosen to supply the new scanner after a thorough procurement process. Leidos has over 50 years' experience in delivering critical technology solutions to a wide range of customers around the world.

Leidos Ports & Borders Vice-President George Walther-Meade said, "Leidos is excited to provide the latest technological advancements to support the Cayman Islands Government's essential mission. This effort requires screening technology that is fast, frictionless and fully integrated. We are honoured to supply our VACIS® IP6500 non-intrusive inspection system to assist the Cayman Islands Government as it increases screening on over 20,000 containers a year."

CBC officers have undergone a full operators training course to bolster the effectiveness of the system and systems testing has also been completed.

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2022 Sommelier Standoff gears up

By Lindsey Turnbull

Six years ago, the annual Sommelier Standoff idea came about as a great way to entertain people during the off season, while at the same time providing something of an education on the magic of wine pairings. Restauranter and Agua owner Walter Fajette teamed up with Sergio Serrano, Senior Wine Sales and Marketing Associate at Jacques Scott, to find a way of jazzing up the old format of more traditional wine dinners, which they found was waning somewhat in interest.

The Sommelier Stand Off competition was born.

Sergio explained the process of the event's evolution:

"We sat down and decided to do something interactive. We would pitch restaurant against restaurant, whereby Agua produces three or four courses and each sommelier (two per event) chooses the wines around 10 days ahead of the dinner after finding out exactly what the chef has in mind."

"We found that people were really engaging and having a lot of fun," Walter said of that first year's competition.

For the first year, diners were told what they were drinking; however, in the second year, the organisers thought it would be more fun to have the diners drink their wines blind, so as to really hone down as to what they thought would pair with the food without any preconceptions.

"You have two glasses in front of you per course and you don't see the bottle," Wal-



► Diners choose which wine they think pairs the best

ter advised. "You just have number one and number two and you pick which one you think goes with the dish. The idea is to try the food, have a little wine, try the food and the other wine. You are not necessarily going to vote for the wine you like the best; the idea is the one that pairs the best. We want people to vote independently. Talk with the others at your table but come up with your own idea."

"Initially people would just say: I like this wine by itself and not consider the pairing," Sergio advised.

Votes for each course are counted and the winner per course is announced. The sommeliers then come out and reveal their choices and explain why they chose the wines.

"Sometimes, to break a tie, we pick one of our Jacques Scott wines from our cellar and the sommeliers must do a blind tasting and come up with the grape, the region, and the year. Whoever is the closest wins," Walter said.

The first year was so successful they ended up doing five dinners once a month featuring eight sommeliers which then saw Fabio Sordinelli from Agua being crowned the winner.

"It was a huge success with everyone asking when we would be doing the next event," Sergio advised. "It now runs over eight months every year."

The sommeliers have a budget for all their wines. They can spend almost all of it on one wine and go cheaper on the others if they want, or spread the budget more

evenly. They have the entire portfolio of Jacques Scott to choose from.

On the day, the organisers offer guests bubbles such as Cava or Prosecco to start the evening off and on the final the bubbles are always Champagne. Mistress of ceremonies extraordinaire Vicki Wheaton compares the evening and her lively commentary has really lifted it to the next level, Sergio said.

Sommeliers come from all over and are usually new contestants each year. This latest round saw Norbert Szalay from the Westin compete against Gustavo Varela from the Marriott.

Gustavo, who comes from Costa Rica, has more than ten years' experience and began his career as a bartender at the age of 18 in a small 5-star hotel, beginning his studies as a sommelier at the age of 23 at the European School of Wine. Norbert comes from Budapest, Hungary and he has had several internships at prestigious Hungarian restaurants and hotels in Germany, Austria and Switzerland. After his graduation he went to further his knowledge and experience in the UK and New York. He moved to Cayman in 2011, and since 2014, he has been responsible for all wine purchasing at the Westin in Grand Cayman. His travels in the industry as well as his passion for wine and wine pairing led him to obtain his Sommelier degree in 2017.

Great prizes are on offer for the winner, including money for wine education from overseas wineries and also from Wine-school 3 in Cayman, as well as expensive bottles of wine and even a stay in a win-



► Diners discuss the wines

ery in South Africa by a top winemaker, Rickety Bridge. The total value of prizes is around USD\$10,000.

