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Cayman Islands registers steady tourism gains



Although the Cayman Islands was among the last Caribbean destinations to fully open to visitors, tourism officials are upbeat about the steady post-pandemic tourism gains the British Overseas Territory is registering.

With cruise ships returning in March and travel restrictions not lifted until the end of August last year, the islands still welcomed 1,027,668 visitors in 2022 (743,394 cruise passengers and 284,274 stayover visitors), exceeding goals set by the government for both groups of arrivals.

“Confidence in the destination due to our measured and phased approach to re-opening post the COVID-19 lockdown led

Cayman Islands recovered 57 percent of 2019 business.

While the United States accounted for more than 80 percent of all stayover visitors, the U.K. and Ireland recovered the fastest, reaching 77 percent of 2019’s visitation level. This was followed by Canada and Latin America.

For 2023, the destination has set an overall visitation goal of 70 percent of 2019’s numbers, and Minister of Tourism and Transport Kenneth Bryan is confident that the territory will achieve this target.

“We anticipate that 2023 will be a momentous year for tourism with a full



to pent-up demand which accelerated our visitation volume once all travel restrictions were dropped,” said Rosa Harris, the island’s experienced director of tourism.

She explained that the quality of accommodations and attractions, retail offerings and restaurants as well as vibrant events, including the Capella Music Festival, the Cayman Islands Marathon, and meetings and incentives groups continue to drive visitors to the destination.

Regional and international tourism stakeholders as well as members of the media experienced the quality of the Cayman Islands tourism product and the strength of its recovery when Cayman hosted the Caribbean Tourism Organization’s (CTO) business meetings as well as IATA’s Caribbean Aviation Day last September.

The recently reported numbers surpassed the goal of 200,000 stayover visitors in 2022 as well as its target of 40 percent of 2019 tourism tax revenues. Of note, visitation during the last quarter of 2022 averaged 89 percent of 2019’s arrivals and for the full calendar year, the

calendar year of visitors to allow us to reset our seasonality aligned with new expectations for travel post-pandemic,” he commented. “Our accommodation, restaurant and retail partners are primed to welcome guests, and we will continue strategic discussions with our airline partners to offer increased airlift to the destination to ensure a steady stream of visitors. We also look forward to working with our partners in cruise to further enhance and deliver an authentic destination experience.”

The destination will host the Florida-Caribbean Cruise Association’s (FCCA) PAMAC conference for cruise executives and platinum members, June 20-23, this year.

Tourism in the Cayman Islands is off to a strong start and with modern accommodations, including several resort projects in the pipeline, world-class hospitality, new air service, and a strong marketing and product development approach, these islands will no doubt turn the dreams of many visitors into reality.

Data Protection breach investigation leads to charges



The Office of the Ombudsman completed an investigation into a personal data breach involving a former employee of a local telecommunications company. The ex-employee is alleged to have unlawfully shared customers’ personal information with a police officer, which the officer is then alleged to have used for personal purposes.

The personal data breach was reported on 20 November 2020 under section 16 of the Data Protection Act. A subsequent investigation by the Office of the Ombudsman and the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) led to criminal charges before the court, including charges against the telecommunications company’s ex-employee and the police officer under section 54 of the Act.

As part of the investigation to determine if the data controller adhered to the seventh principle of the Act, the Ombudsman’s office reviewed various sources of information, including the telecommunication provider’s data protection policies and procedures, the ex-employee’s data protection training records, a confidentiality agreement between the ex-employee and the employer, details on the data controller’s system audit logs, and the ex-employees personal phone records. The office also obtained several witness statements from relevant parties. The investigation determined that the data controller had adequate organisational and



technical measures in place to secure the data in spite of the personal data breach.

Given the nature of the breach, the Ombudsman’s office requested the assistance of the RCIPS to conduct a criminal investigation. Following the submission of a legal file to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, a legal ruling recommended the telecommunications company’s former employee and the police officer be charged.

“It is important for all public and private sector employees to be aware that access to, and the processing of, an individual’s personal data must be done fairly and lawfully and only for the purposes for which that data was provided,” said Sharon Roulstone, Ombudsman. “As this case demonstrates, there are potentially serious consequences if personal data is not managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act.”

Anyone with questions about Cayman’s Data Protection Act should visit the Ombudsman website, www.ombudsman.ky, or call 946-6283 for further information. Data protection complaints or reports of data breaches can be made on the website, at the Ombudsman’s office or via email at info@ombudsman.ky



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Cayman's Demographic Growth, Shifts and Opportunities

By: Nick Joseph, HSM Partner

As at 16 January 2023, 34,067 foreign nationals are recorded by the Department of WORC as having a work permit (or Government contract) in the Cayman Islands. This number is not only the highest we have seen (for those watching, up from 32,913 on 17 October 2022) but has some striking implications – beyond the fact that we have been adding (on average) an additional dozen foreign workers a day, every day, for the last 3 months.

There are now 135 different nationalities recorded amongst us. That is a number we can and should be proud of. Jamaicans continue to be the most numerous, followed by Filipinos, Brits and Indians.

If these figures are relied on by the authorities in their consideration of PR applications, the increase in the Indian population means that persons of that demographic may now face a loss of 5 points on the basis that their number appears to today constitute more than 5% of the population on work permits.

The detail of the top 12 nationalities on “work permits” is:

Jamaica	14,586	42.8%
Philippines	5,284	15.5%
UK	1,983	5.8%
India	1,899	5.5%
Honduras	1,234	3.6%
Canada	1,218	3.6%
USA	930	2.7%
Nicaragua	706	2.1%
Nepal	627	1.8%
South Africa	626	1.8%
Ireland	402	1.2%
Guyana	310	0.9%

The maths (or math for those with a North American lilt) is not as easy as it may seem. Policies relating to treatment and interpretation long requested of the authorities (on this and a great multitude of other issues), have never been provided. There are many consequences of this and the resulting uncertainties and potential arbitrariness.

The Permanent Residence Points System is supposed to reward “rare” nationalities by awarding more points – and inherently penalize those that appear “overrepresented” in our community. The noble (and lawful) intention is that no foreign culture be permitted to overwhelm (or otherwise dominate) the Caymanian people and these Islands, and that an “appropriate demographic balance” be maintained (both in society and in each private sector workplace – although the Civil Service appears exempt from such considerations (up to the point of an individual Civil Servant applying for PR) given the fact that

the Department of WORC plays no role in Civil Service hiring decisions).

The Points System makes it clear that 10 points are awarded to those applicants for Permanent Residence who are representative of a demographic of origin which is less than 5% of work permits in the Cayman Islands, whereas 5 points are available to those who are represented by more than 5% but less than 10% of the population on work permits, and no points are available (in the category of demographics) to those who are of a demographic of origin which is represented by more than 10% of the population on work permits.

Of the many details we have sought for most of a decade is the question of whether it is the population on date of application, the date of the 8th anniversary of applicant's arrival as a resident, or date of consideration of their application, that is the basis of the treatment of applicants under the demographics section of the Points System. We have never received clear guidance. Nor is there any indication of what happens when an application is delayed in its consideration by so long, through no fault of an applicant, that the statistics materially change in a manner adverse to an applicant. Denying an Indian national PR because of a delay in the processing of their application (now averaging 17 months) is not a good look. It also would appear unlawful, and unlikely to survive legal challenge.

There is another issue to contemplate. What do the authorities contend is a work permit for the purposes of their calculations? Those on Government Contracts (1,130) or with Permission to Continue Working (668), or Working by Operation of Law (33), are very arguably not work permit holders – yet they are reported in the statistics as if they are. Persons with Employment Rights Certificates (there are thousands) are not work permit holders and are NOT recorded in the referenced statistics at all. Adjusting the percentages to account for them is difficult, and ever changing.

