

T Caymanian Times

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" LET SCOTT PAVE THE WAY. "

Taking a stand against Russia's barbaric invasion of Ukraine

By UK Minister for the Overseas
Territories Rt Hon Amanda Milling MP

I was delighted to visit the Cayman Islands recently, and I was impressed by all the hard work that has gone into making Cayman a responsible and reputable financial centre working to implement the highest standards.

The Cayman Islands, along with the sister Overseas Territories and the United Kingdom, is part of a unique family that span the globe, covering nine time zones. Whilst each member of the family is distinct, we are bound together by our shared values.

Politics can often be bruising, and it is easy to take for granted the free and open societies we have established. However, events in Eastern Europe give us good reason not to be complacent, but also for us all to take a stand against Russia's barbaric invasion of Ukraine.

There is no justification for the scenes of school children huddled seeking shelter in basements from missile attacks, nor of elderly Ukrainians forced to leave behind their family homes in the freezing winter. The Ukrainian people will have been heartened to see their flag flying proudly across the Overseas Territories. The United Kingdom was one of the first countries to stand in solidarity with the people of Ukraine, something President Zelensky has recognised.

The Overseas Territories are approximately 270,000 people, control enormous swathes of ocean across the world, and have a pivotal role to play in global shipping and finance. Recently I held a call with the leaders of the Overseas Territories to listen to their views, thank



them for the principled stand they had already taken and their immediate work to ensure that sanctions against President Putin and his associates are implemented in full. This united front shown by the Overseas Territories and the United Kingdom is an excellent example of how together we are a force for good on the world stage.

To some this may feel like just another distant war, but this war of choice started by President Putin will have a profound impact on global supply chains when the cost of living has already risen sharply. Crucially, all our values are at risk if we don't take action. When this conflict is over, it will be clear who was on the right side of history. I believe the Overseas Territories should be proud of the role they have to play and principled stand they have taken.

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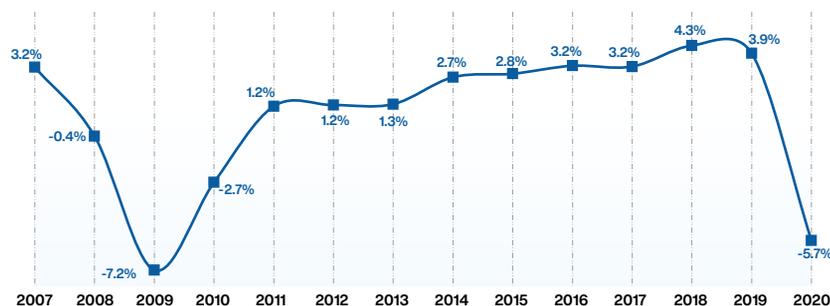


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Cayman Islands: Growth in Real GDP 2007 - 2020



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The survey runs April 11th to June 17th, 2022.

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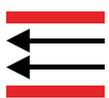
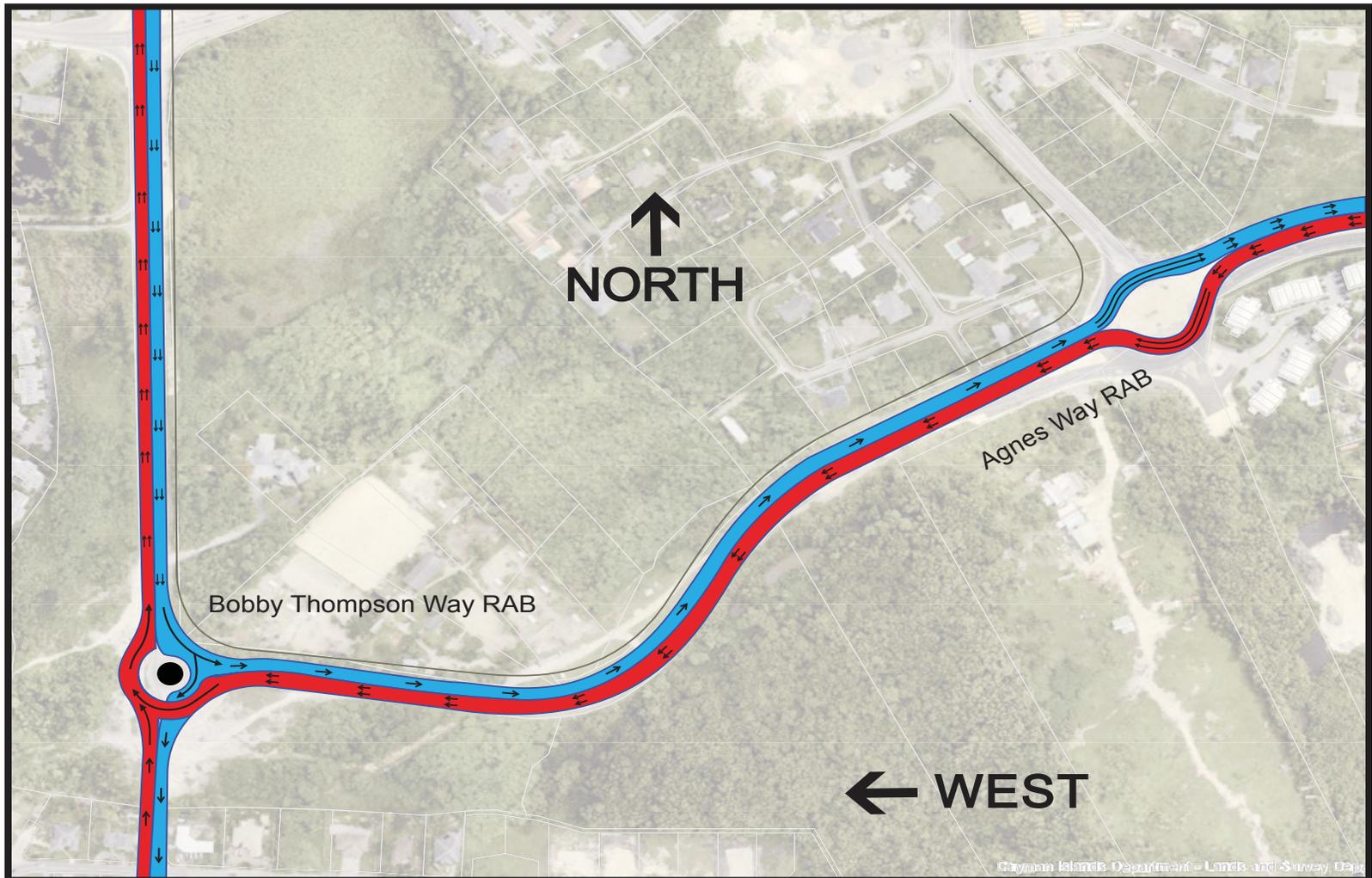
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► The Public Works Department's Construction Trades Training Programme won the award in Category 1, and the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise Covid-19 Relief Programmes team was the runner-up



► In Category 3, the Curfew Time team won, and the Family Support Unit – Child Sexual Investigation Team & Domestic Violence Team were runners up

Recognising the 2020 Team of the Year

By Christopher Tobutt

Tuesday 5th April was Cayman's answer to the Oscars – but instead of movie stars, the behind-the-scenes heroes of the civil service who had quietly seen us all safe through the darkest days of Covid 19 were being honored at the Marriott Ballroom. The Deputy Governor's Award programme, which was developed to recognise Civil Servants who exceed expectations. But instead of focusing on individuals, this time focussed on teams, because it was teamwork which made Cayman's handling of the worst pandemic in modern history the envy of the world.