"And of course, there is the Sommelier Standoff trophy, too!" Sergio said.

A Master Sommelier, Gillian Balance, from Treasury Wine Estates has been invited to come and judge the final, a big deal with just over 200 people globally making it as far as a Master Sommelier level.

The third Sommelier Standoff competition takes place on 3 March, the fourth on 31 March. The first semi-final is on 26 May and the second semi-final is on 23 June. The grand final is on 21 July.

Covid limits mean that Agua is permitted to have a maximum of 100 people as an indoors event.



► Sergio Serrano and Walter Fajette



► Gustavo and Norbert



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Public Notice Annual General Meeting

The Cayman Islands Music and Entertainment Association wishes to invite current members to attend its Annual General Meeting at the George Town, Town Hall on 06 March, 2022 from 6:30pm - 8:30pm. Light refreshments will be provided.

Agenda

- Opening Prayer
- National Song
- President Report
- Treasurer Report
- Other Matters Arising

2021 – 2022 CMEA Board Elections

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Assistant Secretary
- Treasurer
- Assistant Treasurer

Fidelity Bank bought by PROVEN Investments

As of 1 February, Fidelity Bank & Trust International Limited has sold Fidelity Bank (Cayman) Limited to PROVEN Investments Limited, an entity which has its headquarters in Jamaica, and which has bought the Cayman bank through its newly formed subsidiary PROVEN Bank Holdings Limited.

A press release by Fidelity said the acquisition aligned with the Fidelity Group's strategy of finding new and engaged shareholders who have been able to demonstrate their ability to bring fresh capital and introduce fresh opportunities to its former entities.

CEO of Fidelity bank (Cayman) Limited Brett Hill, will be stepping down after almost 20 years in the role and almost 30 years with the bank. Mr Hill will be retaining links with Fidelity Bank in an advisory capacity going forward.

Gowon Bowe, Fidelity Group's CEO, said: "The due diligence performed by

PROVEN and Fidelity on one another was extensive, and the engagement over the entire process has confirmed that there is alignment in the visions for the future of Fidelity Bank (Cayman) Limited."

Fidelity said its Cayman bank's local range of services would continue to have a singular focus on core business assets in retail and corporate banking services, including chequing and savings account facilities, fixed deposits, credit cards and consumer and real estate loans. The remainder of Fidelity's local management team would remain intact with COO Richard Johnson taking over as President, subject to regulatory approval.

PROVEN also issued a press release, stating the move supported its vision of being the premier Caribbean and Latin American private equity firm with acquisitions that fits into its core banking and wealth division business model.

They said their strategy of regional growth through acquisitions in the regulated financial sector saw this transaction being finalised after its due diligence and having met Regulatory as well as all closing conditions as stipulated by the Share Purchase Agreement.

As at 30 September, 2020, Fidelity Bank (Cayman) Limited had total assets of over US\$354.1million, the release said.

Johann Heaven, Head of the PROVEN Banking and Wealth Division, said: "Fidelity Bank Cayman, with the backing of the PROVEN Group, is uniquely positioned to provide the catalyst and funding for major development and corporate projects throughout Cayman, which we believe is poised for further growth in the near future. The bank's current staff will continue to seamlessly provide a customer focused alternative that will delight our valued clients and satisfy their day-to-day banking needs."



► Head of the PROVEN Banking and Wealth Division, Johann Heaven

Covid Vaccination Schedule

COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule –FEBRUARY 2022 (v2)

The COVID-19 vaccine (dose 1 & 2) is available to ALL persons 12 years and over. Boosters (3rd Dose) at 131 Centre are available to 18+ years old and clinically vulnerable 12+ (see criteria below)*