An analysis that counts only those persons with work permits (as that term is defined by reference to the Immigration (Transition) Act) changes the percentages further. In fact, despite the above figures, the number of Indians on work permits exceeds the number of Brits on work permits given (for example) that 170 Brits are reported to be here on Government Contracts compared to only 48 Indian nationals.

The margins around the numbers of Brits given the rate at which their number (as a percentage of those on work permits) is diminishing, and risks becoming too vague to and uncertain for the authorities to be able to consistently paint within the lines. The system ought to be capable of working well, but delays, a historic failure and even refusal to provide needed clarity, deprive it of so much potential. Statistics are no longer reported quarterly. We do not know which ones the authorities use. It does however appear that Brits are on a trajectory to gain an extra 5 points on their PR applications.

There is no uncertainty in relation to the demographic points available to Jamaicans and Filipinos. Their number so



► Nick Joseph

greatly exceeds the 10% threshold that we have no expectation of persons from those countries achieving anything more than their current 0 points for demographics.

Any imminent uncertainty is not the fault of the government of today. The hand they now hold was dealt to them some time ago.

The committee appointed by the Hon. Deputy Premier to look into the Points System will doubtless have this issue in its sights.

Whatever happens next, the figures appear to help reveal many other things.

One, is Caymanians are in a minority. As at census day, 2021, there were reported to be 6,378 holders of Permanent Residence in the Islands. The overwhelming majority of them are still here, and with status applications now languishing for up to 12 months, many of those who have qualified to apply to become Caymanian, will still be Permanent Residence holders. Adding them to the work permit numbers makes the number of expatriates living in Cayman 40,445. Allowing for expatriate spouses, children, and other dependents, there are today somewhere around 50,000 foreign nationals living here.

With a tourism room capacity of 20,527 – at 75% occupancy there would be another 15,000 sleeping here. Add 10,000 cruise ship passengers and crew (there

were more than 13,000 on one day in January 2023), snowbirds in their condos, and family and friends visiting from overseas, and a few hundred Cuban refugees, there are quite probably 75,000 non-Caymanians here on a high season busy cruise ship day.

According to the census there were 38,047 Caymanians. We are aware that a number of them are “ghosts” – persons perceived to be Caymanians but who in fact (and in law) are not. The number of Caymanians will now be around 40,000, but it is unlikely to be much more than that.

It seems there are now likely around 90,000 persons “living” here in the Cayman Islands.

We contend that we have a population of 80,000 (78,554 was the revised official estimate last summer). We appear erroneous in that conclusion. Whatever the number, right now, our infrastructure needs to cope with 110,000+ people who are actually here.

The rapid growth is at least creating a Demographic Dividend providing much government revenue and private sector economic activity. Let's hope we invest these potential windfalls wisely. We need to find a mechanism to generate income that is not as reliant on unbridled population growth. It is unsustainable. We cannot grow, at this rate, forever. Nor will we.



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BAYTOWN PLAZA, WEST BAY ROAD



SEVEN MILE BEACH: TIME TO CHANGE THE GAME?



By Staff Writer

From West Bay to Jackson Point might measure seven miles as the crow flies...or as the boat sails across the bay. Just don't tell that to Seven Miles Beach.

Seven miles it isn't, and as far as the alluring stretch of award-winning beach goes, seven miles it never was.

Even the tourism brochures in their eye-catching promotions alternate be-

tween 5.5 and 6.3 miles of unparalleled tropical bliss.

But take warning. We are at serious risk of further depleting - if not destroying - this piece of paradise.

It will be a sad price to pay, the consequence of an almost unrestricted rush to development at the sacrifice of the environment - our greatest asset.

At the rate we are going, we'll soon not be able to count many footsteps in the

sands of our already (less than) Seven Mile Beach.

So how did we get here and where do we go from here?

Seven Mile Beach is somewhat of a misnomer as the strip as we know it was never seven uninterrupted miles of pristine beach.

Historically the area has been part ironshore, small coves and inlets but with the stretch of beach the main feature.

Ideal for beachfront development, we learnt that over the years a process of 'who came first got the best beach spots' as can be seen from the parade of properties and their built timeline along the shoreline.

Previous ironshore areas have even been incorporated into development projects for the high-value claim of seafront vistas - if not necessarily direct beach access. After all, the beach might have only been a matter of a few minutes walk away.

It has now reached the point where property owners, business owners and developers hardly have any alternative but to resort to further manmade incursions onto the beach and into the sea to protect their investment.

But over time, sheer over-development driven by high demand cou-

pled with the natural ebb and flow of the tides has resulted in Cayman's most highly-prized possession being put at serious risk.

One factor is climate change which could be a game-changer for low-lying Cayman.

But while we may be on the frontline of threats, that actually presents us with the opportunity to be in the front seat of solutions.

We accept that it's a delicate balance between development and the environment, however, the evidence clearly shows where we need to prioritise and 'invest' our policies.

Numerous studies, reports and recommendations point this out.

One of them, a 2011 report by the Cayman Islands National Climate Change Committee, clearly warned: "Pressure from coastal development, economic dependence of the tourism industry on Seven Mile Beach, rapid population growth and insurability issues for development place additional pressures on the coastal environment."

The clock is ticking ominously.

Is it time for a moratorium on any further beachside development along Seven Mile Beach?

Is it time to call time while there's just enough time and scope for corrective action?



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MOE Collaborates with WORC to Increase Employment Pathways for Caymanians

The Ministry of Education (MoE) announces its recent collaboration with Workforce Opportunities and Residency Cayman (WORC) to build clearer employment pathways for Caymanians.

As part of the new initiative, the MoE Scholarship Secretariat Unit will encourage Education Council Scholarship recipients preparing to enter the job market to register with WORC as a job placement and further training option.

“Here in the Scholarship Secretariat

Unit, we provide students with extensive career guidance. However, we are continuously searching for new ways to enhance our support to our students. WORC has a programme to assist Caymanian job seekers in pursuing jobs and preparing for future careers. We encourage our graduates to register with them and take advantage of an opportunity to further develop their skillset and to connect with potential employers,” remarked Dr. Nicole Thompson, Acting Manager of the Ministry’s Scholar-

ship Secretariat Unit.

Ministry for Education, Honourable Juliana O’Connor-Connolly, expressed her satisfaction with the new partnership. “Our youth are the future leaders of these Cayman Islands. So I welcome partnerships such as these that empower our young people to become productive members of the workforce, actively contributing to nation-building and economic development,” the Education Minister said.

“The improvements we have made to

scholarships over the past two years must be matched with Caymanians returning to take up their place within the local economy and I therefore also encourage all of our students to take advantage of the services that the WORC has to offer in connecting them to employment.”

Jobseekers may register online at www.worc.ky.

To learn more about the Ministry of Education’s Scholarship programmes, visit <https://moescholarships.gov.ky>.

MYSCH National Heroes Day 2023 Recap



National Heroes Day 2023 recognised more than 200 recipients under the theme of “Volunteerism and Charitable Services” in ceremonies held in Grand Cayman and in Cayman Brac. These ceremonies, steeped heavily in symbolism and tradition, featured time-honoured customs such as; the uniform parade, blowing of the conch shell, and the singing of the national anthem and national song.

Dignitaries including His Excellency, the Governor Mr. Martyn Roper, OBE; Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton, JP, MP; Minister for Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage Hon. Bernie Bush, MP; elected members of government, opposition members, honourees, nomination committee members, guests and the public were in attendance to celebrate this momentous

occasion.

Cayman’s largest annually-held recognition event, honoured recipients in the Early Pioneer, Pioneer, Philanthropist and Voluntary Services categories with a custom insignia marking the occurrence.

The insignia celebrated the efforts of the honourees with the representation of the:

Coat of Arms: cultural tie to the Cayman Islands.

Hands: symbolising the volunteers helping hands, holding together and raising up the community.

The Heart: symbolises the core value of volunteerism.

Circular Shape: symbolises the never-ending circle of giving/volunteerism.

Thatch Rope: reflects the interwoven

persons of different cultures and social backgrounds who are at the core of volunteerism.

