PACT UNITED

Opposition Leader defends boycott

NUMBERS WON THE DAY

Public health Spotlight for September 2022

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Book a mammogram in October for only $150*

*CONDITIONS APPLY
Like in the old time days of the American wild west, at last Friday's highly anticipated meeting of Parliament, the PACT coalition of independents 'circled the wagons' to repel the enemy, a Progressives onslaught.

And it worked...for now at least.

In a case of political strategy versus what appeared to be a bona fide issue of a constitutional conundrum, the political strategy won the day.

There's no doubt that the constitutionality of the decision by the Deputy Speaker to disallow the opposition Progressives' no-confidence motion against the Speaker will continue to be debated...and perhaps even legally challenged. And that includes whether the Deputy Speaker acted outside her authority. But on the day, the politics prevailed.

The decision of the Progressives to boycott last Friday's meeting - and any future sitting chaired by the substantive Speaker until he leaves on November 30th - may well come back to haunt them, not on principles but politically.

Last Friday's circling of the PACT wagons was a masterstroke of political strategy and a lesson in political opportunism.

If the Progressives were hoping to exploit any suggestion of factionalism or splintering among PACT's coalition of independents, they clearly misread the tea leaves.

There's much to be said about the discipline and policy commitment that the party system brings whichever side of the House that the party sits; whether in government or opposition. It's said that independents have one loyalty; to themselves (and to their constituents they will quickly remind).

That's not to suggest that they don't take principled positions.

Take for example the current Premier when he quit the then Progressives government in 2020 in protest over allegations of misconduct against the Speaker (the incumbent), for which the Speaker was subsequently convicted.

Fast forward two years and the Premier found himself reprimanding the said Speaker over new allegations (yet unproven) of misconduct, and demanding - supported by the Governor - that Speaker Bush resign.

The September 23rd deadline set by the Premier passed relatively uneventfully. In other words, the Speaker ignored it and subsequently submitted a letter of resignation on his terms.

In light of the allegations against the Speaker, the opposition Progressives had also submitted a motion of no-confidence against him, but that was blocked by the Deputy Speaker. And their no-confidence motion against the PACT administration was thrown out on Friday as they weren't in parliament to argue it.

However, a motion presented by Premier Wayne Panton to accept the Speaker's resignation as dated, despite his previous ultimatum, was unanimously accepted by the PACT benches.

And a pro-government confidence motion tabled by independent PACT-supporting Parliamentary Secretary, Dwayne Seymour (health minister - independent - in the previous Progressives party administration), sailed through by acclamation.

The absence of the Progressives allowed the PACT administration free rein not only to highlight their past 18 months in office, but to set their upcoming agenda without challenge...and consolidate their hold on power.

That pattern is expected to be repeated for the next month and a half as the Progressives have pledged to boycott Parliament until the Speaker eventually leaves on his chosen date of November 30th.

It could also be argued that much of what transpired from Friday's meeting of Parliament happened on the Speaker's terms. But what seems clearer is that on the day that the numbers should have really mattered, the Progressives appear to have misread the proverbial political tea leaves.
PACT UNITED GIVES ITSELF A PARLIAMENTARY PAT ON THE BACK

By Staff Writer

An atmosphere of coalition congeniality prevailed over what seemed to be heading for a contentious meeting of Parliament on Friday.

With the opposition Progressives absent, the ruling PACT coalition of independents devoted the session to detailing their achievements and plans since they took office in May 2021.

The Progressives had boycotted the meeting, the first session for the new parliamentary year, over objections to a refusal by the Deputy Speaker, Katherine Saunders, to rule on the Speaker’s chair.

However, with the floor of Parliament to themselves, the PACT coalition government unanimously accepted the Speaker’s resignation. There was no debate or comment on that specific agenda point.

In one of several statements he had issued prior to Friday’s meeting, Mr Bush had said he would continue supporting the PACT coalition government as long as the Speaker’s chair was occupied by someone he recognizes as Speaker.

Mr Bush had also incurred the ire of IE Governor Martyn Roper who also called on him to resign over the serious allegations swirling around him.

During last Friday’s meeting of Parliament, the PACT coalition unanimously accepted the Speaker’s resignation. There was no debate or comment on that specific agenda point.

In one of several statements he had issued prior to Friday’s meeting, Mr Bush had said he would continue supporting the PACT coalition after he demands the Speaker’s chair.

He has not been charged with any offence related to the current allegations.

The RCIPS which is investigating the matter had said in a brief statement before Parliament resumed: “Following a number of media enquiries on the matter, the Commissioner of Police confirms that the investigation file on the incident involving a senior politician on Tuesday, 13 September, is nearing completion, and will be submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions.”