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
31	FEBRUARY 1		2	3	4
SAVANNAH & NEWLANDS MLA OFFICE 4:30pm – 8pm (#8 Homestead Crescent, behind Wendy's)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm – 8:30pm (**131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm – 8:30pm (**131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	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)	131 CENTRE** 1pm – 4pm (**131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)
	SURNAME D & E (boosters)	SURNAME F - H (boosters)		SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 – 4pm	
7	8	9	10	11	12
131 CENTRE** 3pm – 7:30pm (**131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm – 8:30pm (**131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	131 CENTRE** 12:30pm - 4pm 5:30pm – 8:30pm (**131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)	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)	131 CENTRE** 1pm – 4pm (**131 MacLendon Drive, next to DHL, behind Foster's Airport)
				SISTER ISLANDS ASTON RUTTY CENTRE 2 – 4pm	



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

• PERSONS AGED 18 YEARS AND OVER
• CLINICALLY VULNERABLE PERSONS (12+ YEARS OLD), FOR EXAMPLE THOSE WITH:
- Diabetes
- Hypertension

- Cancer
- Heart disease
- Lung disease
- Kidney disease
- Autoimmune diseases or compromised/weakened immune system
 - Asthma
 - Down's syndrome (adults)
 - Severe mental illness
 - Pregnant women

- People on immunosuppression therapies
- People with solid organ transplants
- Other people who have also been classed as clinically extremely vulnerable, based on clinical judgement and an assessment of their needs - GPs and hospital clinicians determination

GENERAL VACCINE INFO

- When receiving your 2nd or 3rd dose, you MUST also bring along your vaccination card reflecting your previous doses
- Dose 1 & 2 are available to persons 12 years and older. Parental consent required for anyone 12 – 17 years old
- Boosters (3rd dose) are available to persons 18 and over, three months after their 2nd dose
- The date on your vaccination card for the 2nd dose is the earliest that is recommended
- All persons must present photo identification showing date of birth
- Facemask required – Please bring your own.
- Do NOT laminate your card

Most up to date schedule available at www.hsa.ky



► Nicole Pringle (Elite netball team) best shooter daughter of Pauline Bodden Trisha Dilbert

► Karen James receives the prize on behalf of Elite, winning team in Division B of the rally

Netball shooters compete at Pauline Bodden shooting competition

By Christopher Tobutt

It was a night full of fun and skill and prizes as the eight teams in the Cayman Netball Association got all ready for the official league with a shooting competition, and a rally. All Stars A won the rally in Division A, with Rising Stars second, Roma third, and Sky Angels fourth. Elite won in Division B, with Rising Stars coming second, Roma third, and All Stars B fourth.

The Pauline Bodden Shooting competition, named after one of Cayman's best-loved netball players who used to be a Cayman Islands National Team player, showcases the skills of each team's shooters by seeing how many hoops each shooter can get in just two minutes. They have to shoot from little cones, used as markers, all around the shooting circle so that the technique of shooting from different angles to the hoop is put to the test. Nicole Pringle from the Elite Netball Team received the prize for the best shooter, from Pauline Bodden's daughter, Trisha Dilbert.

Melisa Rankine loves playing with her team, Rising Stars B. "Tonight we started off with the shooting competition in memory of Miss Pauline. It shows the skills of each of the shooters in the teams. We have eight teams so it's for the shooters of each team to show their shooting skills. I like the rally because it's the first time we are actually on the court playing together as a team because the season is fresh so it's a new start and a new feel so we are just getting to know each other"

Emily is new to Cayman and because she loved playing netball before she came, she decided she would look around for a team to join. "I reached out on social media and luckily got a place with the All Stars which is something I am very grateful for," she said. "I just try and mark the shooters. it's a nice, different evening everyone comes together, it's a great community," she said.

At the end of the rally, prizes were given out. Nicole Pringle of Elite received Best Shooter prize, and representatives from the winning teams in Division A



► Rising Stars, who won the Mixed League in December

and Division B came to receive a cash prize, but each of the teams got cash prizes too, for participation. Prizes were also awarded to the winning teams of the Mixed League tournament which had taken place in December 2021. Alex Thompson won Most Valued Player award in the Mixed League.



► Elite, who came first in the rally in Division B



► Pauline Bodden Rally



CELEBRATIONS FIT FOR A QUEEN

A year-long Platinum Jubilee celebration of the reign of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II got under way in the UK this past weekend with two significant developments.

Queen Elizabeth II is the first British monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee.