Minister for Youth, Sports, Culture & Heritage Hon. Bernie Bush spoke about the nation’s cultural legacy of volunteerism coming from the beliefs of our founding fathers and our sense of Caymanian hospitality and Christian values. “As we reflect on the ceremonies for 2023 and honour the many persons who continue to give selflessly to our community, with or without recognition, we hope this fosters the value of giving back.”

Premier, Hon. G. Wayne Panton announced the **National Heroes Day’s 2024 theme**, Celebrating Our Cultural Artists and Creatives at the celebration held on Monday, 23 January 2023. As the

Ministry responsible for supporting the awareness and preservation of local culture and heritage, the news is particularly encouraging.

Chief Officer, Teresa Echenique stated, “Throughout 2023 we look forward to promoting and supporting volunteers and charitable services in our work and events. Our volunteers are special to us and we want to ensure they are truly recognised for their hard work.”

We thank family, friends and the wider public for their nominations and joining us in celebrating this event. Additionally, we invite you to look out for the start of nominations for 2024 in the upcoming months because you are an important part of making this process and events a success.”



Join the Dart Scholar club

2023 high school and university scholarship applications now open

Dart Scholars are an impressive group – 37 young Caymanians who excel in the classroom and workplace, they are Cayman’s next generation of leaders and innovators. The opportunity to join this group of high performers is now open with the launch of the 2023 Dart Scholar application process for high school and university scholarships.

Every year, Dart awards two high school scholarships to students entering Year 10/ Grade 9 in September, and one university scholarship for undergraduate studies. Scholarships are merit-based, awarded for academic excellence, leadership potential and contributions to the community. Students can attend the school of their choice and there are no conditions on where they can work after finishing their education.

“We see our scholarship programme as an investment in Cayman’s future,” said Mark VanDevelde, Dart CEO. “We are always delighted when scholars bring their skills and knowledge back home, but we also recognise the benefits of gaining experience overseas, especially during the early stage of their careers. As the majority of our scholars continue their studies at the post-graduate level, we are excited and proud beginning to see our earliest recipients entering the workforce.”

Since launching in 2012, Dart has awarded 22 high school and 29 university scholarships. Dart’s high school scholarship is one of only three available to students in the Cayman Islands. Dart Scholar alumni currently in Cayman are working

in a range of industries including Finance, Human Resources, Biomedical Engineering and Law.

Dart scholarships offer financial support of up to US\$40,000 per year, but the benefits go beyond funding. Dart Scholars gain access to mentoring by Dart leaders and summer internships with teams across the organisation, from engineering and architecture to investment analysis, finance and marketing. Scholars get involved with meaningful projects and tasks that make a valid contribution to business objectives.

Drew Milgate, who received the Dart high school scholarship in 2013 and studied engineering at the University of Cambridge, interned with four different departments over the course of his education.

“The internship that had the most impact on me was my time with Dart Labs,” he said. “It was my first internship where I felt true autonomy in my role and I started to grasp the ins-and-outs of work life. Much of my work was research-based, focusing on shared mobility and smart cities. The work was more involved than compiling information – I was also able to think critically about how to apply my work and I was responsible for communicating these ideas to the team. I can’t thank Paul and Jennifer enough for their mentorship while I was on their team.”

Dart High School scholarships

Dart’s high school scholarship covers the last four years of secondary school.



► Previous Dart Scholars with Dart CEO Mark VanDevelde and Director of Real Estate and Development Jacie Doak.

The scholarship is focused on STEM subjects – science, technology, engineering and mathematics – with applicants required to take a test in maths and science as part of the application process. Recipients have the choice to continue in their current school or transfer to a different school in the Cayman Islands. In addition to financial support and work experience opportunities, high school scholars are invited on an annual summer enrichment trip which will include a two-week academic programme at Oxford University this year.

William A. Dart Memorial University Scholarship

In recognition of the Dart family’s long-standing support of education, the university scholarship is named after Ken Dart’s father, William. The schol-

arship offers financial support for up to four years at an accredited overseas institution. Current Dart Scholars attend top tier universities in the USA, Canada and United Kingdom including Columbia University, Imperial College London and UC Berkley.

Applying for a Dart scholarship

Applicants must be Caymanian, and there is a rigorous, blind selection process for both high school and university scholarships that includes an online application form, written tests and interviews with a panel of business leaders.

The deadline for application is 5 April 2023 for the high school scholarship and 5 May 2023 for the university scholarship. For more information and to submit an application, visit Dart.ky.

Nolan is new Tortuga CEO



► Tortuga has many delicious lines



► Robert and Carlene Hamaty founded Tortuga



► Eugene Nolan has over 30 years’ experience

The Tortuga Rum Company has appointed Eugene Nolan as Chief Executive Officer, responsible for overseeing the company’s operations as the leading liquor retailer and distributor of beers, wines, spirits, non-alcoholic beverages as well as food in the Cayman Islands.

Since the passing of Tortuga’s founder Robert Hamaty in 2020, the family-owned business has faced the challenges of the pandemic and closed borders controlled by family members and the board of the directors. With business back to pre-pandemic levels, Nolan will steer the company forward.

“I’m excited to work with the Tortuga team to amplify Tortuga,” said Nolan, who

has worked in the Cayman Islands for more than 30 years. “Mr Hamaty was an extremely passionate leader and entrepreneur who, together with his wife Carlene, grew an original idea for a local rum and rum cake into an international business. I look forward to leading Tortuga on the next stage of its journey.”

With more than 30 years’ experience, prior to joining Tortuga, Nolan was the Managing Partner of Savage Consulting a leader in business development where he offered operational, financial and business development expertise to local and international clients.

Tortuga Rum Company was founded in 1984 when Robert and Carlene Hamaty introduced Cayman’s first private label rums:

Tortuga Gold and Tortuga Light and Tortuga Rum Cake. Three years later, they opened a duty-free liquor store in George Town and became licensed as a wholesale distributor, laying the foundations for Tortuga’s operations today as Cayman’s leading retailer for beers, wines and spirits with 19 stores in Grand Cayman and Cayman Brac, and the distributor for over 300 brands including Coca-Cola, Flor De Cana Rum, Robert Mondavi Winery, Kim Crawford, Hendrick’s Gin and Stolli Vodka.

Tortuga’s famous rum cakes are still made on the premises at Tortuga’s visitor centre on North Sound Road, and there is a newly renovated visitor centre where the famous rum

cakes can be viewed being baked, expansion of the company information, and of course pick up a freshly baked Tastee Patty and beverage.

“As business continues to pick up post-pandemic, our main priority for 2023 is to boost our existing assets – our stores, our people,” said Nolan who is familiar with the company’s operations having acted as a consultant last year. “We are very excited with the launch of our new website allowing for seamless online shopping which has been made easy for our customers, delivering a delightful customer experience including a new tracking feature which allows you to track your order right to your front door step.”

As Tortuga’s Chief Executive Officer, Nolan will work closely with the board of directors which is chaired by Wilfred Baghaloo and includes members of the Hamaty family.

CRUISE SHIP SCHEDULE — WEEK — JANUARY 30 - FEBRUARY 3



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Radiance of the Seas	Marella Discovery 2	Disney Fantasy	Carnival Horizon	MSC Seascape	Celebrity Beyond	Caribbean Princess
	Celebrity Summit		Celebrity Constellation	Brilliance of the Seas	Celebrity Reflection	
			Norwegian Prima		Norwegian Dawn	
Total Passengers	Total Passengers	Total Passengers	Total Passengers	Total Passengers	Total Passengers	Total Passengers
2,500	4,234	4,000	9,685	8,146	8,464	3,100

Tourism Ministry Seeks Partnership with Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection



► (L-R) The Evrima can be seen anchored in the background as Ritz-Carlton General Manager, Marc Langevin and Minister for Tourism and Transport, Hon. Kenneth Bryan discuss future opportunities.