During Friday’s meeting, Mr Bush outlined in great detail several key parliamentary matters that he has been overseeing with a view to having them implemented, including a Code of Conduct.

The Progressives had also filed a motion of no-confidence in the PACT coalition led by Hon. Premier Wayne Panton, but their boycott of Friday’s meeting resulted in the motion being struck from the Order Paper.

However, with the floor of Parliament to themselves, the PACT coalition government unanimously supported a counter ‘motion-of-confidence’ in the PACT government tabled by government Parliamentary Secretary Dwayne Seymour.

Mr Seymour, an independent and former Progressives Security Minister, had crossed the floor to join the PACT administration after briefly staying on the opposition benches following last year’s election.

“Mr Speaker, it’s time to work,” he declared.

“We are committed to making the Cayman Islands even better for the people of the Cayman Islands,” he stated. “Our commitment to peace, prosperity and our people is unwavering. We’re not beholden to paymasters. We’re independent and free to act in the best interest of the people of the Cayman Islands.

“We have many Caymanian families Mr Speaker, they get up every morning and go to work in the conditions that are not necessarily ideal for them.”

And he went on: “Mr Speaker, the salaries that members in this honourable Parliament get paid is not a small amount compared to the salaries that many workers get and they don’t have that luxury. When it’s time to work, Mr Speaker, it’s time to work.”

The opposition Progressives under the leadership of Roy McTaggart have six members of the 19-member Parliament.

Two of their former ministers - Julianna O’Connor-Connolly and Dwayne Seymour - had defected to the PACT government.

The Progressives have insisted that they will maintain their boycott of Parliament until the Speaker’s resignation takes effect on November 30th.
PIRATES FEST EVENTS START THIS WEEKEND

By Staff Writer

Residents and visitors are in for a recurring treat of events over the coming weeks as Cayman hosts a packed calendar of events for the 2022 Pirates Festival.

Upgraded from the annual Pirates Week, the full-length, event-packed festival is the brainchild of Hon. Minister for Culture and Heritage, Bernie Bush, along with his colleagues; Hon. Minister for Social Development Andre Ebanks and Parliamentary Secretary Isaac Rankine.

The expanded festival kicks off this weekend and will be followed by a series of weekend activities over the coming three months.

This Friday October 14th will see activities focused on the Bodden Town Heritage Day events with a full day of fun-filled family cultural and festive activities in two locations with programmes organised for scheduled afternoon and evening events.

The following day, Saturday October 15th, action movies to North Side, not to be outdone with its own unique events reliving past Cayman life, an interactive maritime theme park, fireworks and other festivities until midnight.

That pattern will be repeated each weekend at districts in Grand Cayman and the Sister Islands.

The new extended Pirate Festival, co-ordinated by the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage of Min. Bernie Bush marks a significant upgrade from the popular annual Pirates Week launched in 1978 by the Tourist and Visitors Bureau as part of its tourism development strategy.

Over the years, it has grown to become a major event on Cayman’s annual calendar of cultural and historical events attracting huge crowds and massive participation by residents and visitors alike.

Steeped in Cayman’s history, the new Pirates Festival allows more time and a wider spread of events throughout the jurisdiction highlighting the culture of Cayman, especially rooted in maritime history and traditions.

The 12-week-long festival also targets selected locations for hosting various weekend events.

Members of the organising committee were the guests on the Caymanian Times programme Cayman Conversations outlining what’s in store for residents and visitors.

Committee member Ventisha Ebanks of the Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture and Heritage addressed the rationale behind the new format devised by Mins. Bush and Ebanks and Parliamentary Secretary Rankine.

“They saw the need for having a little more time in between each of our heritage days so that folks could actually go and enjoy each one of them instead of having to pick and choose which one they could get to. So that was the catalyst for the elongated programme that we have.”

She said any initial reservations were quickly dispelled when the multi-weekend, multi-location concept was explained.

“Initially everyone was taken aback...but once you explain why, and they kind of thought about it while...they actually get the full event, the full atmosphere.”

In addition to the social and economic advantages expected to accrue from extending the event across three months, there’s a strong historical and educational component, especially for young Caymanians - a point made by committee member Anita La Pierre.

“We’re going to continue to educate people on what Cayman has to offer. So we’re looking to carry this on and get school kids to become aware. There’s so much history...it’s just amazing. And I think we really need to get this out for our youth to understand.”

That point of view is shared by committee member Feliciana Ebanks, who agrees that in addition to the festive aspect of the events, the historical element also needs to be highlighted and celebrated.

“I think it’s something that the next generation needs to know and to see. So I do totally agree that this is something that needs to happen more often. We keep hearing Cayman culture is being lost, but I think this is an opportunity to ensure that this does not get lost. We should do everything about maintaining, preserving and passing on our culture.”