On Saturday 5th February, one day before the 70th-anniversary date of her accession to the throne, she gave her approval for Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall, the

wife of her son Prince Charles, to be named as Queen Consort when he becomes king. She said in a statement that it was her "sincere wish" that Camilla would have that title. There is no indication of a date or time frame for when Prince Charles will succeed his mother on the throne.

The Queen spent the actual 70th anniversary day - Sunday 6th February - privately and quietly at the royal family's Sandringham estate. That contrasts with

the massive national celebrations planned throughout the UK and the Commonwealth to mark her 70th year on the throne. She has been inundated with greetings and well-wishes from around the world and those expected to continue well throughout the calendar of celebrations drawn up to mark the occasion.

Queen Elizabeth II who is 95 years old, began her reign aged 25 upon the death of her father, George VI, on 6 February

1952. She has said that the day is one she remembers "as much for the death of my father, King George VI, as for the start of my reign". Another sombre note to the anniversary observation is that The Queen is marking what is the most historic milestone of her reign without her husband, Prince Philip, the Duke of Edinburgh who died last year.

SEE CELEBRATIONS FIT FOR A QUEEN, Page 9





CELEBRATIONS FIT FOR A QUEEN

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

According to the official British Royal Family website, "To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June." It said the extended bank holiday will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate the historic milestone.

"There will be year-long Platinum Jubilee celebrations throughout the United Kingdom, the Commonwealth and around the world as communities come together to celebrate The Queen's historic reign," echoed a banner statement on the website.

The four days of celebrations in the UK will include public events and community activities, as well as national moments of reflection on The Queen's 70 years of



► (Photos courtesy GIS)

Parliament Special Meeting Lauds The Queen

Parliament at a special meeting on Sunday registered the warmth, fondness and continuing good wishes of the people of the Cayman Islands for Her Majesty The Queen on her 70th year of accession to the throne.

Members of the House also shared personal stories about their interaction with The Queen over the years.

Following a welcome by Speaker Hon. McKeeva Bush, His Excellency the Governor, Mr. Martyn Roper read out a Proclamation in celebration of The Queen's accession to the throne. The Premier led the salutations from Members of Parliament, which was followed by the formal opening by the Governor of an exhibit on The Queen and her family. The exhibit is to continue in the Parliament's lobby for the whole year of the local platinum jubilee celebrations.

service. In addition, uniquely British cultural themes such as The Queen's Green Canopy and the Platinum Pudding competition "will create a lasting reminder of The Queen's Jubilee," the official website said. The Queen's private estates will also join in with special Jubilee themed events offering more opportunities for members

of the public to celebrate the historic milestone.

Elaborate Platinum Jubilee celebrations are also planned (and some are already taking place) throughout the Overseas Territories, Crown Dependencies and the wider Commonwealth of independent former British colonies.



Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development Donates \$1.5 million to R3 Cayman Foundation

The Cayman Islands Government's Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development (MIISD) today announced a donation of \$1.5 million to the R3 Cayman Foundation to assist with ongoing housing repairs for vulnerable Caymanians.

The Hon. Minister André Ebanks stated that this donation, an innovative approach to urgent housing repairs, creates a valuable partnership with respect to social development between the Ministry and R3 Cayman Foundation. He explained:

"Extensive damage to a significant number of homes arose from, or was exacerbated by, Storm Grace in mid-August 2021, affecting many Caymanians who lack the financial wherewithal to fund these repairs. The high volume of 2021 outstanding housing repairs requires additional resources, and with this donation, they can be delivered through the expertise and efficiency of the voluntary sector with the aim to clear as much of the backlog as possible before the commencement of the 2022 hurricane season."



► André Ebanks, Minister of Investment, Innovation and Social Development

The Minister continued:

"Since its inception during the Covid-19 pandemic beginning in 2020, the R3 Cayman Foundation has played an integral role in addressing acute and ongoing needs in the Cayman Islands. As a non-profit entity it has demonstrated that it operates with the highest standards of professionalism and accountability. The investment of these funds is a tangible demonstration of Government's commitment to advancing social development for people in the Cayman Islands, and we are delighted that R3 Cayman Foundation shares our vision."