35 Civil Service teams, ranging in size from under a dozen to several hundred, were nominated for each of the five categories of the award. Two or three finalist teams in each category were invited onstage to be awarded by His Excellency The Governor, Martyn Roper, and Deputy Governor, Franz Manderson, before the final presentation of the overall winner, the '2020 Team of the Year,' which went to the Department of Education Services' Continuation of Education Excellence, combined with the John A Cumber Primary School's Lunch & Grocery Delivery Team, who had gone 'above and beyond,' many times over, to make sure that children were able to

keep on learning throughout the darkest days of the pandemic. The same team had already won Category 2, 'Improving, Expanding and Enhancing Education Opportunities.'

Throughout the evening, Cayman's VIPs came forward to praise the teams. Mr. Manderson explained that often, the neat compartments of ordinary civil service 'silos' had become flexible, quickly evolving new ways of working together and showing innovation and imagination to get the job done – which meant keeping Cayman safe and saving lives. It had been a very hard job for independent team of judges, consisting of Orrett Connor, Woody Foster, Sophia Harris and Pamela Small to select finalists, let alone winners in each category.

The Public Works Department's Construction Trades Training Programme won the award in Category 1, 'Building a Strong Economy and Achieving Employment Opportunities for Caymanians,' and the Micro, Small & Medium Enterprise Covid-19 Relief Programmes team was the runner-up. In Category 3, 'Reducing Crime and the Fear of Crime, the Curfew Time team won, with the Family Support Unit – Child Sexual Investigation Team & Domestic Violence Team were the runners-up. In Category 4, 'Promoting and Protecting the



► Deputy Governor's Team of the Year, the combined teams of the Department of Education Services' Continuation of Education Excellence, combined with the John A Cumber Primary School's Lunch & Grocery Delivery Team

Health and Welfare of our People, Communities or Environment, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) won the award, while Bring 'Um Home/Travel Time/Travel Cayman, and the Department of Environmental Health's Solid Waste Unit Response Team being runners-up. In Cat-

egory 5, 'Continuity of Public Services and Good Governance, the Lands and Survey Ain't No Stopping Us/ Lands and Survey Covid-2019 'Continuity Challenge Team' won the award, while the General Registry Department 'Manual Applications Team,' were runner-up.



► In Category 4, 'Promoting and Protecting the Health and Welfare of our People, Communities or Environment, the National Emergency Operations Centre (NEOC) won the award. Bring 'Um Home/Travel Time/Travel Cayman, and the Department of Environmental Health's Solid Waste Unit Response Team being runners-up



► In Category 5, 'Continuity of Public Services and Good Governance, the Lands and Survey Ain't No Stopping Us/ Lands and Survey Covid-2019 'Continuity Challenge Team' won the award, with the General Registry Department 'Manual Applications Team,' as runner-up

Camana Bay becoming Cayman's banking hub

Butterfield's announcement this week that it would be consolidating its Camana Bay and Governors Square operations, with plans to expand the physical footprint of the Camana Bay Banking Centre, has put the spotlight firmly on Camana Bay as the new banking hub for the Cayman Islands. Their Governors Square Banking Centre, which is currently closed, will now not reopen, they advised.

Mike McWatt, Managing Director of Butterfield in Cayman, said that with growth at Camana Bay, they had made a strategic decision to focus on and expand their presence there to benefit clients. Staff previously at Governors Square had already been redeployed and they would be increasing their client service team at their Camana Bay Banking Centre.

Butterfield opened its Camana Bay branch in early 2020 and services its clients there with a full suite of banking services, in addition to designated meeting spaces for appointments with the investment, corporate banking, lending and trust teams.



But they were not the first retail bank to head to Cayman's new town. In January 2008, Cayman National Bank became the first to open a branch in this blossoming new town. At that time, the then CNB President Ormond Williams said they opened to give their clients a more convenient banking experience by opening at this location, outside of the busy George Town capital, a location which had traditionally been the centre for banking in Cayman. Indeed, it was in George Town that banks such as Barclays and Bank of Nova Scotia first opened more than half a century ago, kick-starting Cayman's phenomenal rise as one of the most important offshore financial services hubs in the world.

In 2018, Scotiabank also decided that Camana Bay should be the focus for their Cayman operations, moving its Cayman Islands main branch to 18 Forum Lane in Camana Bay. At the time, Scotiabank created a new digital branch facility called Scotia Centre which occupies approximately 19,000 square feet of space over two floors. At the opening of their new centre, the Managing Director of Scotiabank & Trust (Cayman) Ltd, Dwight Burrows, said that Camana Bay provided a number of benefits for both their staff and customers. The new branch provided a central location, free and accessible parking and modern facilities in close proximity to necessary amenities, he confirmed.

The expansion of Cayman's retail banks at this central location is a reflection of the increasing importance residents place on Camana Bay as its business community diversifies away from the capital.



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► Perry, the Commonwealth Games Mascot, was busy giving high-fives to the children from North Side's Edna Moyle Primary School who had come to see the baton at the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park



► Cayman's National Cyclist, Nathaniel Forbes, who will be representing Cayman in the 2022 Commonwealth Games, rides up the driveway to Health City

Queen's baton tours Cayman

By Christopher Tobutt

The Queen's Baton, which will be used to officially open the Commonwealth Games in July, was proudly taken all around Grand Cayman on 12 and 13 of April. The baton arrived at the Government Administration building, amid much ceremonial splendor, before moving on to Heroes square. From there it was taken all around Grand Cayman, stopping briefly at various landmarks, letting people hood it and see it up close. The baton is currently on a 294-day journey to reach all 72 Commonwealth countries, as is part of a long-standing tradition surrounding the games. Its tour was organized by the Cayman Islands Com-

monwealth Games Association and the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee.

The baton is very special, and contains a tiny camera so that its journey can be recorded, and there is a platinum strand which spans the length of the baton in recognition of Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Year, which marks the 70th anniversary of her accession to the throne in 1952.

In George Town the baton was escorted to the HSA offices, and from there it went to Miss Lassie's House in South Sound, before being transported all the way to the Theoline L. McCoy Primary School in Bodden Town. From there it was taken to Bodden Town Beach, where a group from Cayman Islands Cycling Association including



► Shomari Scott holds the Queen's Baton in front of the entrance to Health City, where the health care workers got the chance to hold it



► Tiffany Cole, who is hoping to be able to represent Cayman in the 800m Track and Field, at the Commonwealth Games



► National Cyclist, Nathaniel Forbes, holding the Queen's Baton at Bodden Town Beach

Cayman's national cyclist Nathaniel Forbes, who will be representing Cayman in the games, got to hold it. It was going to be cycled all the way to Health City in East End, but, because things had got a bit behind-schedule, the cyclists were given a little help along the road, before cycling up the Drive to Health City where it was presented to Health City's Hospital Marketing Director Shomari Scott. "I am also in a privileged position, one being a former National basketball player many moons ago, and also going to the Olympic youth camp in 1996, and so it is a pleasure to be able to get the baton, and carry it from where we are currently situated to the front of the hospital." Mr. Scott said, before running with it all the way up to the front of the hospital, where health care workers got to hold it and take photos of each other with it. "its important for us to be able to share this with you all," said Shakeina Bush, Senior Administrative officer at the Cayman Islands Olympic Committee and Commonwealth Games Association. She

praised all the healthcare workers gathered in the hospital entrance, taking photos with the baton. "The baton is actually a camera that is streaming live right now," she told them, "The strap around it actually contains a GPS monitor as well as a heartbeat monitor, so that everyone who touches the baton actually becomes the pulse of the world."