► The Evrima anchored offshore Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman

The Ministry of Tourism and Transport and The Ritz-Carlton Grand Cayman are working in partnership to bring a new level of luxury to the Cayman Islands through the 'Ritz-Carlton Yacht Collection'. The agreement will pave the way for the yacht to visit the Cayman Islands, allowing their guests to have a dual land and sea experience, which includes a 2-night stayover on the island.

"I am really excited to be in talks with the Ritz-Carlton to bring this quality cruise product to the Cayman Islands. By enticing ships of this size and caliber to visit our destination, we are demonstrating the type of 'quality over quantity' we are working toward harnessing as part of our reimagined cruise strategy," said Hon. Kenneth Bryan, Minister of Tourism and Transport.

"We look forward to solidifying this partnership with The Ritz-Carlton and will work toward cultivating relationships with other ultra-luxury yacht carriers to develop the Cayman Islands as a part of their route offerings," the Minister added.

As a precursor to the visit later this year, the ultra-luxurious 'Evrima' briefly anchored offshore on Thursday, 2nd February while on its way to its next destination; it was easily visible from The Ritz-Carlton property. The luxury vessel is slated to officially call on the Cayman Islands in December 2023.

Walkers Hosts Sixth Annual Career Fair

Walkers recently welcomed students, parents, faculty members and job seekers from multiple high schools, tertiary institutions and work placement programmes across Grand Cayman to its annual career fair. With just over 70 people in attendance, the fair showcased the variety of employment, internship and scholarship opportunities for Caymanians that Walkers offers.

Attendees at the fair were able to speak with staff from various business and professional services groups, including team members from compliance and regulatory services, IT, marketing, finance, human resources, facility services and corporate services, as well as trainee lawyers and members of the firm's Trainee Committee.

Jordana Clarke, Head of Learning and Development, commented "One of the main objectives of the annual career fair is to showcase the multitude of opportunities available at Walkers, and we are thrilled that so many were able to attend and discover all that Walkers has to offer. Our hope is that many of the at-



tendees will consider a career with us in the future."

David Collins, Partner and Chair of the Trainee Committee, said "We look forward to hosting the career fair each year and are extremely proud to welcome the future of Cayman's work force into our offices today."

Walkers has a proud tradition of training the next generation of Cayman's workforce. The firm's legal training programme has been in existence since 1983 when the firm brought in its first two articulated clerks - Frank Banks and Wayne Pan-

ton - making it the oldest legal training programme in the Cayman Islands. Since then, Walkers has expanded its training offerings to include development programmes for Caymanians such as the Junior Legal Secretary Training Programme, the Fiduciary Services Development Programme and the WPS Development Programme. Walkers also actively mentors students and offers them work experience and internships each year.

For more information on Walkers (Cayman) training programmes, please visit Careers at www.walkersglobal.com.

BUTTERFIELD ADJUSTS RATES IN RESPONSE TO US FED FUNDS RATE INCREASE

Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Limited ("Butterfield") announced that, in step with the recent increase in the US Federal Funds Rate, Butterfield has adjusted its Prime Rate for US and CI dollar lending for residential mortgages, consumer loans and corporate loans.

The US and CI dollar prime rates for residential mortgages, consumer loans and corporate loans will increase by 0.25% to 7.75% effective February 3, 2023. For information regarding rates and payment terms, clients can call (345) 949 7055 or visit Butterfield's website and Banking Centres.

SCOTIABANK PROMOTES FINANCIAL WELLNESS AMONG DOMESTIC ABUSE SURVIVORS



Scotiabank recently engaged clients of the Cayman Islands Crisis Centre (CICC) in a financial literacy session aimed at helping the women - many of whom are facing difficult circumstances - to restart or begin their financial wellness journey. Fulfilling its philanthropic mandate of removing barriers to career advancement for disadvantaged groups, representatives from the Bank vis-

ited the facility which provides support for persons impacted by domestic abuse, to lead the insightful discussion with their female clients. "We are happy to have the opportunity to impact the lives of these ladies and to equip them with some of the knowledge they need to move forward with their lives. What we were able to impart in the session now gives them a greater opportunity to recov-

er stronger despite their adverse circumstances," Chervain Stuart, Senior Manager, Retail Banking at Scotiabank said. "Through keen focus on general financial education and initiatives such as this, we are ensuring that we contribute to the development of an inclusive society that offers access to opportunity, which is critical to providing economic stability and resilience for individuals, families, and their commu-

nities," she added. Mariesha Spencer, Outreach Coordinator at the CICC lauded Scotiabank for hosting the informative and engaging session, noting that it was well-needed among the women. "Financial literacy is an important subject that should always be talked about; especially for our clients who are often subjected to economic abuse from their partners. This session has equipped them with the knowledge and

skills needed to make informed decisions towards becoming financially independent and empowered," she stated.

The financial wellness session was an added benefit for the CICC, which for the past five years has been a Scotiabank beneficiary. Scotiabank has long been a sponsor for the CICC's Power of the Purse initiative and has donated US\$ 23,000 since 2021 in support of the centre's projects.

Ministry of Education (MoE) Stimulates Early Learning with Smart Start Programme



► Ms. Sandra Ebanks (seated centre), Manager, East End Public Library, reads to Zavaree Chambers-Lightbody, his mother Latoya (l) and Joseph Quinland and his mother Zula (r) during a Book Buzz Session.



► Zula Quinland (l) and her son Joseph engage in a Family Circle session led by Ms. Erica Dell'Oglio (r) from LIFE Cayman.

The Ministry of Education (MoE), through its Early Childhood Care & Education (ECCE) Unit, launched a 'Smart Start' Early Stimulation Programme at the Craddock Ebanks (North Side) and East End Civic Centers on Tuesday (24 January).

"In the absence of early learning facilities in the districts of Northside and East End, this programme aims to enhance toddlers' readiness for school and assist their families in creating a suitable home learning environment," remarked Acting Chief Officer Ms. Lyneth Monteith.

The 30-week programme features bi-weekly Smart Start sessions across both districts facilitated by a team of local early childhood professionals. The programme includes a weekly Book Buzz at the Northside and East End Public Libraries and a Stay and Play Reception session at the Edna Moyle and East End Primary Schools.

The MoE has partnered with the non-profit literacy organisation LIFE Cay-

man to deliver the Smart Start programme, with team members issuing books to families as part of the sessions.

Executive Director Ms. Erica Dell'Oglio remarked, "LIFE knows the importance of supporting the development of young children and those who care for them. Our current strategy primarily focuses on nurturing foundational literacy and the joy of books in the Early Years. Recognising that society is responsible for building a more compassionate world in which all our children have equal opportunities, we are proud to partner with parents, ECCE Unit and other entities in the SMART START programme.

Register for Smart Start at the North Side or East End Public Library any time during the programme or download the registration form from <https://www.gov.ky/education/departments-units/early-childhood-care-and-education-unit>, and email the completed form to ecce@gov.ky.

Mrs. Shari Welcome was one of several parents whose children participated in the early sessions. She commented, "The North Side programme is off to a great start with a small group of children. The level of engagement and interaction reinforces the importance of nurturing children and empowering families to ensure children's success. I am positive this programme will continue to flourish and produce amazing results."

East End parent Zula Quinland added, "My son Joseph and I really enjoy the programme. More specifically, he loves meeting new children his age, reading books and participating in the singalongs. I hope it continues in the community for a long time and all parents and caregivers will take the time and effort to attend."

To learn more about the Smart Start Early Childhood Stimulation Programme, please get in touch with ECCE Officer Vanessa Cameron by telephone at 244-6625 or email at ecce@gov.ky.



► Ms. Andrea Taffe, Manager at the Northside Library, presents three Smart Start participants with library cards during a recent Book Buzz Session.



► Mrs. Shari Welcome (standing) watches over her son as he and other young Northside Family Circle participants show off the books they received from LIFE Cayman representatives Ms. Erica Dell'Oglio (seated, back row right) and Ms. Nicola Galvin (seated front row right).