Eric Bush, Chief Officer of MIISD, noted that in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Grace in mid-August 2021, Government's Housing Repair Programme received hundreds of requests for homes to be repaired after severe damages. Notably, home insurance coverage is not available to cover these repairs. This programme benefitted over 40 homes since August, and in 2022 will continue to carry out this urgently needed work adjacent to the housing repairs funded through the donation to R3 Cayman Foundation.

Commenting on the Ministry's donation to R3, Bush said, "The Ministry is delighted to undertake this strategic partnership with R3 Cayman Foundation, with our mutual goals of aiding vulnerable people in the Cayman Islands and building long term resilience in our community."

The Ministry's donation to R3 Cayman Foundation will be matched by the Kenneth B. Dart Foundation, pursuant to its commitment to match third person donations up to CI\$4 million. The Ministry's contribution will be used to carry out the identified housing repairs for those who fit specific eligibility criteria - including priority given to Caymanians over age 60, disabled, vulnerable and/or low income families with children. The matched funds will be utilised by R3 Foundation to fulfill its mission and serve other social development needs throughout the community.

Bryan Hunter, Chair of R3 Cayman Foundation, noted that R3 will carry out the housing repairs programme by making an equivalent donation to Resilience Cayman, which R3 has supported in the past in relation to their food, utilities and rent support programmes.



► Bryan Hunter, Chair of R3 Cayman Foundation

He also noted that R3 has policies and procedures in place to (i) ensure that the non-profit organisations that it supports are well-run with strong financials and governance standards and (ii) ensure that it provides appropriate oversight in relation to large donations such as the one in this case.

In addition, he noted that the donation from the Cayman Islands Government to R3 Cayman Foundation builds on their already strong relationship in that R3 has in the past provided funding support to a number of the Government's initiatives and programmes that fall within R3's objectives, such as the following:

- R3 has provided funding to Hazard Management Cayman Islands to support various strategic readiness initiatives.
- R3, in partnership with the Caring for Life Foundation and an anonymous donor, has provided funding to HSA to assist them to acquire the genomic sequencing equipment that they have used to great effect during the pandemic for the detection and containment of Covid-19 variants.
- R3 has provided funding to the Department of Environment in support of their Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease Response Plan.
- R3 has provided funding to the Tourism Attraction Board to assist with repairing and rebuilding the irrigation system for the Colour Gardens in the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, which was damaged and/or destroyed by TS Grace.

Commenting on the donation from the Government, Hunter said, "R3 is pleased to accept the generous donation from the Cayman Islands Government in support of the housing repairs programme, which falls within R3's readiness and relief objectives in that its aim is to repair homes that have been damaged by a tropical storm or hurricane or to repair homes that are in such a state of disrepair that they are unlikely to withstand a future tropical cyclone. We are also delighted to provide a series of donations amounting to the \$1.5M donation to Resilience Cayman and to work with them to ensure that this programme is carried out efficiently and effectively."



#19 Walkers Road

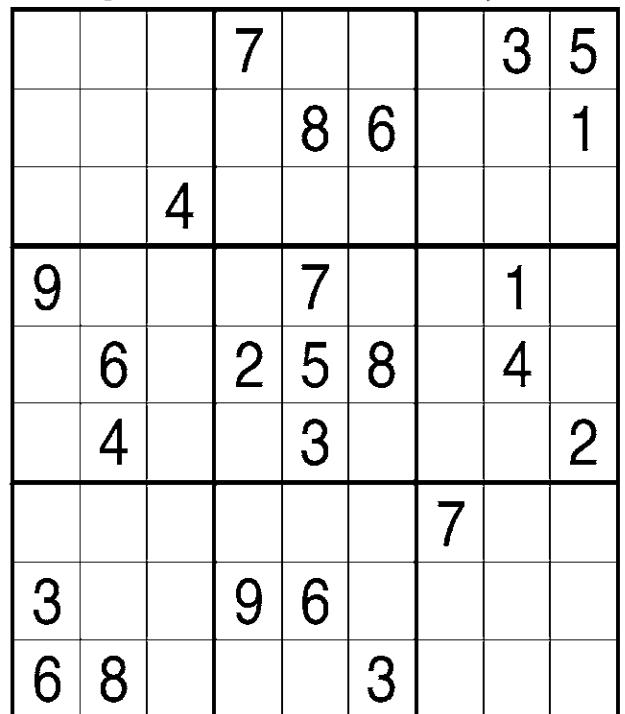
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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★★★

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4/26

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.