The next day, the baton was relayed up to the Queen Elizabeth II Botanic Park, where a selection of Cayman's athletes got to hold it. Tiffany Cole, who is hoping she might be able to go to the commonwealth games, and represent Cayman in the 800 meters for track and field, although she is still not sure, she said. John Lawrus General Manager of the Botanic Park said, "I am very pleased to be able to participate in the Queens Baton passing through. Its very fitting that it stops here on this wondrous occasion," he said. Some of the young students from the Edna Moyle Primary School started giving 'Perry' the Commonwealth Games' Mascot, high-fives.

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COMMUNITY NOTICES

Deputy Governor's 5K Challenge Grand Cayman



The DG's 5K Challenge hits Grand Cayman on Sunday, 24 April, to raise funds for the Cayman Islands Cancer Society, MS Foundation of the Cayman Islands and the Alzheimer's and Dementia Association of the Cayman Islands.

Registration fee: \$25 for adults 18 and over and \$10 for children 17 and under. Register online at racecaribbean.net and pick up your event packet at the Government Admin. Building on Thursday or Friday, 21-22 April, 9:00AM to 6:00PM.

All COVID-19 protocols will be observed for this event, including a limit on in-person participation on the official route. So, register early, and do an LFT test before leaving home on race day.

You can also support the DG's 5K within your community. Just purchase your DG's 5K 2022 shirt on 21-22 April at the Government Admin. Building, do the walk/run any-time that weekend and share your photos on social media using #DG5kChallenge.

New Location of Sunrise Adult Training Centre



After nearly two decades at its previous location, Sunrise Adult Training Centre has now been re-located to Eden House in George Town.

At an official opening on Wednesday evening, 13 April 2022, the Hon. André Ebanks, Minister for Social Development, was joined by the Hon. Deputy Premier Chris Saunders, Parliamentary Secretary for Social Development Heather Bodden, numerous staff and clients of Sun-

SEE SUNRISE ADULT TRAINING CENTRE, Page 8



We're looking for students for our Summer Programmes

CUC is now accepting applications for its **Summer Internship and Vocational Programmes** for students with a keen interest and who are seeking to pursue a career in Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics (STEM) or related fields that CUC supports (Finance, Customer Service, Engineering, Electrical Maintenance, System Operations, Production Maintenance, Transmission & Distribution Planning and Operations, Fleet Services, Human Resources, Information Technology, Occupational Safety, Health and the Environment and Corporate Governance).

Internship Programme

- Applicants must be:
- ▶ 18 years of age or older;
 - ▶ enrolled in tertiary (post-secondary) education;
 - ▶ Caymanian or hold Caymanian Status;
 - ▶ involved in school and/or volunteer activities.

Vocational Programme

- Applicants must be:
- ▶ between 15 and 18 years of age;
 - ▶ enrolled in secondary education;
 - ▶ Caymanian or hold Caymanian Status;
 - ▶ involved in school and/or volunteer activities.

During the summer, students will have an opportunity to gain hands-on work experience with seasoned professionals and further develop skills in relevant fields, which will benefit their studies and a possible future career with CUC.

Interested students are encouraged to visit CUC's website at www.cuc-cayman.com, click on the "Careers" tab on the home page, click on "Job Opportunities", scroll down and click on "Summer Internship & Vocational Programmes", complete the form and follow the instructions. Applications must be submitted not later than **Friday, May 6, 2022**. *Hard copies will not be accepted.*

For more information on our summer student programmes, please contact CUC's Human Resources & Employee Development Department via e-mail at careers@cuc.ky.



PACT committed to reducing traffic congestion from Grand Cayman's Eastern Districts

The Government reaffirms its intent to proceed with the East West Arterial Road on Grand Cayman to help reduce traffic to and from the Eastern Districts, as this issue remains a top PACT priority.

The elected Government realizes that traffic congestion negatively impacts the quality of life for thousands of Caymanians each week day. The Government has already made substantial progress with road works to relieve bottle necks at the Grand Harbour roundabout, and works have commenced to expand the number of lanes on the Linford Pierson Highway from the Agnes Way roundabout to Bobby Thompson Way and Smith Road.

"Expanding the roads' infrastructure is necessary and long overdue, and we are committed to completing the East West Arterial Road as soon as possible to improve the quality of life for thousands of Caymanians who live in the Eastern Districts," said Premier Hon. G. Wayne Panton.

"As we have said before, we intend to take a holistic approach and a

long-term view to traffic and ground transportation. Improving our roads infrastructure where strategically necessary, transforming our system of public transport, reducing the number of cars imported each month and encouraging new behaviours such as car-pooling and increased use of buses, are all part of the bigger picture," he said.

Minister of Infrastructure Hon. Jay Ebanks said that work is progressing well on the East-West Arterial with work done on phase one from Hirst Road to east of Woodland Drive.

"Simultaneously, we are working through the Environment Impact Assessment process for phase two, which will inform the design and construction from Woodland Drive to Frank Sound Road," he said. "I want to thank the Ministry and the National Roads Authority team for the diligence they have shown in moving this important and well-needed project forward, as well as the PACT Government for its full support."



Figure 1. Proposed road alignment, Section 1 is under construction and the EIA development is Section 2 and 3.

Stipend data breach acknowledged

The Ministry of Border Control & Labour acknowledges that a data breach occurred on Tuesday, 12 April between approximately 9:32am and 9:44am. A mass email sent to 3,329 individuals receiving the displaced tourism workers stipend to notify them of this month's payment date inadvertently displayed the email addresses of all recipients.

The breach was due to human error and the Ministry has reported the matter to the Office of the Ombudsman. An apology was sent to all email recipients advising them of the breach and notifying them that the Ministry is making procedural changes to avoid such situations in the future.



New Location of Sunrise Adult Training Centre

CONTINUED FROM Page 7

rise, as well as staff from the Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development, to participate in an opening ceremony for this new location. The ceremony was designed purposefully for all to participate, including a moving rendition of the Cayman Islands national song using Makaton signs.

"The interim premises for Sunrise Adult Training Centre are one step forward in Government's ambitious plan to reform and modernise social development in the Cayman Islands - and to leave no one behind," said the Honourable Minister.

"The new premises embody Government's commitment to our community, in the form of a tangible investment in physical infrastructure and a central location that dramatically will improve Sunrise's offerings for current clientele while expanding its capacity to enroll more clients. I commend the Ministry and all involved in this relocation, including the numerous donations that came from the community. I look forward to supporting the next initiative, which is to create a permanent and bespoke location for Sunrise," he added.

Sunrise clients are adults over age 18 who have a broad range of special needs.