► Northside parent, Ms. Glassean Bowlyn (seated left), receives assistance from members of the Ministry of Education's ECCE Unit to register for the Smart Start Programme. She is assisted by Ms. Vanessa Cameron (standing, 2nd left), Ms. Darbra Bodden (standing back) and Dr. Pearlyn Henry-Burrell (seated right).

SEVERE EXISTING PENALTIES HIGHLIGHTED IN NEW CONSERVATION REGULATIONS



By Staff Writer

New regulations to protect Cayman’s native animal, bird and plant species have been accompanied by heated debate over the penalties.

The new National Conservation (Alien Species) Regulations, 2022 were passed in November last year and came into effect a few days ago on February 3rd.

The new regulations which fall under the overarching National Conservation Act of 2013 carry severe penalties for violations ranging from CI\$5,000 under the regulations, up to CI\$500,000 or four years in jail under the broader National Conservation Act 2013.

The penalty under the overarching Act is one hundred times more severe than the fine stated in the regulations but is reserved for the most serious offences.

According to officials persons guilty of breaking the law are more likely to be slapped with the CI\$5,000 fine under the new regulations. However, the possibility does exist for the imposition of the half-a-million-dollar penalty as defined in the National Conservation Act which has been on the books for the past ten years.

‘SUBSTANTIAL WIN’

National Conservation Council(NCC) Chair, McFarlane Connolly said: “The National Conservation Council believes these Regulations represent a substantial win for our unique native and endemic plant and animal species which are particularly vulnerable to the negative impacts of invasive, alien species. We understand this can be an emotive topic on all sides, and we hope these Regulations will bring greater clarity to conservation practitioners, animal welfare groups, landowners, veterinarians and pet importers and owners.”

The Department of Environment (DoE) and the NCC have launched an intensive public awareness campaign surrounding the new regulations “to help the Cayman Islands community understand what the new Regulations mean and how they may impact households and businesses across our three islands.”

“A communications plan has been developed and is being deployed over the coming months to ensure key stakeholder groups, government entities, community organisations and, indeed, the wider Cayman Islands public can know everything

they want to know about how these new Regulations will work,” Mr Connolly added.

SPECIES SPECIFIED

The new regulations under the National Conservation (Alien Species) Regulations 2022 categorise and distinguish the native species being protected from those which pose a threat to them.

The Cayman Islands National Conservation Council has explained that the new regulations help to address threats to native flora and fauna. It introduces a prohibited species list, outlines the distinctions between domestic and feral animals, and further defines the procedures and allowable actions to control feral animals and other alien species to reduce the threat to native species, according to an official statement.

Native species are plants and animals which existed in the Cayman Islands prior to any humans having come here. These include our endemic species – those species which occur only in the Cayman Islands or on one or more of our three islands like the Grand Cayman Blue and Sister Islands Rock Iguanas and Cayman Parrots, as well as those species that, although not unique to the Cayman Islands, are found here naturally such as our Brown and Red-footed Boobies, sea grape trees and mangroves.

Prohibited Species are plants and animals which have been identified as posing exceptionally severe threats to the native species of the Cayman Islands.

Alien species are plants and animals which have been introduced to our islands either intentionally or accidentally through human intervention.

Invasive species are plants and animals which have been introduced to our islands either intentionally or accidentally through human intervention and pose a significant threat to our native species,

Feral species are those domestic or agricultural alien plants and animals which are living in “the wild” and do not have an identifiable owner. In the case of plants, the identifiable owner is the person cultivating them.

Image credit: NCC






National Conservation (Alien Species) Regulations 2022 Frequently Asked Questions

On 3rd November 2022, the National Conservation (Alien Species) Regulations, 2022 were published in the Cayman Islands Gazette. These important regulations will help protect our endemic and native plants and animals from the potential negative impacts of alien species.

In this document, we provide answers to some of your most frequently asked questions about these important regulations and what they mean for residents and businesses in the Cayman Islands.

Important Definitions

Together, the National Conservation Act (2013) and the National Conservation (Alien Species) Regulations 2022 provide several important legal definitions that will help the Cayman Islands Government better control the potential negative impacts of alien species on our sensitive natural ecosystems.

Native Species

Native species are plants and animals that existed in the Cayman Islands prior to human settlement. These include plants and animal species found naturally in other countries but also endemic species like the Blue Iguana which are found nowhere else in the world.



Alien Species

Alien species are plants and animals introduced to the Cayman Islands either intentionally or accidentally through human activity. This includes domestic pets like dogs and cats, livestock like goats, pigs and cattle, and even plants used in agriculture or landscaping.



Invasive Species

Invasive species are alien species that pose significant threats to native species because they reproduce or consume resources at much faster rates than can be managed naturally. Notable examples in the Cayman Islands include green iguanas, rats and lionfish.



Feral Species

Feral species are alien/invasive plants or animals which are living in 'the wild' and do not have an identifiable owner or cultivator. 'The wild' is defined as any area that is not under control or management of an identifiable owner who ensures the propagation or movement of the species are confined to that area.



Prohibited Species

Prohibited species are alien/invasive plants and animals which pose severe threats to native species. Under the new Regulations, prohibited species have strict regulations for keeping as pets or as ornamental plants, breeding, import, export, purchase or sale, and include stiff penalties for infractions.



Caymanian models heading to New York Fashion Week



► Alana



► Brianna



► Kezia

Three Caymanian runway models are headed to New York Fashion Week. Brianna Livingstone, Alana Tooker and Kezia McLean has each been cast to walk the runway, in the heart of Times Square on 11 February 2023, where they will be wearing collections from international designers eager to showcase their brands in a city that is host to one of the most popular and mesmerizing fashion events in the world.

Cayman InStyle Fashion Week, during its successful launch, captured the interest of TFL (producer of the upcoming NY runway show) who extended an invitation for three models from the Cayman Islands to participate in their event. Jointly selected by Cayman InStyle Fashion Week and TFL, these trained models have consistently demonstrated the poise, confidence and skills to grace any catwalk.

Accompanying these lovely young ladies to the Big Apple will be renowned fashion designer, Norma Ebanks, CEO of Cayman InStyle Fashion Week and CEO of Creative Fashion School (a non-profit organization). She will be displaying her latest collection during New York Fashion Week on 11 February 2023, after having accepted a special invitation from TFL to be one of their guest designers. Ms. Ebanks will share the New York runway with top designers from around the world, with her pieces being worn by international models before a multinational audience. This will be Ms. Ebanks' second time at New York Fashion Week, showcasing her signature line. Her debut was in September of 2022.

Next on Ms. Ebanks' agenda is that of unveiling Cayman's very own Fashion Week, the aforementioned Cayman In-

Style Fashion Week (CIFWK), which is an upscale fashion and lifestyle event scheduled to span across four days (from 30 March 2023 to 2 April 2023). Its purpose is to reinvent the Cayman Islands' culture of fashion and creativity for young people and to provide a platform for creatives to exhibit their work.

CIFWK will be hosted by Creative Fashion School (CFS) whose aim is to empower Cayman's creative youth, who might be dealing with mental health issues and choose to free their mind through art, fashion and design. The Alex Panton Foundation, whose mission is to highlight the awareness, advocacy and support of mental illness affecting children and young adults, will receive a portion of the event's proceeds.

This four-day event opens with a Welcome Party on Thursday, 30 March, where

guests mingle with local and international designers and models and it wraps up on Sunday, 2 April with "The Escape" which will showcase the island's beauty to visiting celebrities, designers, and media, as they indulge in this enchanting and pristine Caribbean gem.

On Friday, 31 March, the "Free Your Mind" Soirée will take place at the Ritz-Carlton. The Soirée is a stylish production in celebration of the dedication and passion of our "Free Your Mind" Program. Student designers from local schools and the community will showcase their unique outfits, while select artists paint live and on location, and while local musical talent add their creative flare alongside our local and international guests. Sponsors, influencers, models, international designers, celebrities and press can enjoy specialty cocktails and floating appetizers during the cocktail hour, whilst enjoying the best of Cayman's creativity on the opening night.