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Pirates Fest
CAYMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL FESTIVAL

North Side Heritage Day

Water Cay Public Beach, Water Cay Road | 10AM to 12 AM

45 mins
Approximate drive time from George Town

Ministry of Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage
Cayman Islands Government
Little League 2023 Season - Register Now!

Registration is now open for the upcoming Little League season at the Dart Field of Dreams. It will take place from January to June 2023 and is open to Boys and Girls ages 4-15. There is also a Girls Softball division for ages 9-18. This is a wonderful programme for children in the Cayman Islands, with over 500 participating annually. New players are always welcome, as we have a fantastic team of coaches who will patiently teach them how to play. Amazing upgrades to the facilities over the past year make the complex a really attractive place to play ball. Don’t delay... sign up your child today at www.littleleague.ky. Financial Assistance is provided for any family in need; no player will ever be turned away due to financial restraints. For further information, please e-mail info@littleleague.ky.

George Town Primary fall short against CIS

The second round of games in the 2022 CUC Primary Football League (PFL) and Girls’ Primary Football League (GPFL) were played this past Saturday, October 8 at fields across the Island.

In Group A, Cayman International School (CIS) hosted the George Town Primary Under 9 and Under 11 boys at the Camana Bay Sports Complex. In the Under 9 encounter young Myles Pierre opened the scoring for the home team in the 6th minute as he ‘ghosted’ past a trio of George Town defenders before placing his shot into the corner of the net. CIS increased their lead two minutes later as Nolan Anderson added to his team’s tally just before the first two-minute water break. Confidence was high in the CIS camp and Jesse Duiker-Daignault sealed the 3-0 win in the 16th minute with a well-taken effort. George Town’s youngsters defended resolutely throughout the game. The experience gained from this loss will surely be beneficial in the remaining games.

In the Under 11 game, CIS defeated George Town Primary 3-0 thanks to goals from Charles Henriksen in the 5th minute, Lucas Kerr in the 34th minute and Colt Higgs, who sealed the victory from the penalty spot in the 51st minute. Young Mr. Kerr’s goal was especially thrilling as he guided a header off the post from a corner.

In other scores from Group A, it was St. Ignatius Catholic 5 vs. Truth For Youth 1 (Under 9; respect rule), St. Ignatius Catholic 4 vs. Truth For Youth 0 (Under 11; respect rule), Joanna Clarke Primary 0 vs. Cayman Prep 5B (Under 9) and Joanna Clarke Primary 1 vs. Cayman Prep 11B (Under 11).

In Group B, it was Red Bay Primary 0 vs. Cayman Prep 9A 4 (Under 9; respect rule), Red Bay Primary 0 vs. Cayman Prep 11A 4 (Under 11; respect rule) and Prospect Primary 5 vs. Triple C 1 (Under 11; respect rule).

In the CUC GPFL Under 11 league, CIS hosted Joanna Clarke Primary at the Camana Bay Sports Complex. Eager to build on their opening day victory against Sir John A. Cumber Primary a week ago, the young ladies from CIS were on the attack from the opening whistle. Sadie Nelson opened the scoring in the 7th minute with Sophia Santiago scoring her first of two goals in the 11th minute. Young Miss Nelson scored her second from the penalty spot in the 18th minute and Miss Santiago sealed the win in the 32nd minute as CIS came out on top 4-0 (respect rule).

In defeat, the young ladies from Joanna Clarke Primary performed very well with encouraging signs of improvement and determination.

In other games played in the CUC GPFL, it was Prospect Primary 2 vs. Triple C 1 and Cayman Prep 4 vs. George Town Primary 0 (respect rule). The GPFL Under 9 League kicked-off its season on Saturday morning with Sir John A Cumber Primary Cayman Prep and St. Ignatius Catholic taking to the field.

The third round of games are scheduled for this Saturday, October 15 prior to the mid-term break. Visit www.caymanyschoolfootball.ky for the full CUC PFL and GPFL schedules, scores and standings.
Pirates Fest
CAYMAN ISLANDS NATIONAL FESTIVAL

Friday
14
Oct

Bodden Town
Heritage Day

Nurse Josie's Senior Centre (AM) &
Coe Wood Beach (PM) | 10AM to 12 AM

20 mins
Approximate drive time from
George Town
The Public Health Spotlight originated from the need to keep our population informed with more in-depth epidemiological data relating to the COVID-19 pandemic. As we work towards living safely and responsibly with COVID-19, this publication will grow and adapt to provide relevant public health information to the public and the media on a monthly basis. As the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MHW) continues to make strides to collect and analyse data that will help to inform funding decisions, educational campaigns, programming and services, our Epidemiology Corner will expand to include more data on both communicable and non-communicable diseases.