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 42 Hold up

1 Quick jab 43 Longings

5 Bea

Arthur series

10 Copying

12 Building wing

13 Clock setting in Illinois

15 Finish

16 Com- pletely

17 Road goo

18 Roosevelt's middle name

20 Mailed

21 Conde- scend

22 Track figures

23 Garden starters

25 Sense

28 Eye drops

31 Writer Rice

32 Certainly

34 Lupino of film

35 "— little teapot ..."

36 Distant

37 Duration of some offers

40 News item

41 City on the Rhône

DOWN

1 Walked

back and forth

2 Had its premiere

3 Begin to burn

4 Tolkien tree herder

5 Shopping spot

6 Termite's kin

7 In agreement

8 Insist on "Gracias"

9 Brings to bear

11 Farm associa- tion

14 Recharg- ing period

19 Usher's place

20 "What a pity"

24 Reply to

25 Missed the mark

26 Salad green

27 Tooth layer

29 Amend one's return

30 Mariners

33 Garb

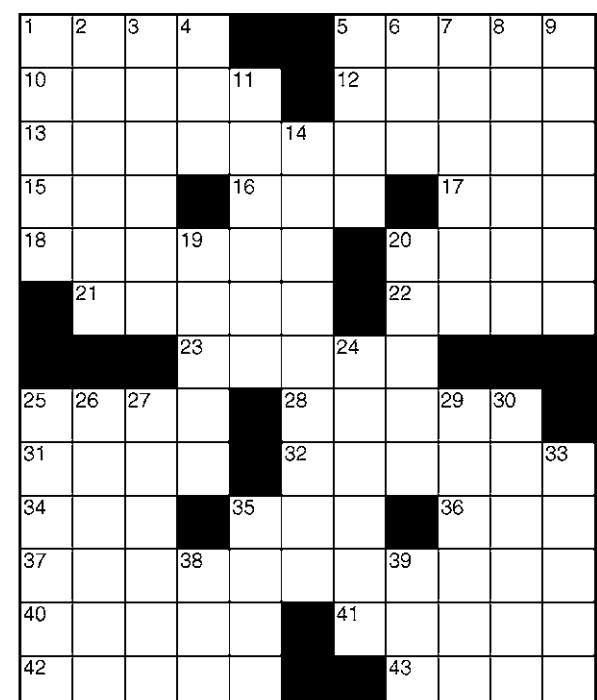
35 Tiny

38 "— pig's eye!"

39 Attempt

STAR		ATLAS
PIPE		GOOBER
ATOP		ROTATE
CARAVEL		NSA
ENTREES		DOC
	TIS	ROUT
STEEL		RENTS
LIVE	SOT	
TRA	SCARABS	
DAS	CARAMEL	
EDITOR	COLA	
SEVERE	TROT	
SEXES	SEWS	

Yesterday's answer



8-17

Word Search



Avon
Blackwater
Dart
Derwent
Dove
Evenlode
Exe
Greta
Humber
Itchen
Mersey
Otter
Ouse
Ribble

Rother
Severn
Stour
Swale
Tees
Thames
Trent
Tweed
Tyne
Usk
Wear
Wharfe
Windrush

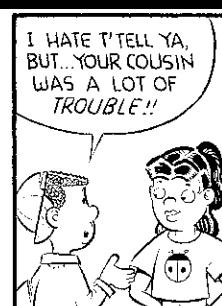
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.