On Saturday, 1 April, it is Lights! Camera! Fashion! The highly-anticipated Runway Show, also taking place at the Ritz-Carlton, will feature local and international designers and models, as well as a special CIFWK Bridal lineup featuring breathtaking bridal gowns from internationally-known couture bridal designers. Our local models are trained by international runway coach, Alva Page, who has mentored the likes of Cayman's very own Alyssa Powell-Johnson (currently signed to Wilhelmina Miami) and Aaliyah Hydes (currently signed to Muse Management).

The inception of CIFWK's inaugural 2019 show provided a platform for local designers to be seen alongside international top designers such as Sergio Hudson (known for his designs for Michelle Obama, Beyonce, and Jennifer Lopez) and Sai Sanko (who showed her collection for the first time ever on a runway and has since been worn by celebrities such as Gabrielle Union-Wade and Jenna Jenovich) – quality which will be repeated in 2023.

More information about Cayman InStyle Fashion Week can be found on its website (www.caymaninstylefashionweek.com), on Facebook ([caymaninstylefashionweek](https://www.facebook.com/caymaninstylefashionweek)) or on its Instagram page (CIFWKOfficial).

NEW YORK
FASHION WEEK FEB 11TH '23

Norma Ebanks Designs

THE WESTIN TIMES SQUARE
NEW YORK, NEW YORK
@thefashionlifetour

TFL
The Fashion Life Tour

► Norma Ebanks in a previous appearance

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Registration for Baby Show at the Agricultural Fair

Ongoing until 17 February - The Baby Show is back at the Agriculture Fair on Ash Wednesday 22 February 2023. New born babies and those up to 4 years old can be registered for the different age categories. Please contact Eziethamae Bodden at 929 - 9932 to register.

National Youth Commission Logo Competition

Ongoing until 20 February - The National Youth Commission (NYC) has launched its logo design competition. The designer(s) of the winning entry will receive a \$1,000 prize. All entries must be submitted to nyccaymanislands@gmail.com by 11.59 pm on Monday, 20 February 2023. Go to www.gov.ky/ysch for more information.

Mothers' Union of St. George's Anglican Church - Valentine 5K Fun Walk/Run

11 February - The Mothers' Union of St. George's Anglican Church is having their annual Valentine 5K Fun Walk/Run on Saturday 11 February from 6am to 9am. The event starts and ends at Smith Cove Barchadere. Register at caymanactive.com and there will be no on-the-day registration. Online registration closes February 10th at 12AM. Cost is \$15 for adults and \$10 for children 12 and older. Proceeds will benefit Maple and Habukkuk House.

National Gallery - Family Fun Day

11 February - The National Gallery invites all to their free Family Fun Day on Saturday 11 February from 10am to 1pm. Enjoy activity sheets, guided studio workshops and pop - up outdoor art stations. For more information email programme@nationalgallery.org.ky or call 945 - 8111.

The Lions Club of Cayman Brac - Pre-Valentine's variety concert

11 February - The Lions Club of Cayman Brac is hosting a pre-Valentine's variety concert at the Aston Ruddy Civic Center at 6:30pm on February 11th.

Heart Warriors & Angels Beach Walk 2023

12 February - All are invited to join the 5th annual Heart Warriors & Angels Beach Walk during and in honour of February 2023 Congenital Heart Defects Awareness Week and in memory of baby Nolan Evans on Sunday 12 February at Public Beach beginning at 7am. Registration is \$25 and includes a t shirt. Go to caymanactive.com for more information.

Cayman Islands National Dance Company - Free Workshop in George Town

17 February - The Cayman Islands National Dance Company is having a free Community Workshop in George Town on Friday 17 February from 6:30pm to 8pm. Anyone from ages 12 and up may attend. No prior experience is neces-



► Group Shot Valentines Fun Walk Run

sary. Come out, learn some moves and have lots of fun. To register, call 926 - 1826.

Coco Fest

18 February - Coco Fest at Pedro St. James is Saturday 18 February from 12pm to 6pm. There will be arts, crafts, games, music, food and demonstrations. Admission is only \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for children 6 and over. Children under 6 are free.

St. Alban's Church of England - February Church Services

19 February - Services of Holy Communion will be held on Sunday February 19th at 9:30am. Morning Prayers (Matins) will continue on all other Sundays at 9:30am as usual.

Agricultural Show

23 February - The Agricultural Show is back! Meet and talk with local farmers and purchase delicious produce. Fun stuff for the kids includes pony rides and face painting. Attendees can enjoy local music, try the mechanical bull and watch local craft demonstrations. Entrance cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for kids aged 2 to 12. Gates open at 7am and the event finishes at 4pm.

National Gallery Exhibition - Al Ebanks, Remnants of an Artist

24 February - 18 May - The National Gallery presents Al Ebanks, Remnants of an Artist. The new exhibition will run 24 Feb - 18 May. For more infor-

mation, go to nationalgallery.org.ky.

De Road Callin' 5K Walk/Run

25 February - In honour of their good friend and warrior Josanny Fermin who is fighting Breast Cancer, join Cayman Carnival Batabano for their Second Annual 5K Walk/Run with a Twist. T-shirts will be provided. Feel free to wear a Carnival T-shirt, costume, or accessory. Refreshment & prizes are included. Tickets can be purchased online at caymanactive.com or at Le Clasique at the Strand for \$25.00.

Send your community events to wendy@caymaniantimes.ky

Open for Inspiration

There's nothing quite as inspiring as a truly jaw-dropping before and after picture. I'm talking about a 50+ pound weight loss where they look like an entirely new person.

It's striking how much younger people look when the extra fat comes off. An attractive, happy, energetic person was inside of them all along.

Many popular magazines showcase transformation success stories like this at the beginning of a new year. Flip through the pages of before and after photos and it's hard not to feel inspired to make healthy changes in your own life.

It's also interesting to read how each person managed to lose all the weight. What was their exercise routine? What diet plan did they follow? The truth is that there are many routines and plans that bring success.

The key is to choose your plan and stick with it.

Of course, this is where things get tricky, during the stick with it period. This is when life tempts you to lose your focus and get lazy. This is when even the best intentions don't help you win.

Below I have compiled a list of Best

Transformation Tips that came from the mouths of those who have actually done it. Every tip below is from a fat loss champion who lost 50+ pounds and some even half of their body weight.

- Fat loss is 80% mental and only 20% physical. Get your mind right if you want to succeed.
- Focus on non-scale victories like how your clothes fit, how you feel, and how much healthier you are.
- Fix what's going on inside before you attempt to fix what's going on outside. The mind is a powerful part of your transformation.
- Don't stress as much on what you are eating, but instead on how much you are eating. Keep calories under control.
- Find a workout routine that you won't be bored with, so that you'll stick with it.
- Stick to your workout plan no matter how tired you're feeling that day. Push your body through the motions even if you're tired.
- Don't be afraid to make healthy changes. You have nothing to lose and so much life to gain.
- Use a slow cooker to have healthy meals on hand to avoid unhealthy meals.

(See the recipe below!)

- Use a fitness app to log your meals, workouts and water consumption. This helps to stay on track on those days when you aren't feeling it.
- Try eating leafy vegetables and protein throughout the day to increase your energy. As a bonus this also increase the speed of your results.
- Find a plan and stick with it. Jumping from diet to diet never works in the long run.
- Get creative with your healthy eating by trying out new recipes. This helps prevent boredom from creeping in.
- Find and accountability partner who will keep you going strong with temptation hits.
- Make healthy changes gradually. If you ate a whole pizza yesterday then don't swear pizza off completely. Just eat one slice today.
- Don't give yourself the option of giving up. If you messed up then pick yourself back up and keep moving forward.
- Remember that the best part of getting into shape is not the six pack. It's about improvements to your self-confidence and overall outlook on life.