Existing best practices in research, such as the biennial National Drug Council’s Cayman Islands Student Drug Use Survey (ISDUS), will also be highlighted and shared in future to help inform readers about work that is already being undertaken by the MHW’s departments and SAGCs.

This month’s issue will highlight the return of the flu, and provide insight on what that means while we continue to navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional information on the forthcoming COVID-19 fall booster programme will be included, along with the monthly COVID-19 statistics for September.

Our hope is that this publication will continue to be informative and will help our residents feel better equipped in making decisions about their own health and wellness.

Return of the Flu

After nearly two years, the annual flu is returning to the Cayman Islands. Current data from the Southern Hemisphere, which is closing off its winter season and its flu season, shows the number of flu cases surpassing pre-pandemic levels.

The Australian Department of Health and Aged Care, which monitors the flu during the country’s flu season of May-September, reported nearly 225,000 cases of the flu through 26 September 2022, with 1,784 hospitalisations, of which 6.8% were admitted to the ICU.

If this is an indication of what Cayman can expect as it enters its Fall/Winter season, then residents will need to not only pay close attention to the trends, but also decide early on what will be the best course of action to safeguard their own health and well-being.

The American Centre for Disease Control (CDC) flag the population under the age of 2 and over the age of 65 as being the most vulnerable for flu related complications.

However, Australian figures indicate that in 2022 “people aged 5-9 years, children aged younger than 5 years, and people aged 10-19 years have the highest notification rates” of the flu this season.

In fact, USA TODAY reports that 60% of adults ages 10–19 years have the highest notifications (16–49) of flu cases surpassing pre-pandemic levels.

- Adults 50+
- Individuals with underlying medical conditions (heart, lung, kidney diseases or weakened immune system)
- Residents 50+
- Pregnant women
- Residents 50+
- Residents 50+
- Residents 50+
- Residents 50+

The flu vaccine is recommended locally for all residents 6 months and older, and is especially important for those considered to be high risk for flu related complications including:

- children under the age of 2
- pregnant women
- residents 50+
- persons with underlying health conditions (heart, lung, kidney diseases or weakened immune system)
- close contacts of vulnerable/ high risk groups
- health care workers

For more information: www.hsa.ky

On the H3N2 flu strain:

- International surveillance shows H3N2 – a subtype of influenza type A – is currently the most common influenzavirus worldwide.

- “The H3N2 flu strain can cause particularly severe illness. If you are elderly or vulnerable because of other conditions you are at greater risk, so getting the flu jab is a sensible, potentially life-saving thing to do.”

Dr Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Advisor at UKHSA

On the interactions of H3N2 and COVID-19

Study results from early in the pandemic show individuals who catch both flu and COVID-19 at the same time, known as co-infection, are around twice as likely to suffer death compared to those who only have COVID-19.

“Flu and COVID-19 are unpredictable but there are strong indications we could be facing the threat of widely circulating flu, lower levels of natural immunity due to less exposure over the last three winters and an increase in COVID-19 circulating with lots of variants that can evade the immune system. This combination poses a serious threat to our health, particularly those in high-risk groups.”

Dr Susan Hopkins, Chief Medical Advisor at UKHSA

The Moderna COVID-19 fall booster has arrived

Here is everything you need to know about the COVID-19 fall booster roll out, which begins 10 October, 2022

The COVID-19 fall booster has arrived in the Cayman Islands, and the roll out of the vaccine will officially begin on Monday, 10 October 2022.

While everyone ages 16 and up can benefit from the fall booster, the programme will be rolled out in phases to ensure that priority groups are able to access the booster first.

Priority groups are:

- Elderly residents (70+)
- Frontline Health Care Workers
- Individuals with underlying medical conditions (16-49)
- Adults 50+

The COVID-19 fall booster vaccination schedule will be disseminated by HSA’s Public Health Department and will indicate which groups are eligible based on the roll out.

The first groups to be served will be elderly residents in care homes, elderly residents ages 70 and up and frontline healthcare workers. Residents are encouraged to stay tuned to official sources for the most up to date information on eligibility and access to the vaccination clinics.

Studies show a decrease in COVID-19 immunity 3 months after a vaccine, especially among the elderly and immunocompromised immune system.

Boosters help to increase the body’s immune response which means longer lasting protection against infection.

Once the priority groups have received their fall boosters, the programme will be opened up to include all residents ages 16 and over.

The fall booster programme will be rolled out using the Moderna (bivalent) vaccine for adults ages 18+, and the Pfizer vaccine for youths ages 16-17.

Research has shown that a booster of a different vaccine causes similar or higher antibody responses than a booster of the same vaccine.

Research also indicates that the original boosters remain effective against COVID-19 variants, and that the timeline within which boosters are administered is more important than the type of booster offered.