By providing vocational training, therapeutic services, case management services and a recreational day programme, the Centre aims to enable all of its clients to become empowered, productive and fully included members of the community. Currently, the Centre supports 35 clients in its day programme, and 23 clients who work in paid employment in the community (see press release link below for a range of testimonials from employers). There are 22 members of staff. This year, Sunrise is celebrating its 35th year in operation.

In May 2021, Sunrise was assigned to the Cayman Islands Government's Ministry of Investment, Innovation and Social Development.

Kim Voaden, Director of Sunrise, said "Our interim location at Eden House is an important and notable juncture in the development of Sunrise Adult Training Centre. In aid of achieving the best possible outcomes for our clients, this central location enables us better to serve them and for them to benefit from the numerous programs and services that we offer. We look forward to working collaboratively with Minister Ebanks, the Ministry and the community to create a permanent home for Sunrise."

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► They took it in turns to tell their mothers how much they loved them



► Joanne Lawson receives a presentation from Boyz2Men founder, Christopher Murray

Boys 2 Men night of fine dining at the Ritz-Carlton

By Christopher Tobutt

Courtly behavior was the order of the evening as the Ritz-Carlton ballroom was filled with 62 young gentlemen of Boyz2Men, a mentorship program begun by school counsellor Christopher Murray more than a decade ago. Since beginning with just three boys, the intake of 15 and 16 year olds has grown steadily, year by year, and now embraces students from both John Gray and Clifton Hunter high schools. The program helps the boys navigate the choppy waters of life into manhood, or, more accurately, gentleman-hood.

The night of fine dining is the highlight of the year and a chance to put all that the young gentlemen have learned throughout the year into action, as each of them escorted their mothers into the hotel along a red carpet, making them feel ex-

tra-special. Inside, the young gentlemen presented their mothers with a red rose, and each told them how much they loved and appreciated them. There was a musical treat, as five of the Boyz2Men Choral took to the stage to serenade their mothers with adaptations from Motown classics, including the "My Mom," instead of the Temptations' "My Girl."

Lesley-Ann Ricketts was MC for the evening, introduced several VIPs who had come to help the boys celebrate their moms. Premier, Hon. Wayne Panton said, "This evening is about all of you, all you wonderful young gentlemen, and the wonderful mothers you have. It has been very touching so far to hear some of the young men expressing their love, expressing their support, expressing their care for their mothers," he said, "I am 57 years old, but I always try to tell my mother how much I love her."

"While you can't choose where you come from, you can certainly choose where you are going," Mr. Panton continued. "My colleagues in government believe in you, and the Minister of Education is 1000 percent behind you. The entire community is behind you. We are here to help you become the best versions of yourself."

Education Minister Juliana O'Connor-Connelly praised the young men for expressing their love for their mothers publically, "As Caribbean People often find it difficult to say, 'I love you,' in public," she said. "To come into a very wonderful environment such as the Ritz and sit down and go through the correct etiquette, to have table conversations, and in front of all their peers, to say 'mom, I love you,' and so if you see a tear here and there, never mind, real men still do cry. I just want to say how the support from the ministry

of education, because when you invest in your young people, it's an investment that brings in dividends not just to the family unit, but because we are a government whose mandate says 'community builds country,' we are building our communities...to make the best country imaginable."

There were several presentations from Boyz2Men board members to people who had helped make the evening possible, including a presentation to Joanne Lawson of Dart Enterprises. Her husband, Anthony Lawson, gave the keynote address. Drawing on his own experience of growing up in difficult circumstances, he encouraged the young gentlemen in their journey. "When you make good choices, life gets better. Choose to be honest, choose to be responsible, and ask for help when you need it," he said.

ReGen project gets financial close approval

The Cayman Islands Cabinet recently approved an extension to the financial close deadline and long-stop date for project agreement negotiations between the Cayman Islands Government and Dart for

While the project agreement was signed by the previous Government administration in March 2021, moving from commercial close to financial close involves satisfying a long list of contract terms and conditions.

The deadline to obtain financial close is now no later than 31 October 2022. The long-stop date will be no later than 31 January 2023, three months after the proposed financial close date. A long-stop date is an established practice in contract negotiations; if the necessary conditions have not been completed by this date, the agreement is either automatically terminated or one of the parties has the right to withdraw.

In February 2022, the Office of the Auditor General Cayman Islands confirmed it was undertaking an audit review of the contract. The Governor's Office has also committed to requesting a further review of the financials through the Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office; this additional review is not anticipated to impact project timing.

the development of ReGen, Cayman's Energy and Recycling Centre.

Responsibility for the project was transitioned to the newly established Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency in October 2021. Since then, Premier and Minister of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency, Hon. G. Wayne Panton says his administration has been working to better understand how the project has changed since the deal was announced five years ago and ensure it continues to meet the country's needs.

"In order to meet our national sustainability and infrastructure objectives, delivering a financially viable, long-term solution for solid waste management is a key priority for the Cayman Islands Government. We cannot continue to rely on landfilling as the primary method for dealing with our trash," Panton said. "I'm pleased to announce Cabinet has approved a new financial close date and long-stop date to proceed with delivery of the ReGen project in partnership with Dart."

A key concern for the Premier was ensuring the Sister Islands' landfill sites are addressed.

"For ReGen to benefit everyone in the Cayman Islands, it's important to ensure plans are in place to provide sustainable waste management for Cayman Brac and Little Cayman," he said.

Dart President Development Delivery & Infrastructure Cameron Graham said Dart is committed to delivering the ReGen



► Aerial view remediation of George Town Landfill

project and achieving the sustainability benefits associated with a modern energy recovery and recycling centre.

"Cabinet's decision means we can restart work on the Environmental Impact Assessment for the ReGen project and progress important negotiations to achieve financial close by the new deadline," Graham said. "We look forward to moving the project forward in partnership with the Cayman Islands Government. A cleaner, greener Cayman Islands benefits us all."

Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Chief Officer Jennifer Ahearn said ReGen will deliver a number of environmental, social and economic benefits for the country.

"Once complete, the ReGen facilities will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contribute to our national renewable energy tar-

get, improve recycling performance and divert up to 95% of our waste from being landfilled, contributing significantly to our efforts to cultivate a lasting legacy of sustainability in the Cayman Islands," Ahearn said. "Next steps are for the Government team to report back to Cabinet as soon as possible on the policy decisions and directives that will be required to achieve financial close. Over the next six months, the team will provide regular updates to Cabinet on the negotiations."

Even with this update, Panton noted it will still be several years before the new infrastructure is up and running. The project timeline now estimates the energy recovery facility will be commissioned in 2026.

"In the interim, preserving space at the existing landfill through waste reduction will be a top priority for the joint project team," he said.

CIMA Appoints New Deputy Head of the Anti-Money Laundering Division

Mrs. Megan Powell was promoted to Deputy Head of the Anti-Money Laundering Division on 1 April 2022, having served as the division's Chief Analyst since November 2019.

In her new position, Mrs. Powell will support the Head of the Anti-Money Laundering Division in the day-to-day management and oversight of the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority's ("CIMA") risk-based Anti-Money Laundering and Counter Financing Terrorism supervision. She is also responsible for co-managing the ongoing monitoring of licensees and registrants, as well as enforcement matters.

Mrs. Powell's career at CIMA first began in May 2017 as a Senior Analyst in the Fiduciary Services Division. Previously, she worked at an international asset recovery firm assisting with fraud investigations, cross-border insolvency cases and restructuring engagements.