Have fun with
**CAYMANIAN
TIMES**

CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



8-17

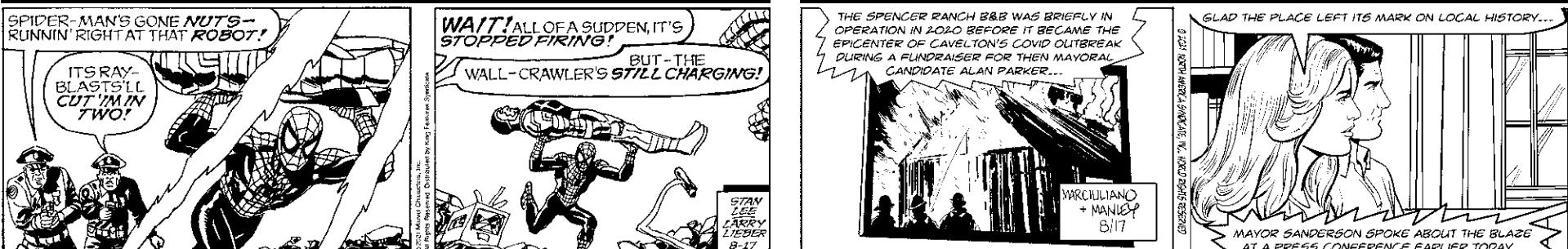
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



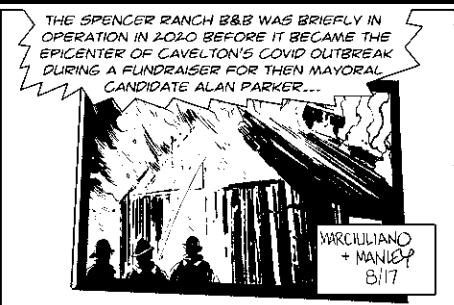
BUT - THE WALL-CRAWLER'S STILL CHARGING!

STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER B-17



JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley



GLAD THE PLACE LEFT ITS MARK ON LOCAL HISTORY...

MARCIULIANO + MANLEY B-17

MAYOR SANDERSON SPOKE ABOUT THE BLAZE AT A PRESS CONFERENCE EARLIER TODAY...

Rams lead in unlikely charge

The Los Angeles Rams meet the Cincinnati Bengals in Super Bowl 56 on Sunday. It's a matchup that almost no one expected when the 2021 season began.

The Bengals were 125-1 preseason long shots to reach the Super Bowl, having won an NFL-worst two games in 2019 and then only four games last season. They've made the quickest turnaround from worst record to the Super Bowl in league history. They Rams will now become the second consecutive team to play the Super Bowl in their home stadium after the Tampa Bay Buccaneers won Super Bowl LV last season at Raymond James Stadium.

The Bengals have never won the Super Bowl while the Rams won it in 1999 when the franchise was based in St Louis.

The winning team will get to lift the Vince Lombardi Trophy, named after NFL

coach Vince Lombardi, who led the Green Bay Packers to victories in the first two Super Bowls.

However, the Rams won't be considered the home team because that honour alternates each year between the AFC and NFC champions and this year it's the turn of the AFC winners. SoFi Stadium opened in September 2020 and has a capacity of 70,240.

This year's half-time entertainment promises to be a smash. Rappers Dr Dre, Snoop Dogg, Eminem and Kendrick Lamar will join forces with rhythm and blues singer Mary J Blige for a spectacular 12 minutes.

Rams acquired quarterback Matthew Stafford in a spring blockbuster trade with the Detroit Lions. Los Angeles paid a steep price to acquire Stafford, but the signal-caller has proven that he's worth the cost of admission.

Stafford spent the previous 12 seasons with the Lions, who made him the No. 1 overall pick in the 2009 NFL Draft. During that time, Stafford was widely considered a good quarterback stuck languishing on a bad team.