Eligible individuals wishing to get the fall booster will need to bring the following documents to the booster clinic:

- Vaccination card or digital vaccination certificate showing the date of the last dose/booster
- Government issued photo identification showing date of birth
- Government issued photo identification showing date of birth
- Facemasks (please bring your own)

For more information, and for the vaccination and booster schedules, log on to hsa.ky/covid-19 or scan the QR code below.

Boosters minimise the chance of severe COVID-19 illness that requires hospitalisation and, subsequently, may lead to death.
COVID-19
Surveillance Data
September 2022 (data as of 3 October 2022)

Key points
Internationally: The number of COVID-19 cases and deaths reported to WHO has continued to decline. Reported cases decreased in all regions, apart from the European region where there was an 8% increase in reported cases during the past reporting week.

Local trends: In the Cayman Islands, hospitalisations have been gradually declining since July with a slight increase in late September.

There were a total of 21 COVID-19 patients admitted in September 2022, a 30% decrease from admissions during August, which includes both patients admitted due to COVID-19 morbidity and patients admitted for other health reasons who were detected to have COVID-19 on admission screening.

There have been five COVID-19 deaths during September and all five individuals had multiple comorbidities. Two of the patients were unvaccinated, two had received their second dose of the vaccine and one individual had also received their third dose.

<table>
<thead>
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<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Current Month</th>
<th>Previous Month</th>
<th>Percentage change</th>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>New COVID-19 patients admitted</td>
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<td>Now admissions with ≥ 2 doses of a COVID-19 vaccine</td>
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<td>19</td>
<td>-42%</td>
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<td>COVID-19 patients discharged</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ventilated inpatients</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

COVID-19 vaccine uptake and coverage within the previous month.
* Based on a Total Population of 71,432.

Average length of hospital stay stratified by the number of COVID-19 vaccine doses received, among patients discharged during the past two months

- Representing 47 inpatients who were discharged in the past two months, excluding social cases that remain in hospital for reasons other than medical care. Please note: The numbers above the bars represent the number of inpatients within each COVID-19 vaccine doses category. Observing a high number of vaccinated inpatients is expected as national vaccination coverage is high.

Boosters (>3 doses) vaccine coverage by age group

Figure 3: Vaccine uptake over time
Influenza-Like Illness

The Public health team are notified of any cases of influenza-like illness (ILI). As this is based on an individual’s symptoms, this does not indicate which pathogen is causing the illness. This data can provide insights on the level of reported respiratory illness in the population which shows a seasonal increase each winter, and how this compares to previous winters. As shown in Figure 5, respiratory illness in 2019/2020 shows a typical winter peak pattern, and decreases more rapidly from mid-March onwards (week 12) likely due to the implementation of the COVID-19 measures including closure of public places. The following winter season of 2020/2021 shows very low levels of ILI, likely linked to limited mixing and improvement in hand hygiene limiting influenza cases, as well as very few COVID-19 cases.

Last winter, 2021/2022, the higher level of ILI reporting likely reflects the Delta wave of COVID-19 alongside potentially lower immunity to respiratory pathogens from reduced mixing the previous winter. Data from 2022 currently aligns to pre-COVID-19 levels of ILI.

Monkeypox

In the Cayman Islands, there remain to be no detected cases of monkeypox. Globally, there have been 68,998 laboratory-confirmed monkeypox reported to WHO since the beginning of 2022 (data as of 4 October 2022). Over the past reporting week, there was a decline of 16.8% in new cases reported to WHO. This year, there have been 26 monkeypox deaths reported to WHO, with 7 reported during September and only one of these deaths occurring in the Region of the Americas. What? The monkeypox is a rare disease caused by the monkeypox virus, a member of the same family of viruses as smallpox. The monkeypox virus is much less severe than the smallpox virus. Where? Since May 2022, a multi-country monkeypox outbreak has occurred in countries that do not usually have monkeypox in animal or human populations. As at September 2022, seven (7) countries within the Caribbean region have reported cases of monkeypox. How? Monkeypox is spread via direct contact with skin lesion of an infected person or recently contaminated objects. The virus can enter the body through broken skin (cuts), the respiratory tract or via the eyes, nose or mouth. Who? People who live with or have close contact (including sexual contact) with someone who has monkeypox are most at risk for getting monkeypox. When? While most cases in current outbreaks have presented with mild symptoms, most commonly a fever and headaches, medical attention should be sought if the following symptoms arise: swelling, unexplained aching muscles, sudden rash in palms of hands/soles of feet or in the genitals/anal area.