She holds a Master of International Business from Florida International University and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Accounting (Magna Cum Laude) from the University College of the Cayman Islands. She earned the Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialist and



Certified Fraud Examiner designations in 2019 and 2014, respectively.

CIMA Managing Director, Mrs. Cindy Scotland said, "It brings me great pleasure to announce a top promotion of another young Caymanian. Throughout her years at CIMA, Megan has continually demonstrated her commitment to the team and has successfully progressed through the ranks. During this time, she has gained valuable knowledge and skills that I am confident will allow her to succeed in her new role. Her promotion is deserved recognition of her hard work and the value she brings to CIMA."

New Deputy Head of Investments Supervision Division Appointed

The Cayman Islands Monetary Authority ("CIMA") is pleased to announce the promotion of Mrs. Gaone Dube from Chief Analyst to Deputy Head Investments Supervision Division, effective 1 January 2022.

Mrs. Dube is a Fellow Chartered Accountant, holding the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants designation. Additionally, she is a member of several organisations including the Cayman Islands Institute of Professional Accountants and 100 Women in Finance.

Mrs. Dube has over 19 years of experience in the Cayman Islands' financial services industry. Prior to joining CIMA in 2018, she held a position at an audit firm before becoming the Deputy Head of the Fund Division at a leading fund administrator.

In her new role, Mrs. Dube will work closely with the Head of the Investments Supervision Division, Ms. Heather Smith in the authorisation and supervision of regulated hedge funds, private funds and fund administrators.

"We are thrilled to have Mrs. Dube take on the position of Deputy Head in the Investments Supervision Division. Mrs. Dube is a diligent worker



who readily shares her knowledge with her colleagues. I am confident that the regulatory experience and skillset she has developed during her experience in the financial services industry will enable her to positively contribute to the division from this new position," said CIMA Managing Director, Mrs. Cindy Scotland.

Restrictions lifted on cruise numbers

As from Easter Monday, 18 April, Cayman moves to Phase II of its Covid regulations on cruise tourism, which will see the Islands lift the restrictions on the number of cruise ships able to visit, a move back to pre-pandemic times.

The Tourism Ministry said Cayman could comfortably move to Phase II of government's policy on dealing with cruise ship visits because there had not been any major spikes in Covid-19 cases since cruise ships were reintroduced to the Cayman Islands on 21 March of this year.

Phase II will take effect from Monday 18 April and will continue until the Long Term Cruise Tourism Strategy is completed, before the end of the year, they said. Now that the restrictions on the number of ships visiting Cayman have been removed, ships will now revert to the normal process of liaising with the Port Authority Cayman Islands for approval to dock, rather than going through the Ministry of Tourism, as was the case for Phase I.

The Ministry said that all health protocols from Phase I would remain in place for Phase II. These include the requirements for all cruise passengers and crew to be fully vaccinated in order to disembark the ship in Grand Cayman. Children under 12 will continue to assume the vaccination status of their parents, and no-one who tests positive will be allowed to disembark the ship, whether they are symptomatic or not.

Chief Medical Officer of Health (Interim) Dr Autilia Newton confirmed that during Phase I there had not been a significant



change in the number of new Covid-19 cases.

"The stringent health protocols implemented by the Cayman Islands government exceeds the guidelines issued by the Centres for Disease Control and have been effective in safeguarding the health of residents," she said. "Furthermore, Public Health's analysis of cruise passenger data collected during Phase I have not found any evident link between the number of Covid-19 cases currently on Island and cruise passenger arrivals."

Kenneth Bryan, Minister for Tourism and Transport, said that businesses were reporting an increase in the uptake of services.

"This is advantageous for our tourism stakeholders and the country as a whole," he confirmed. "Even though things are going well, as the sector moves to Phase II, we will remain vigilant in our monitoring of global trends particularly with respect to Covid-19 health protocols to ensure that our people stay protected."

Troy Leacock, Cayman Islands Tourism Association Vice President and Watersports Director, said that, with the resumption of cruise tourism, CITA had seen an immediate increase in business.

"Despite the lower ship occupancy and the restricted number of ships, there has been a surge in visitor activity," Mr Leacock said. "This indicates a very strong de-

mand from the cruise industry and cruise guests for our Cayman activities."

Minister Bryan also noted that, based on public feedback about passengers not wearing masks, cruise lines have been requested to remind passengers of the mask mandate while onshore and inside premises.

"In our communication with the Florida Caribbean Cruise Association, announcing the move to Phase II, the Cayman Islands government has asked cruise lines to step up their passenger communication to ensure that passengers are aware of the need to adhere to our on-island safety protocols, particularly social distancing and mask wearing while indoors at retail outlets and restaurants," he said.

Governor and Deputy Governor Respond to Breach of Ministerial Code of Conduct in Ministry of Home Affairs



► His Excellency The Governor Martyn Roper

His Excellency The Governor Martyn Roper and Deputy Governor Hon. Franz Manderson have issued the following statements in response to the breach of Ministerial Code of Conduct by Minister Bush. This breach has resulted in the reassignment of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The statements are as follows:

His Excellency The Governor

I support the decision taken by the Premier with regards to Minister Bush and understand his reasons for taking these measures. It is crucial to the good functioning of our democracy that Ministers respect the constitutional boundaries and separation of powers. Section 55 of the Constitution states clearly that public service appointments and civil service issues are the Governor's responsibility, a power that is largely delegated to the Deputy Governor as Head of the Civil Service.

Our good governance rests on full observance of our Constitution and I urge all elected representatives to fully respect the separation of powers. For example, Ministers who use their position to influence which individual is selected for public service roles would be infringing on the Con-

stitution and represents political interference. Ministers have a responsibility to act with integrity and to uphold the highest standards of behaviour towards everyone in our community, in particular, our civil servants with whom they work closely. For its part, the civil service will continue to do its utmost to implement Ministers' objectives and policies'.

Deputy Governor

I too support the decision taken by the Premier with regards to Minister Bush. As Head of the Civil Service I am responsible for ensuring all staff feel respected and valued in the workplace. I take these responsibilities seriously and when concerns are brought to my attention, as in this case, I will take action as set out in the Public Service Management Act.

It is also my duty to ensure that the civil service remains apolitical. Now that action has been taken to address the serious concerns raised by civil servants, I will ensure that the Civil Service continues to serve the Elected Government and work to make the lives of those we serve better.

BUTTERFIELD TO CONSOLIDATE GOVERNORS SQUARE AND CAMANA BAY BANKING CENTRES

Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Limited ("Butterfield") announced it will consolidate its Camana Bay and Governors Square operations, with plans to expand the physical footprint of the Camana Bay Banking Centre. The Governors Square Banking Centre, which is currently closed, will now not reopen.

Mike McWatt, Managing Director of Butterfield in Cayman, said, "With growth at Camana Bay, we have made a strategic decision to focus on and expand our presence there to benefit clients. Staff previously at Governors Square have already been redeployed and we will be increasing our client service team at our Camana Bay Banking Centre."

Camana Bay offers a full suite of banking services, in addition to designated meeting spaces for appointments with the investment, corporate banking, lending and trust teams.