► Ernest Ebanks

• Be willing to ask for help. Seeking the help of a knowledgeable fitness professional is to ensure that your efforts are safe, effective and successful.

Are you ready to unleash that attractive, happy, energetic person that's hiding inside of you? I'm here to help you do it. Call Ernest at Body Shapers Personal Training Fitness Studio 325-8696 or email me at bodyshaperscayman@gmail.com today and we will get your own stunning transformation started!

Jamaica fake drugs crisis

The Pharmaceutical Society of Jamaica (PSJ) is concerned by the alarming increase in sales of counterfeit drugs and is appealing to Jamaicans not to source prescription drugs from non-registered sources.

• Counterfeit drugs may contain toxic doses of dangerous ingredients and cause mass poisoning. Poor-quality medicines compromise the treatment of chronic and infectious diseases, causing disease worsening, drug resistance and death.

Dr Ernestine Watson, former president of PSJ, said the sale of counterfeit drugs is a major issue in Jamaica which the PSJ is taking very seriously.

“This is why you should go to a pharmacy to fill your prescription,” she said. “We want to discourage persons from getting medication on the streets, buying it from sources that are not legal.

“We want persons to be aware that not all drugs are good for you. When you need your medication, the Ministry of Health and Wellness, through the National Health Fund, gives us affordable drugs, and these are available through registered pharmacies.”

She reiterated that all places where prescription drugs are sold must be registered with the Pharmacy Council of Jamaica and

that while there is an ongoing registration process, and that pharmacies and pharmacists are required to renew their registration annually.

Dr Watson said that a place that is designated to sell medical drugs must be manned by a registered pharmacist whose licence has to be renewed on an annual basis.

She said it is a legal requirement for the licence to be displayed at the place where pharmaceuticals are sold, so if a patient goes to a pharmacy and the licence is not on display, “it is your right and in the interest of your health to ask to see the licence of the pharmacy and the pharmacist”.

Jamaica’s health services are under extreme pressure. Besides the counterfeit drugs they are dealing with the island’s first suspected monkey pox death. Michael Bent, Southern Regional Health Authority Regional Technical Director, advises school administrators to increase infection-control measures to combat the risk of the virus spreading.

Bent is urging school leaders to enforce the infection-control measures they put in place to combat the spread of COVID-19 now that face-to-face classes have resumed. He is encouraging

hand washing and sanitizing, as well as the use of masks.

“Now that the schools have been reopened, where children have been interacting with each other and traveling on public transportation and so on, we want to ensure that they know what are the measures to take and enforce the infection-control measures so that we can minimize any risk of persons contracting it and spreading it,” Bent said. “We have to ensure that we don’t take anything for granted. Everyone can contract monkey pox if we don’t take precautionary measures.”

The SRHA, which covers St. Elizabeth, Manchester, and Clarendon has plans put in place to sensitise the public in major towns through awareness campaigns. Junction, Santa Cruz, Christiana, Mandeville, May Pen, Chapelton, Spaldings, and Frankfield are among them.

Jamaica reported its first case of monkey pox in July. Since then, the number of reported cases has risen to 12.



► Jamaica has a huge problem with counterfeit drugs



► Monkey pox is causing a big scare in JA schools

Antigua Airways is grounded for now



► Antigua Airways only lasted one flight

Antigua & Barbuda have suspended Antigua Airways’ chartered flights from West Africa as the carrier has not fully complied with regulatory requirements, according to a decision by the country’s Cabinet last month.

“The rules governing the member countries of the Eastern Caribbean Civil Aviation Authority are very strict; Antigua Airways had not complied fully with all of them. The organisers have pledged to fix all the deficiencies before resuming their service across the Atlantic from the Motherland,” the Cabinet said in a statement.

Antigua Airways made its inaugural flight on November 1, from Lagos, Nige-

ria to Antigua and Barbuda, chartered from Portugal’s Euro Atlantic Airways. It then returned to Lisbon, Portugal, before returning to Antigua on November 6 to take passengers back to Lagos.

According to Euro Atlantic Airways, its plane was chartered for the specific flight only to mark Independence Day in Antigua, but discussions were ongoing between the parties for future cooperation. Antigua Airways is a private-public partnership between Nigerian online travel agency Wakanow, African aviation services provider Aerostatus, and Nigerian printing and publishing firm Marvelous Mike Press Limited. The Antigua & Barbuda government owns 20% by supporting the airline through the Eastern Caribbean Commonwealth state’s Citizenship by Investment Programme, which provides citizenship to foreign investors who significantly contribute to the island’s socio-economic development.

Killer Guyanese pirates will hang



► Manohar and Persaud murdered seven fishermen

A Guyanese court handed down death sentences for two men found guilty of high seas piracy attacks that killed seven fishermen off the nation’s coast in 2018, and authorities said they have finally stopped a deadly group operating that preyed on fishermen for years.

Nakool Manohar, 45, and Premnauth Persaud, 48, were convicted of masterminding an attack on a group of fishing vessels in waters near the neighbouring shores of Suriname in a row over access to prime fishing grounds.

Besides the seven murdered fishermen, about a dozen others were rescued after drifting on the waters for days. Police said some of the dead men were thrown overboard with their hands tied or weighed down with boat batteries.








Others were reportedly chopped with machetes or burned with hot engine oil and tossed into the waters of the Atlantic Ocean.

Sentencing the men on Tuesday after a jury returned guilty verdicts, Justice Navindra Singh described the attacks as heinous, saying he found “no reason not to impose the death sentence.”

“It would be reckless and irresponsible of the court to allow them to be released into society at any time,” the judge said. He called their actions “gruesome, heinous and cold-blooded” as he imposed death by hanging.

The men can appeal the ruling to the local court of appeals and also to the Trinidad-based Caribbean Court of Justice, which is the final court for Guyana. Their lawyer declined to comment on their plans.

WEEKLY WEATHER FORECAST

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
						
82° / 77°	82° / 77°	80° / 76°	79° / 76°	81° / 77°	81° / 79°	80° / 78°
Sunny, breezy and pleasant	Partly sunny	Windy with rain and drizzle	Windy with clouds and sun	Breezy; an afternoon shower	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny

MOMENTS OF INSPIRATION



HIDDEN WORDS- PSALM 119:11

How is a young man\ woman challenged to keep his way pure? Purity of life is a lost and forgotten virtue. Anything goes is the new mantra. How are we then to live up-

rightly in this broken, crooked and hostile world? Interestingly, the world is no different today than it was back in David's time. There is nothing new under the sun. Though the problem remains the same, SO ALSO IS

THE SOLUTION. Make no mistake the HOLY BIBLE, God's manual for us holds the answers to RIGHT LIVING. It guides our way, prevents from sinning against God, teaches us, and delights us. Read the entire Psalm.


Hiding His word in our hearts gives us a storehouse of wisdom to draw from in times of peril. Let me challenge you to read this incomparable Book daily. It will change your life.

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Churchill's Funeral Home


We have been asked to announce the passing of Ms. Janace Opal Solomon, who passed away on Sunday, January 8, 2023.

A Thanksgiving Service for the late Ms. Janace Solomon will be held at Webster Memorial United Church, Bodden Town, Grand Cayman on Saturday, February 4, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. This will be a Closed Casket Service. Interment will follow at Old Pease Bay Cemetery. Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com




Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Ms. Juanita F. Ebanks, who passed away on January 26, 2023. Details of a Thanksgiving Service will be announced at a later date.



Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

The family of the late **Susan May Garrett DaCosta** regret to announce her passing on, 25th Jan 2023.



A funeral service will be held 2 p.m. at Cayman Islands Baptist Church, on 12th day February, 2023.

Interment will follow at the Eden Cemetery, Pedro Castle Road

Bodden Funeral
"A source of comfort in a troubled time"

Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mr. Densil Mollosan McLean, who passed away on February 1, 2023. Details of a Thanksgiving Service will be announced at a later date.



Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com


Churchill's Funeral Home

We have been asked to announce the passing of Mrs. Darlene Walton, who passed away on January 28, 2023. Details of a Thanksgiving Service will be announced at a later date.



Condolences can be registered at churchillsfuneralhome.com

The family of the late **Claudia Laverne Earle-Bodden** known to many as "Chippy" regret to announce her passing on 31st January, 2023.



A funeral service will be held 2 p.m. at Bethel Baptist Church, Spot Bay, Cayman Brac on 11th February 2023.


Interment will follow at the Spot Bay Cemetery.

Bodden Funeral
"A source of comfort in a troubled time"



Loving Birthday tribute to A Very Special Husband, Father, Grandfather & Great-Grandfather Mitchel Reeves Powery on his 2nd Birthday in Heaven February 12th, 1938

85th Birthday tribute



When I lost you
I wish I could see you one more time,
Come walking through the door...
But I know that is impossible,
I will hear your voice no more.

I know you can feel my tears
And you don't want me to cry,
Yet my heart is broken because
I can't understand why someone
So precious had to die.

I pray that God will give me
the strength
And somehow get me through...
As I struggle with the heartache
That came When I Lost You.

Happy 85th Birthday in Heaven
Love always, your brokenhearted
Wife, Clancy
and Daughters, Karen and Kerrilyn

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

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

4/06

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS 43 Glade

1 Editor's grazer
spot 44 Smell

5 Airport line

9 "À votre —"

10 "Get — of that!"

12 Inert gas town

13 Garlic unit

14 Sneak away

16 Golfer Hogan

17 Farm female

18 Car skid

20 Singer Franklin

22 "Clumsy me!"

23 Kitchen cooker

25 Nick's dog

28 Presidential middle name

32 Exit undetected

34 Soup bit

35 Convened

36 Say angrily

38 Top story

40 "Affliction" star

41 Perry's assistant

42 Yarns

DOWN

1 Less lit

2 Car part

3 Terminate

4 Wisconsin

5 Spiny plants

6 Completely

7 Goof

8 Be frugal

9 One of the Obama daughters

11 Car's scars

15 Honest course

19 Seasonal song

21 Catch

24 Really enjoy

25 Syrian leader

26 On the schedule

27 Dot

29 Twin of Artemis

30 Like the German "das"

31 Writer Joyce Carol

33 Film trophy

37 Warty critter

39 — de France

B	A	J	A		B	O	A	R		
A	B	O	D	E		A	B	N	E	R
L	A	N	D	S		R	I	D	G	E
E	T	A		C	O	N	T	R	A	S
D	E	S	P	O	T	S		E	R	E
	S	K	I	R	T		F	A	D	E
		A	N	T		D	A	B		
B	O	U	T		P	E	C	O	S	
E	L	F		B	E	A	T	C	O	P
S	I	M	I	L	A	R		E	V	E
E	V	A	D	E		M	A	L	I	A
T	I	N	E	S		E	U	L	E	R
	A	N	A	T		S	I	T	S	

Yesterday's answer

THOMAS CROSSWORD BOOKS 1-8! Send \$4.75 (check/m.o.) for each book to 628 Virginia Dr., Orlando, FL 32803

	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		

4-21

Word Search

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

- Attack
- Bishop
- Black
- Board
- Capture
- Castle
- Check
- Clock
- Diagonal
- Draw
- Endgame
- Exchange
- Gambit
- King
- Knight
- Mate
- Move
- Opening
- Pawn
- Pin
- Queen
- Rank
- Rook
- Square
- Threat
- White
- Win
- Zugzwang

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



Have fun with
**CAYMANIAN
TIMES**

CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley

1 I WONDER WHAT MICHELLE'S DOIN' RIGHT NOW?

2 HMPH! WHATEVER SHE'S DOIN' YOU CAN BE SURE IT BENEFITS HER! AND ONLY HER! SHE'S THE WORST!

3 OH, SHE'S NOT SO BAD....

4 YOU KIDDIN'?! THE GIRL FROM "THE RING" IS MORE LOVABLE!

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

By Stan Lee

1 COME BACK HERE! YOU CAN'T LEAVE ME HERE TO DIE!

2 YOU WON'T REALLY LET HIM PERISH OUT HERE, WILL YOU?

3 DON'T TEMPT ME!

4 STAN LEE LARRY LIEBER 4/21

JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

1 RONNIE'S RIGHT. I HAVE TO STOP FEELING SORRY FOR MYSELF.

2 I HAVE TO TAKE THIS JOB SERIOUSLY...

3 I HAVE TO LEAVE RIGHT NOW.

4 WOODY WILSON + MIKE MANLEY 4/21

GAS PRICES

Gas Prices as at Tuesday 31 January 2023



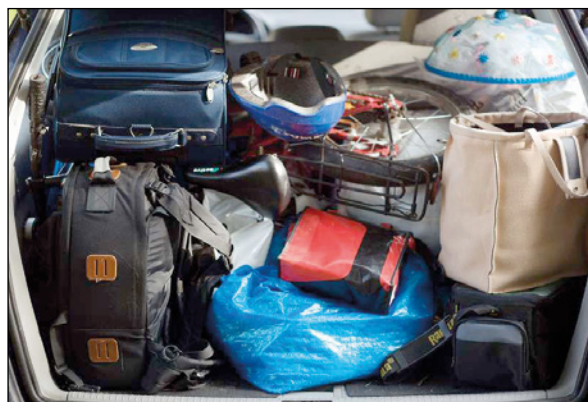
Location	Gas Station	Regular	Premium	Diesel
East End	Eastern Star Rubis (Woody's)	5.37	n/a	6.19
NorthSide	Jack's Esso (Jack's II)	5.27	5.58	5.59
Bodden Town	Lorna's Rubis	5.35	5.62	5.9
Bodden Town	Mostyns Esso	5.43	5.6	5.64
Savannah	Savannah Rubis	5.25	5.6	5.91
Red Bay	Barcam	5.3	5.58	5.59
Red Bay	On The Run (Brown's Red Bay)	5.27	5.58	5.59
George Town	Peanuts	5.16	5.5	5.8
George Town	Jose's Escape	5.17	5.61	5.91
George Town	Refuel	5.07	5.49	5.49
George Town	Esso Tigermart 4 Way Stop (JS)H&B 11	5.64	5.78	5.55
George Town	Eastern Avenue Rubis	5.25	5.57	5.9
George Town	Walkers Rd. Rubis	5.34	5.65	5.99
George Town	On The Run (Mike's Walkers Rd.)	5.27	5.58	5.59
George Town	On The Run (Brown's Industrial Park)	5.27	5.58	5.59
George Town	On The Run (Mike's 7 Mile)	5.27	5.58	5.59
West Bay Rd.	H & B Esso (H&B 1 Seven Mile)	5.64	5.78	5.5
West Bay Rd.	7 Mile Rubis (AA 7 Mile)	5.25	5.57	5.85
West Bay	Hell Esso	5.64	5.78	5.47
West Bay	Esso 4 Way Stop (Four Winds)	n/a	n/a	n/a
George Town	Scotts Landing	5.59	n/a	5.64
Cayman Brac	West End	n/a	6	6.56
Cayman Brac	Tib Mart	n/a	6	n/a
Little Cayman	Village Square	n/a	7.29	7.65

Lowest Prices	Grand Cayman	5,07	5,49	5,47
Highest Prices	Grand Cayman	5,64	5,78	6,19

FUEL EXPENSE REDUCTION



Frequent and fast acceleration – Avoid heavy acceleration and drive below the speed limit. Frequent and swift acceleration burns fuel at a faster rate.



Additional Weight – Empty your car trunk of heavy items that can be located elsewhere. Your vehicle will use more fuel when carrying heavier loads.



Vehicle Replacement – Consider replacing your vehicle with a fuel efficient model.