Police Renew Appeal for Witnesses in West Bay Shooting Incident

Police continue to appeal for persons who may have witnessed the shooting incident which occurred just before 12:15AM on Saturday, 29 September, in the Birch Tree Hill area of West Bay. It was reported that several shots were fired at an address in the area and one man received a gunshot wound to the leg. He has since been discharged from hospital. Additionally, a dog that was in the yard was also shot and killed during the incident. The incident remains under investigation by the Criminal Investigations Department within the RCIPS. Anyone with information, especially those who were witnesses, are asked to contact the George Town CID at 949-4222. Alternatively, anonymous tips can be provided directly to the RCIPS via our Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777 or via our website http://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip.

POLICE NEWS

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A new school for Grand Cayman: Island Primary to open September 2023

Enrollment is now open for Grand Cayman’s newest primary school, Island Primary. Opening in September 2023, Island Primary offers 350 new school spaces for children aged 4 to 11 in a spacious new campus conveniently located off Linford Pierson Highway in George Town.

Island Primary will offer high quality education guided by the British curriculum for students in Reception through Year 6. Currently under construction on four acres in Buttonwood Park, the school is sustainably designed to embrace its natural surroundings and provide ample opportunities for outdoor learning.

Island Primary principal, Stephen Coles, says, “We are creating a learning community that is rooted in Cayman, adapting the curriculum to make it relevant to our islands and encouraging children and staff to become active, responsible and engaged citizens. Our learning approach is designed to allow every child to reach their full potential, exploring opportunities and interests that matter to them.”

Coles, formerly deputy principal at Cayman Prep & High School and Sir John A. Cumber Primary School, is currently recruiting for the 2023/24 school year. Around 50 employment opportunities will be posted on Island Primary’s website from leadership positions and specialist roles to support staff. Island Primary is also launching a teaching scholarship programme to support the next generation of Caymanian teachers.

Island Primary was born from a need for additional school spaces at the primary age level. Founders Jenn Cowdroy and Clare Thorpe, owners at Island Montessori Preschool on Crewe Road, initially set up a primary school programme on site at Island Montessori but demand continued to grow and more space was needed.

“Starting a new school is an enormous undertaking, but we are reminded daily by our students and parents how important it is for our community,” said Thorpe, who is Principal at Island Montessori. “Island Primary is a continuation of our education ethos for the early years. We will deliver a high quality education for the Cayman community led by a Principal who shares our passion and enthusiasm for developing independent young learners.”

Spaces are available in all age groups at Island Primary which offers two classes per year group, and interested families are encouraged to apply through the website.

Island Montessori will continue to offer a Montessori programme for children aged 1 to 6. Children who are 4 years of age as of September in their starting year will have the option either to start at Island Primary in their Reception year or finish the Montessori Casa programme.

To enroll at Island Primary or to apply to join the team, visit https://www.islandprimary.org/.

Opposition Leader defends boycott

The PPM boycotted Parliament on Friday 7 October in protest of Speaker McKeever Bush’s continued presence in Parliament, despite his resignation.

Defending the boycott, Opposition Leader Roy McTaggart said, “Over the past week the entire country has witnessed firsthand what can be considered a government that has become increasingly desperate and heavy-handed and willing to ignore proper procedures and rules. As the Opposition, we are concerned that the speaker has resigned and is expected to continue to chair, and is being enabled to do so by the government. Regardless of any purportedly effective date, the fact is that Mr. Bush has resigned as Speaker and must tender the chair immediately, and the deputy speaker sit as presiding officer, as required by Section 41D of Standing Orders.”

The Opposition would continue to boycott Parliament until the Speaker left, Mr. McTaggart said.

“I would also add that, not only have they (the PAM government) handed themselves to prevent a lack of confidence in the Speaker from being debated, but they have done so on a false premise. This refusal of a valid motion is inexcusable. It’s a violation of all democratic principles of parliament, and it is a stifling of the voice of the Opposition.”

“Regrettably, we are rapidly becoming a Kangaroo parliament. We would be abdicating our duty to the country to participate in the sham that today’s meeting of Parliament has become. So as an Opposition, we have collectively decided that we will not participate in Parliament with Speaker Bush as the presiding officer. There’s no reason for him to stay on until November 30th when the Constitution and the Standing Orders speak adequately to that. We have a Deputy Speaker and she should be taking that chair.”

There was also an issue regarding the handling of the Opposition’s vote of no-confidence: “Yesterday when we went into the business committee meeting the Government used their superiority of numbers to replace our motion of no confidence. We were scheduled to be the first item of business on the agenda on Wednesday when we were supposed to commence parliament and they took it and they replaced it with their own motion of confidence. When you look at the difference between a motion of confidence and one of no confidence, there are very little consequences in a motion of confidence in a government. They are singing their own praises. But our motion had real substance,” Mr. McTaggart said.

Former PPM Leader Sir Alden McLaughlin said: “I think the whole country knows there has been great dissonance and division and lack of cohesion in policies ever since the Government took office. But this is the third serious challenge that Premier Panton has had in keeping his government together.

