# Caymanian



**Wednesday Edition** 

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**Complimentary** —

## CAYMAN BRAC IS NOW 100% FIBRE



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2024 - PREPARED FOR THE YEAR **AHEAD** 

.....

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Big uptick in stayover visitor arrivals

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**Jay Bodden : A True Caymanian Pioneer** 



## 7 Awarded King's New Year's Honours

Seven Caymanians have been honoured in New Year awards by His Majesty King Charles III and the Office of the Governor of the Cayman Islands.

Five of the awardees are included in

the King's New Year's Honours list and the other two in awards handed out by the Office of the Governor.

In making the announcement, Her Excellency, Governor Jane Owen, said:

"I am delighted to announce that five members of our community have been

SEE 7 AWARDED KING'S NEW YEAR'S HONOURS, PAGE 3

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# Pink Flamingo sighted in Grand Cayman



There is a flamingo at Malportas Pond on Grand Cayman!

It came in with the cold front so is probably a vagrant from Cuba. These birds can get caught up and transported in storms.

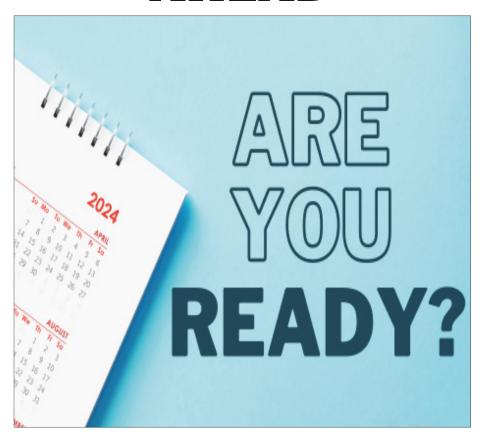
This summer, Hurricane Idalia carried large numbers of flamingos across the eastern United States, with records as far north as Ohio and Pennsylvania, and as far northwest as Wisconsin. These vagrant populations likely originated from the Yucatan Peninsula, were caught in the storm

while enroute to Cuba, and carried until the storm dissipated.

Ours may stick around until the winds die down, so go to North Side for a look! On Saturday it was on the eastern end of Malportas Pond most easily accessed by driving down the new subdivision road after Suncoast Road before the North Side post office.

While you're there, also look for osprey, pelicans, frigate birds, grebes, and teal, as well as egrets and herons of al kinds.

## 2024 - PREPARED FOR THE YEAR AHEAD



As we embark into 2024, the road ahead is brimming with opportunities for Cayman but at the same time equally fraught with challenges.

It will be a year of big decisions and major developments both globally and locally.

Here at Caymanian Times newspaper and Cayman Conversations podcast, we'll continue to keep abreast of developments, while reviewing and looking ahead in our analysis.

Our commitment to Cayman is a firm belief in balanced, impartial journalism and coverage of current issues, informed and intelligent perspectives on 'matters that matter' and a forum for serious discourse.

Major developments already booked in the year's calendar - and with a look ahead to 2025 - include mainly upcoming elections in Cayman, the United States and the United Kingdom. There's also the issue of the state and future of relations between the UK, Cayman and the other Overseas Territories which is poised for a major shift in 2024. However that new paradigm works out, Cayman will be at the forefront in many respects of the consultations and ultimate new structure.

The coming enactment of the pivotal - and controversial - Public Registers of Beneficial Ownership legislation is another upcoming major development with potentially far-reaching implications for our financial sector and economy.

Being at the centre of the global economy, Cayman is also uniquely exposed to vulnerabilities. Although far away, the impacts and implications of the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East between Israel and Hamas, and in Eastern Europe between Russia and Ukraine all affect global trade flows with direct impacts on import-dependent Cayman.

In the Caribbean region, we'll continue to closely monitor and report on developments of interest especially the tense situation between Guyana and Venezuela.