About Butterfield

Butterfield is a full-service bank and wealth manager headquartered in Hamilton, Bermuda, providing services to clients from Bermuda, the Cayman Islands, Guernsey and Jersey, where our principal banking operations are located, and The Bahamas, Switzerland, Singapore and the United Kingdom, where we offer specialized financial services. Banking services comprise deposit, cash management and lending solutions for individual, business and institutional clients. Wealth management services are composed of trust, private banking, asset



management and custody. In Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and Guernsey, we offer both banking and wealth management. In The Bahamas, Singapore and Switzerland, we offer select wealth management services. In the UK, we offer

residential property lending. In Jersey, we offer select banking and wealth management services. Butterfield is publicly traded on the New York Stock Exchange (symbol: NTB) and the Bermuda Stock Exchange (symbol: NTB.BH). Further

details on the Butterfield Group can be obtained from our website at: www.butterfieldgroup.com. Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Limited is licenced to conduct banking business by the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority.

CINICO expands Insurance Coverage, adds Property and Casualty Insurance

Before the end of 2022, the Cayman Islands National Insurance Company (CINICO) will begin an expansion project into new lines of business aimed at providing a greater choice of health insurance coverage to more people.

Deputy Premier and Minister for Finance and Economic Development Hon. Chris Saunders said, "Expanding CINICO's health coverage to a wider population will help to achieve several objectives of this Government and answer the pleas of uninsured and under-insured Caymanians and residents that have gone un-answered for far too long. In our Strategic Policy Statement (SPS), my PACT colleagues and I addressed the issue of health insurance both broadly and specifically. And now we are turning our ideas into reality."

The plan is for CINICO to first expand health insurance services to a wider population through developing affordable health insurance plans for younger and healthier residents, followed by a plan for retirees; and offering a health insurance option to Public Servants allowing for a choice of health care providers, which will require the establishment of a local provider network.

Deputy Premier Saunders explained, "At a higher level, CINICO's expansion will address the commitment made in our Strategic Policy Statement (SPS) of ensuring an equitable, sustainable, and successful healthcare system

as well as providing solutions to improve the well-being of our people so they can achieve their full potential. On the ground level, we are delivering on our promise to provide the public with an option that is affordable and includes a mechanism for accommodating coverage of pre-existing conditions for qualifying Caymanian retirees. We are matching our actions directly to our words to better benefit the people of these Islands."

Other short-term expansion plans include providing Property & Casualty (residential and auto) insurance to Public Sector employees and their families. CINICO is aiming to offer the health insurance coverage to younger and healthier residents by the end of the year, and to retirees thereafter. Property and casualty operations are anticipated to begin in the fourth quarter of 2022 or first quarter 2023.

Deputy Premier Saunders explained that expanding health care coverage and adding the new lines of business would diversify CINICO's risk profile and by extension the risk to the Government.

He said, "During the 14-year period between 2009 and 2023, Core Government's healthcare costs are forecast to increase by 120% from almost \$91 million in 2009 to just under \$200 million in 2023. Healthcare costs represent an average of 19% of Core Government's Total Operating Expenses, indicating that



► Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance and Economic Development Hon. Chris Saunders

it is becoming more difficult for the public purse to sustain the increasing costs."

Referring to the withdrawal of a major insurer from the Cayman Islands market in 2021, the Deputy Premier noted that expansion of the national insurance company's products would also protect residents against being left without coverage should there be any further closures in the private insurance sector.

He said, "In December 2021, Generali Worldwide, one of the largest health insurance providers in the Cayman Islands, withdrew its business from the Cayman market. The withdrawal was a shock to the market as many individuals and businesses had to find new health insurance providers and individuals, especially those with pre-existing conditions, found it difficult to obtain affordable health insurance. To mitigate similar shocks to the Cayman market in the future, it is important that the Government is in the position to be able to provide individuals and businesses with the option of affordable health, auto and property insurance."

Regarding funding for the expansion of product and service areas, CINICO currently has sufficient surplus capital to fund the planned health insurance expansions. However, CINICO will need additional capital for the planned property and casualty expansions. On Tuesday, 5 April, Cabinet approved CINICO's ex-

pansion plans and the requisite supplementary funding of \$10.35 million (\$5.35 million in 2022 and \$5.0 million in 2023), via Section 12 of the Public Management and Finance Act (2020 Revision). The approval of these funds will go to the next session of Finance Committee, which is planned for May 2022.

CINICO CEO Michael Gayle noted that his management team are excited about the prospects of the expansion, and the future of CINICO.

He said, "We look forward to playing our part in making things better for our people in these Cayman Islands. Health-care costs continue to spiral, but we are confident that working with our sister organization, Cayman Islands Health Services Authority, and with external medical providers with whom we will enter into a Preferred Provider Network arrangement, collectively, we will be able to play a part in bringing some stability to health care costs here in Cayman. We also look forward to providing options to the existing slate of residential and auto insurance options. Exciting times are ahead at CINICO."

Deputy Premier Saunders said, "It is past time that CINICO truly becomes a national insurance provider. The potential has been there and must now be realised to provide the public with more insurance options - health, property, and auto - that they require. This is especially true regarding health insurance, which

is becoming increasingly expensive, with more and more of our retirees being excluded due to pre-existing conditions, or simply aging out at 65 from private insurance plans. This puts an unbearable burden on our retirees, which then falls on the Government to carry. Expanding CINICO will both reduce these costs and provide healthcare to more of our people, while also allowing our seniors to age with health and dignity. Through such timely and prudent expansions, we hope to see CINICO eventually become the insurance provider of choice for all residents of the Cayman Islands."

About CINICO

CINICO, a government-owned company established in 2004 to facilitate the provision of healthcare insurance coverage for civil servants, pensioners, seafarers, veterans and their dependents, also currently provides health insurance coverage for some Statutory Authorities and Government Companies (SAGCs), administers benefits for indigent residents and provides a basic health insurance plan.

At the end of 2020, CINICO offered health insurance to 15,100 members, across four plans: public servants and pensioners (with 10,200 members); seafarers and veterans (with 1,100 members); indigents (with 1,800 members) and the Standard Health Insurance Contract (SHIC) plan (with 2,000 members).

St. Ignatius Church GIGANTIC GARAGE SALE & CAR BOOT SALE!

Saturday, April 23rd
6:00-11:00 am (No early-birds)
Loyola Hall and School Car Park
599 Walkers Road



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All kinds of items!
Breakfast items on sale!
Masks required indoors!

For further information, please
Phone **949-6797** or e-mail
Ignatius@candw.ky



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POLICE NEWS

CBC warns about Fentanyl Seizures in Cayman

The Cayman Islands Customs and Border Control Service (CBC) is particularly concerned about the increasing importation of the illicit drug Fentanyl to the Cayman Islands.

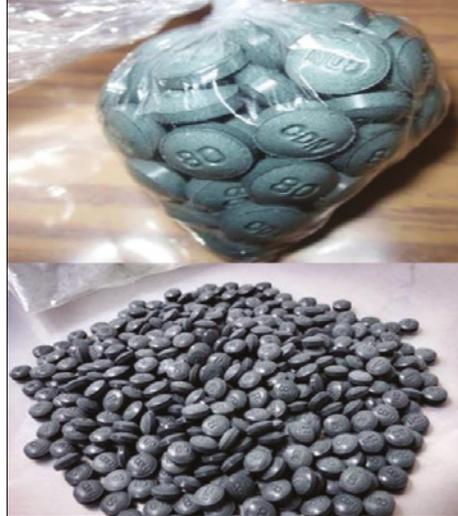
In what appears to be an emerging trend, CBC has intercepted and seized Fentanyl in two separate recent cases into which investigations are ongoing.