“Some of his members including some of his ministers have made no secret of their lack of support for him as the leader and a number of them have been speaking to various members of our team about putting together another government... a number of them and certainly enough of them to form another government have been speaking with us on numerous occasions.”

“The fundamental point here, and the reason why we will not attend Parliament, is to do with the refusal of the government through a completely inexperienced deputy speaker, preventing a legitimate lack of confidence motion in the Speaker from being brought to the House for debate. Coupled with that, Mr. Bush is in the Chair as if nothing has occurred, despite the fact that he has issued a statement after saying that he intends to resign from effect from the 30th of November. I have been reliably informed that in fact, initially the government had agreed to keep him on until the 31st of January. We shall all wait and see whether he leaves at all.”
SUDOKU

Have fun with Caymanian Times

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

CROSSWORD

By Thomas Joseph

ACROSS
1. Yakked it up
6. Island south of Sicily
11. Tequila source
12. Wise saying
13. Tedium folks
14. A bit cold
15. Indivisible numbers
17. Neon or helium
19. Relieve
20. Much of N. Amer.
23. Orchard crop
25. Oil cartel
26. Winter Games athlete
28. Argued
29. Chant
30. Barrett of Pink Floyd
31. Gardener’s tool
33. Police station event
35. Like some eclipses
38. Fissure
41. Knock for a loop
42. Land (hear out)

DOWN
1. Quick punch
2. In the past
3. Enterprise rate
4. Continually
5. Coveted
6. Like lions
7. Line of symmetry
8. Sassiness
9. Summit units
10. One of the March sisters
11. Called to the phone
12. San Diego player
13. Put in for a job
14. Fully informed
15. “— evil”
16. Field
17. Went ahead
18. Cereal grain
19. “Gattaca” co-star
20. Engaged due, —

Curtis

By Ray Billingsley

Judge Parker

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

Word Search

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions — forward, back, up, down and diagonally.
Picture Framer/Photo Centre Assistant

Main responsibilities will be stretching canvas, fabrication of picture frames and maintaining gallery stock levels. Must have at least 2 years of experience with carpentry and measuring tools. Must be able to lift heavy materials and has knowledge on how to operate a circular saw.

Must be a non-smoker, have reliable transportation and punctual. Must be able to commit at least 2 years. Must be able to work five days a week, including Saturday and some holidays.

Wage from CI$8 to CI$10 per hour, commensurate with experience, plus all benefits required by law. Send detailed CV with references directly to herb@cathychurch.com

The Captain’s Bakery

The Captain’s Bakery (Cayman) Ltd at 105 West Bay Rd, invites applicants for the following positions:

Bread Packer 1
Bread Packer 2
Cleaner

Applicants must have a minimum of six (6) years of experience in commercial food preparation or baking, cleaning, cashiering, or serving. Must be honest and possess good interpersonal skills and be able to work as a part of a team. Must be willing to work on Saturdays, Sundays and Public Holidays and on shifts.

Salary is CI$6.00 per hour, plus health and pension benefits. Caymanians, persons married to Caymanians and status holders are being invited to apply for this position.

Please apply on the JobsCayman website by Friday October 28, 2022.
The CI Government invites applications for the following position in the Office of the Premier

PERSONAL ASSISTANT TO THE PREMIER

SALARY: CI$49,600 to CI$66,984 per annum

The successful applicant will provide full administrative and secretarial management support to the Hon Premier.

Responsibilities will include but are not limited to (see detailed Job Description):

- Provide full secretarial/administrative support to the Premier.
- Respond to relevant incoming mail, e-mail, meeting requests and telephone queries, verbal and in written form.
- Assist the Premier by researching and compiling relevant documents and information.
- Develop and maintain/improve internal indices of files and filing systems as required.
- Assist the Premier with administrative tasks relating to event planning and editing/ finalising speeches for delivery by the Premier.
- Assist with travel arrangements and related administrative duties as required.
- Coordinate and communicate the Premier’s itineraries and calendar of activities with relevant entities including Ministerial staffers to ensure seamless and conflict free engagement programme.
- Support the Premier with schedule/calendar management and coordinating with the Premier’s political and constituency staff to balance international, national, official, political and other constituency engagements.

Knowledge:

- Minimum of an Associate’s Degree (or equivalent) in Business or Public Administration, public policy or similar. A Bachelor’s degree in any of these areas is highly preferable. Additionally, a Diploma or Certificate as an Executive Secretary/Assistant qualification would be ideal.
- Working knowledge of social media platforms. Proficiency with MS Office, especially Outlook, Word, Excel and PPT is required and demonstrable knowledge of other collaboration tools preferred, e.g. MS Teams, Smartsheet and Asana.
- Working knowledge of standard office meeting platforms including Zoom, Skype, Go To Meeting and related IT equipment.
- Working knowledge of Cayman Islands Public Service, Cayman Islands Laws, Regulations and other Statutory Instruments is preferred.
- Basic knowledge of the Parliamentary processes is preferred.