His debut Los Angeles season was fruitful, throwing for 4,886 yards and 41 touchdowns. His arm strength and willingness to throw with anticipation led to an ex-



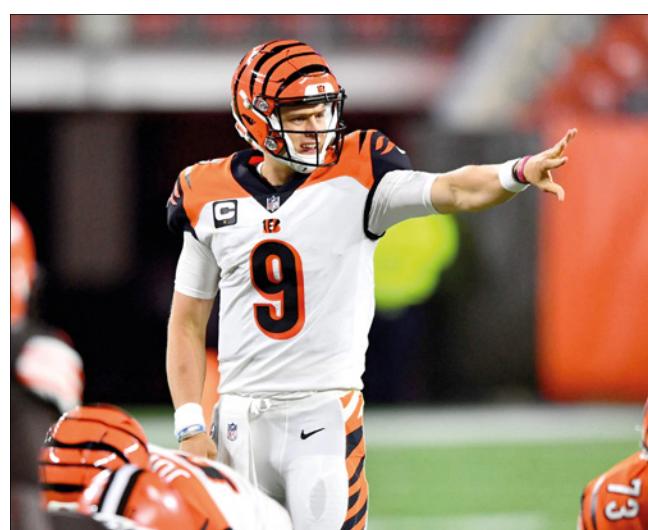
► Matthew Stafford leads the Rams charge

pansion of Los Angeles' offense, which had grown a bit stale under his predecessor. His partnership with wide receiver Cooper Kupp led to one of the most productive pass-catching seasons in NFL history. Stafford was a bit inconsistent throughout this season, though, and led the league with 17 interceptions.

The Bengals selected quarterback Joe Burrow with the No. 1 overall pick in the 2020 NFL Draft after he had come seemingly out of nowhere to put together one of the greatest college seasons of all time, which culminated in a national champion-

ship for LSU. He immediately solidified the Bengals' offense and was in the midst of a strong rookie season before tearing his ACL during the team's 10th game.

Burrow rehabbed in time for the start of the 2021 campaign. He started slowly as the team eased its way back into a pass-heavy offense throughout the year, but ultimately had a brilliant season. Burrow led the NFL in both completion percentage and yards per attempt despite being sacked a league-high 51 times, and he threw 34 touchdown passes against 14 interceptions.



► Joe Burrow is the Bengals quarterback

Adesanya promises painful repeat

Israel Adesanya has pledged to 'f*** up' Robert Whittaker again in their UFC 271 rematch, claiming that his rival's ego will draw him into another futile grappling match.

Adesanya's highly-anticipated rematch with the 'Reaper' takes place in Houston, Texas and tops a card featuring hometown favourite Derrick Lewis in the co-main event against Tai Tuivasa.

UFC middleweight champ Adesanya, 32, is a New Zealand-based Nigerian, who has only lost once in 22 UFC bouts. Kiwi Whittaker, 31, is also based in Auckland so the rivalry with Adesanya must be even more intense as they're likely to bump into each other in their home town on a regular basis. His record is 24-5.

The Antipodean rivalry takes centre stage again on Saturday, with Whittaker gunning for revenge having been dethroned by 'The Stylebender' in 2019.

Adesanya believes Whittaker will have learned from his mistakes in the first



► Israel Adesanya is the dominant UFC middleweight champ

fight but eventually will make an error and revert to type, no matter how much he has improved.

Adesanya said: "My prediction is that I am going to f*** Whittaker up, again. He can't stand with me, so I know he will be forced to grapple. Whittaker may have learnt from his mistakes from last time for maybe a round or so, but then trust me, he will revert back to those errors. Once he feels what he felt last time, he won't know where to turn."

James shows why he's king

LeBron James has his detractors but there's no denying his importance to the Los Angeles Lakers. After a five-game absence due to swelling in his left knee, James returned against the New York Knicks Saturday night and his contribution was the main reason for a 122-115 overtime victory.

James showed little signs of rust, playing 40 minutes and tallied his 103rd career triple-double with 29 points, 13 rebounds and 10 assists.

The Lakers were 21 points down at one point in the game, but their biggest comeback of the season was largely down to James and Anthony Davis who turned in another solid performance with 28 points and 17 rebounds. Malik Monk dropped 29 points of his own, including several big buckets down the stretch.

RJ Barrett led the Knicks with 36 points, eight rebounds and five assists, and Julius



► LeBron James is still a game-changing player

Randle added 32 points, 16 rebounds and seven assists for New York. Ultimately though, their combined production wasn't enough for a much needed win.

The Lakers lost four out of five games during James' absence, and they dropped down to ninth in the Western Conference standings as a result. James, 37, has been hampered by injury issues this season, but when on the floor he's been fantastic.