The production, handling and consumption of Fentanyl can have deadly consequences as is indicated by the unprecedented number of Fentanyl-related sudden deaths in the USA and Canada.

According to November 2021 data released by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), there were "indications of an estimated 100,306 drug overdose deaths in the U.S. during a 12-month period ending April 2021. This trend shows an increase of 28.5% from the 78,056 deaths during the same period the year before."

Director of CBC Charles Clifford expressed his concern, saying, "Drug abuse is generally very harmful to a person's health and the recent trend involving the importation of illicitly produced Fentanyl is very worrying and cause for significant concern."

He continued, "We are continuing our efforts to intercept illegal drugs at our borders, but I fear that it is only a matter of time before Fentanyl is listed as the primary cause of death in some sudden death cases locally."



► Fentanyl shown in many colours and forms including tablet, powder, crystals and liquid

Users and handlers of Fentanyl have been known to experience symptoms such as hemorrhaging, severe physical pain and organ failure, which often lead to death.

Additional CBC concerns relate to local cases in which milder forms of controlled drugs were seized and found to be infused or tainted with more lethal substances, including Fentanyl.

Over the past two and a half months CBC has seized a total of 288 Fentanyl tablets; 18 lbs. of ganja concealed in luggage; 6.95 grams of cocaine hydrochloride; 0.23 grams of cocaine base; several ganja infused cigarettes, lollipops and other candy forms; and eight oxycodone tablets.

Senior Deputy Director of CBC Bruce Smith underscored these serious concerns, saying, "Illicit Fentanyl is produced in clandestine labs and is often mixed with other drugs such as cocaine and heroin, which multiplies the danger and risk of sudden death from consuming it."

The CBC leadership hopes the public will understand and heed not only the criminal aspect of illicit drug use, but also the severe associated health and safety impacts. This worry is exacerbated due to interceptions in which such extremely dangerous drugs are often disguised in unassuming shapes and colours and manufactured in a variety of methods. Illicitly produced Fentanyl comes in many colours

and forms including tablet, powder, crystals and liquid.

There is significant concern not only for the health and safety of the general public but also for the welfare of Law Enforcement personnel, at the border and elsewhere, who put themselves in harm's way merely in the daily course of their duties.

CBC Investigations and frontline teams will continue their efforts and utilise all available means at their disposal to respond to all threats at the Cayman Islands border. Part of this effort is a combined approach and an enduring partnership with the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) in the fight against illegal substances.

Police Carry Out Warrant Operation in the Eastern District

On Wednesday, 6 April, officers in the Eastern Districts carried out an operation where over 20 court-issued warrants were executed. The operation was a collaborative effort that included officers from the Eastern Districts' front line, Community Officers, the Process Unit and the Cayman Islands Detention Centre. The officers made 17 arrests and 22 warrants were executed as a result, with some persons having multiple warrants in some cases.

The warrants are issued by the court and then executed by the police. Once a person with a warrant is arrested, depending on the type of warrant, they either have to pay a fine up front in order to be released (for a default warrant), are bailed for the next court date (for failing to appear with bail), or are kept in custody until the next court date (for failing to appear with no bail).

Many of the warrants were due to unpaid traffic tickets that

were issued by the police, where the driver did not attend court on the date stipulated on the tickets. Others were outstanding court-issued fines.

Just under 200 active warrants still remain to be executed. Broken down into districts, approximately 70 are attached to George Town, over 60 are attached to the Eastern Districts, over 55 in West Bay, and approximately 5 in the Sister Islands. Of the total number, approximately 65 are default warrants due to non-payment of fines.

"If anyone believes or knows that they have an outstanding warrant, we encourage you address it as a matter of urgency", says Acting Superintendent Brad Ebanks, "If you have received a traffic ticket from an officer, ensure that you pay the



ticket prior to the date (deadline) provided or attend court on the date stipulated to avoid a warrant being issued for your arrest. To avoid the inconvenience of being arrested and reputational embarrassment one should attend to any outstanding court matters.

Members of the public who believe they may have a warrant out for their arrest are encouraged to call any police station and enquire about the best way to have your warrants actioned. Alternatively, you may attend the court and discuss the issue with a court officer.

Man Arrested in Relation to Armed Robberies

On Wednesday, 13 April, police conducted an operation in the vicinity of Boilers Road, George Town, involving uniform officers, the Firearms Response Unit, and K-9, with the support of the Air Operations Unit.

During the operation police approached a wanted man, who attempted to evade police in a vehicle. The vehicle was stopped

and the man, age 30 of George Town, was arrested on suspicion of robbery, in relation to the several recent robbery incidents; and on suspicion of aggravated burglary, in relation to a historic burglary. He was further arrested for traffic offenses committed as he attempted to evade police.

He remains in custody as investigations continue.



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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

5/13

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★

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CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 "Beat it!" girl of story
 - 6 Cotton-tipped cleaner
 - 10 Resort off Venezuela
 - 11 Venice sight
 - 13 Sheet material
 - 14 Confuse
 - 15 Outback bird
 - 16 Toe count
 - 18 Sprinted
 - 19 They may precede divorces
 - 22 Sewer rodent
 - 23 Paddy crop
 - 24 Lion features
 - 27 Pluto's realm
 - 28 Kitchen appliance
 - 29 Online info list
 - 30 Money paid to make amends
 - 35 Gallery fill
 - 36 List-shortening abbr.
 - 37 Congress creation
 - 38 Publicity act
- DOWN**
- 40 Alpine
 - 42 Madrid mister
 - 43 "Hound Dog" singer
 - 44 Band sample
 - 45 Layers
 - 1 Store events
 - 2 Police concern
 - 3 Incur, as debts
 - 4 Lincoln nickname
 - 5 Watch-words
 - 6 Meager
 - 7 Bankroll
 - 8 TV's Data, for one
 - 9 Account amount
 - 12 Eye parts
 - 17 Pig out
 - 20 Sports spot
 - 21 Baghdad native
 - 24 Swamp
 - 25 Turned aside
 - 26 Triton orbits it
 - 29 Diet no-no
 - 31 Fashionably dated
 - 32 Martini garnish
 - 33 Lowest point
 - 34 Reuben cheese
 - 39 — de plume
 - 41 Inventor Whitney

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

Saturday's answer

- 8 TV's Data, for one
- 9 Account amount
- 12 Eye parts
- 17 Pig out
- 20 Sports spot
- 21 Baghdad native
- 24 Swamp
- 25 Turned aside
- 26 Triton orbits it
- 27 Chopping tool
- 29 Diet no-no
- 31 Fashionably dated
- 32 Martini garnish
- 33 Lowest point
- 34 Reuben cheese
- 39 — de plume
- 41 Inventor Whitney

Word Search

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

- Abscond
- Adieu
- Adios
- Arrivederci
- Cheerio
- Ciao
- Clear out
- Decamp
- Depart
- Egress
- Elope
- Evacuate
- Exit
- Farewell
- Flit
- Goodbye
- Hit the road
- Leave
- Move off
- Quit
- Retire
- Retreat
- Scram
- Set sail
- So long
- Vamoose
- Withdraw