Experience:

- Minimum of 10 years work experience in a professional, fast paced office environment is required; prior experience as a PA supporting a Minister, Chief Officer, VP or C-Suite executive is preferred.
- Demonstrable experience relating to high standards and consistent productivity.
- Demonstrable experience carrying out similar duties in another role with high degree of confidentiality, accuracy and efficiency.

Competencies and Skills:

- Organised – uses reliable, efficient systems to manage information and track tasks, projects, appointments, deadlines and deliverables.
- Able to Prioritise - sets weekly, monthly and quarterly objectives aligned with Premier’s and Caucus’ priorities.
- Time management – punctual, able to effectively prioritise daily and weekly activities to deliver on agreed objectives and meet procedural deadlines.
- Minute taking - Ability to listen, assimilate and process verbal and written information, accurately take minutes and summarise next actions.
- Quality Assurance – Ensures accuracy and conformity of procedures, templates and standards.
- Communication – Able to effectively convey desired information using interpersonal, written, digital or other forms of communication.
- Advising and conciliation - astuteness in dealing with sensitive matters and a range of personalities, especially when under pressure.
- Team Player - Adaptable and flexible, focused on the greater good.
- Customer Service - Able to work effectively with people of different ages and backgrounds.

Benefits determined per the Public Service Management Act, Personnel Regulations, Public Service Pensions Act and CINICO Health Plan.

Please submit an application to careers.gov.ky for the attention of: Deputy Chief Officer (Administration), Cabinet Office, Government Administration Building, 133 Elgin Avenue, George Town.

Detailed Job Description, application format and relevant guidance available at: careers.gov.ky

DEADLINE for Receipt of Applications: 28TH OCTOBER 2022
We invite applications from fully qualified, enthusiastic, and experienced Caymanians, Caymanian Status Holders, and Permanent Residents with the Right for the role of Primary Classroom Teacher.

Qualifications, experience, and skills required:

- A recognised Bachelor of Education degree or equivalent from an accredited university, and a PGCE, QTS or other internationally recognised teaching qualification.
- At least three to five years’ recent experience in whole-class teaching of the Primary UK National Curriculum, 2014.
- Model excellent practice in the classroom (preferably externally verified).
- Secure knowledge and understanding of excellent practice in teaching, learning and being skilled in the effective use of assessment to improve learning.
- Knowledge and experience of using UK based systems for assessment and reporting such as SATs, Early Learning Goals, Benchmarking, GL Assessments. Effectively lead and manage within the classroom, including other adults such as Teaching Assistants.
- Be able to demonstrate the impact of teaching on the progress of individual groups and cohorts of children.
- Have excellent knowledge of Safeguarding and Child Protection good practice with recent, relevant training.
- Have excellent emotional intelligence and an ability to be flexible.
- Be an excellent team player committed to the Catholic ethos, values and aims of the school, and be committed to the holistic education of the child.

Duties will include, but will not be limited to:

- Supporting learning predominantly in the core areas of the curriculum as well as Science, Social Studies, PSHE and Religious Education to enable children to make good levels of progress.
- Providing pastoral, academic and behavioural support for children in accordance with school policies and procedures.
- Keeping good records of the progress of the children in the class/group, and to be able to use the formal assessment processes of the school, both for formative and summative purposes.
- Working with children one to one, in groups and in the whole class to support specific needs. This may include working with students outside of school hours.
- Supporting parents with referrals to outside agencies.
- Meeting with parents, staff, and children to provide support with Individual Education Planning and Learning Plan support.
- Providing communication to parents including the writing of formal reports, and meeting with parents regarding progress.
- Leading and/or be involved in a wide range of school-related extra-curricular activities.

Note: Candidates should also refer to the person specification and job description located on the school’s website.

The salary range is CI$45,657.00 - CI$56,124.00 per annum commensurate with qualifications and experience based on the school’s salary scale, plus one free school place for the child of an employee. Other benefits include medical insurance and contribution to a pension plan.

St. Ignatius Catholic School is required under law and by the Archdiocese of Detroit to check the background of all employees. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children, young people and vulnerable adults and we expect all staff to share this commitment. Decisions to appoint will be subject to consideration of an enhanced criminal background check, qualifications check and satisfactory references.

The application form can be found on the school website: http://www.st-ignatius.com/job-openings. Interested applicants must complete the teacher application form in full and email it to recruitment@st-ignatius.com, along with copies of their latest criminal background check and professional qualifications. We will not accept any other form of application.

The deadline for receipt of applications is October 19, 2022.
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