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

- 1 Store events
- 2 Police concern
- 3 Incur, as debts
- 4 Lincoln nickname
- 5 Watch-words
- 6 Meager
- 7 Bankroll
- 8 TV's Data, for one
- 9 Account amount
- 12 Eye parts
- 17 Pig out
- 20 Sports spot
- 21 Baghdad native
- 24 Swamp
- 25 Turned aside
- 26 Triton orbits it
- 27 Chopping tool
- 29 Diet no-no
- 31 Fashionably dated
- 32 Martini garnish
- 33 Lowest point
- 34 Reuben cheese
- 39 — de plume
- 41 Inventor Whitney

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9	
10						11				12
13						14				
15				16	17			18		
19			20					21		
			22					23		
24	25	26				27				
28					29					
30				31				32	33	34
35				36				37		
38			39				40	41		
42							43			
							44			
								45		

9-6



Have fun with
**CAYMANIAN
TIMES**

CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley

LOOKIN' FORWARD TO GOING T'IN-PERSON LEARNING AGAIN, C-BREEZE

I APPRECIATE MY GRAM-GRAM HOME-SCHOOLIN' ME BUT WE NEEDED A BREAK FROM EACH OTHER

THERE'S A SINGLE GRAY HAIR LIKE SIX INCHES LONG IN A MOLE ON HER CHIN...

B'LIEVE ME, IT AIN'T EASY CONCENTRATING WITH THAT FLAPPIN' IN YOUR FACE LIKE A FLAG IN THE WIND!

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee

PETER AND MARY JANE PARKER COMPLETE THEIR NOT-UNEVENTFUL DRIVE ACROSS THE COUNTRY...

HOLLYWOOD

WELL, HONEY-WE'RE HERE!

HOPE THEY HAVEN'T SCHEDULED ME FOR TOO MANY INTERVIEWS ABOUT THE NEW 'MARVELLA' MOVIE.

ME, I'M JUST GONNA PLAY TOURIST.

STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 9-6

JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

FIRE INVESTIGATOR IS HERE AGAIN?

THIRD TIME... REALLY SHOULD GET THEM THEIR OWN COFFEE MUG.

MARCUJANO + MANLEY 9/6

GLOBAL NEWS BRIEFS

Miami Beach's crime rate rises



► Miami's golden sand is a huge attraction

Cayman Islands residents intending to take a trip to Miami in the near future should be aware that the latest police crime figures show that Miami Beach is one of the most dangerous areas in America for criminal activity.

In fact, crime figures show that 92 percent of cities are safer than Miami Beach. It is world renowned for its pastel art deco architecture, skyscrapers, beaches and beach lifestyle, but after the recent annual Spring Break crime wave which again produced chaos and the need for a curfew, it has also become synonymous with lawlessness. Although there is now a lull, visitors should be wary of pickpockets,

robbers, drug dealers and scammers. Sexual assault and rape is another worrying rising police statistic.

This year's spring breakers were out with a post-COVID vengeance, and they turned Miami Beach into a nightmare with shootings, street brawls, crowd stampedes and public indecency, officials and locals said.

Following a pair of shootings that hospitalised five, Miami Beach's Democratic mayor Dan Gelber imposed both a state of emergency and curfew for the South Beach area for the following weekend.

Despite its party culture, Miami Beach has one of the highest rates of violence



► Miami Beach's Spring Break was fraught with criminality

in the US; gangs, drugs and the crime associated with all three is still rife despite attempts to clean up the area. In 2016, a study by 24/7 Wall Street rated Miami "the worst city in the US to live in". The study was based on crime and poverty, amongst other factors.

Nevertheless, that hasn't slowed down tourism entirely. The Port of Miami is the world's busiest cruise ship port. And tourism is still one of the city's biggest industries. In 2016 Miami got the second-highest number of foreign tourists to any American city. In 2017 it got 15.9 million tourists, adding \$2.61 billion to the economy.

In recent years, police have concentrated on trying to control the raucous crowds, public drinking and growing violence associated with South Beach. They have not been successful, as witnessed recently.

Business owners claim they're being unfairly targeted by regulations, and civil rights advocates say the city is trying to scare away black tourists who make up many of the visitors. Mayor Gelber insists the crackdown was about bad behaviour, not race.

The Spring Break criminality has refocused attention on the glamorous waterfront's future — as an entertainment district or something else entirely.

Marcos Jr may become Filipino president

The Philippines is set to go to the polls next month and a familiar name is attempting to maintain the family's notorious dynasty – Ferdinand Marcos Jr.

At least 65.7 million registered voters are expected to go out and vote on May 9 for the 2022 Philippine elections, as well as the 1.8 million overseas voters. Marcos Jr has retained a clear lead in surveys, though his lead has narrowed after Vice President Leni Robredo picked up support.

Backing for Marcos, the son and namesake of the country's late dictator, dropped slightly to 56 percent, compared with 60 percent in the previous Pulse Asia surveys in January and February, while Robredo's support grew to 24 percent from 15 percent the month before.

Support for the other presidential contenders, Manila Mayor Francisco Domagoso, former boxing champion Manny Pacquiao and Senator Panfilo Lacson, was at 8 percent, 6 percent and 2 percent, respectively.

Pacquiao, 43, who launched his bid after retirement last year, soon has a big decision regarding a comeback to the ring. He is popular nationwide but generally considered too inexperienced and naïve as a politician to be a great president.

Reports are already surfacing that Pacquiao will need money from fighting after



► Ferdinand Marcos Jr may be the next Philippines president

spending millions on his campaign. The eight-weight world champion embarked on an ambitious plan when he ended his boxing career after losing to Yordenis Ugas.

But now, because Pacquiao is way behind in the polls as Marcos, 64, seemingly edges to victory, speculation is rife that he will box again in Las Vegas in August. Pacquiao stands at a 12/1 shot to win, with Marcos at 1/8 to succeed Rodrigo Duterte.

Putin talks to first European leader

Shocking atrocities in Ukraine, allegedly at the hands of Russian forces, amplified calls to pursue war crimes charges against Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday, the same day that he was in talks with a European leader for the first time.

Austrian Chancellor Karl Nehammer held face-to-face talks with Putin, the first to do so since Moscow invaded Ukraine in February.

Nehammer travelled to the Russian capital and said that he aimed to act as a "bridge-builder" between Moscow and Kyiv. He said he is hoping to "do everything possible to make (the war) stop" and to "ensure that steps are taken in the direction of peace".

"We are militarily neutral, but there are exceptions to neutrality. We are not neutral when it comes to naming crimes and discussing them," he said at a joint press conference with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv on Saturday.

Images of at least 20 bodies strewn across the street in Bucha, Ukraine, emerged last week following the with-



► Ukraine is experiencing atrocities by Russia

drawal of Russian forces from the area, prompting Zelensky to call for an end to Russian "war crimes." And at least 50 deaths from a Russian missile strike on a railway station in the eastern city of Kramatorsk – where civilians were waiting for evacuation trains to safer regions of the country – led Zelensky to say, "We expect a firm, global response to this war crime."

Already, there was a loud and growing chorus of calls for the International Criminal Court to pursue Putin for the unprovoked invasion, and the US government in March formally declared that members of the Russian armed forces have committed war crimes.