Locally, whether this year sees Cayman going to the polls, or is the critical run-up to due elections in 2025, we expect a flood of issues to dominate our coverage. The economy broadly; jobs, development planning, housing, tourism, healthcare, education, and crime - all of these are front-line issues that are certain to occupy our attention.

Our newspaper, Caymanian Times, is proud to be a part of an international family of newspapers - alongside our global business partners - which have maintained a presence as bastions of a free and responsible press

With the supporting role of new technologies such as social media, continuing to deliver accurate, informative news and analysis will continue to be our hallmark as we expand our coverage and circulation in 2024.



## The Premier, Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly's 2024 New Year Message

Statement from Premier the Hon. Juliana O'Connor-Connolly, JP, MP: As we bid farewell to 2023 and welcome the dawn of the New Year 2024, there are many things for which our Islands can be proud and many things for which we must be thank-

This year we accomplished much, thanks be to God. We successfully removed the Cayman Islands from the Financial Action Task Force Grey List. Demonstrating our commitment to upholding global financial standards. Our tourism industry rebounded with increased cruise arrivals and stay-over visitor numbers, highlighting the resilience of our hospitality sector and we made significant strides in addressing unemployment. Reducing it to its lowest level in decades.

These accomplishments demonstrate the unwavering dedication of every Caymanian and resident alike who have played a pivotal role in the Islands' progress. From our healthcare workers who safeguard our well-being, to our educators, who nurture our minds. From law



► Hon Juliana O'Connor Connolly

enforcement, who maintain law and order, to our business community, who drive innovation. We acknowledge your contributions to our collective success.

Our United People's Movement cannot and will not slow our pace as much yet

remains to be done. We remain steadfast and unified in our commitment to addressing the issues that matter most to our people. Affordable housing, high-quality healthcare, a world-class education system, and ample job opportunities will be our focus. Ensuring that we are all on a sustainable path to hope and prosperity. Notably, we will prioritize strengthening our education system at all levels, from early childhood to tertiary education. Investing in our nation's future workforce and shaping the minds of tomorrow's leaders. We will also focus on community safety and security to make sure that our three islands remain one of the safest and most stable places in the region. Additionally, we will support the operation of the first residential, long-term mental health facility, ensuring our community has access to a comprehensive medical healthcare facility and system.

Given the challenges posed by the global economy and the rise in the cost of living, we will continue to implement programs to assist our most vulnerable Caymanians, ensuring that no one is left behind. In tandem with these initiatives, our UPM Government will continue to implement other projects associated with the 2024-2026 Strategic Policy Statement, a road map that outlines our vision for a more prosperous, equitable, and sustainable Cayman Islands.

As a new day and a new year beckons, let us rejoice and be glad in it, for we stand on the threshold of new possibilities and opportunities. Let us look forward to ushering in a new year filled with hope, renewal, and a bright future. I am particularly thankful to Almighty God for his sustaining grace and mercy, for the fervent prayers and encouraging words of support that are offered up for me and all those in positions of leader-

On behalf of the Cayman Islands Government, I wish you and yours a most happy, healthy, and prosperous 2024. God bless you, and God bless these beautiful Cayman Islands.

## SEVEN OUTSTANDING CAYMANIANS **HONOURED IN NEW YEAR AWARDS**



► Moses KIRKCONNELL III



► Gina Ebanks



► Robert James Berry

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

awarded honours by His Majesty the King in the New Year Honours list for outstanding services to the Cayman Islands."

Those five recipients are:

Robert James RJ BERRY, Director, Financial Reporting Authority, Cayman Islands, is made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) 'For services to the UK Sanctions Regime and Global Financial Standards in the Cayman Islands'.

Moses KIRKCONNELL III, Member of Parliament for Cayman Brac West and Little Cayman, Cayman Islands, is made an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) 'For services to the Caymanian People, to the Tourism Industry and to District Administration in the Cayman Islands'.

Gina PETRIE, Director, Department of Environment, Cayman Islands, is made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE), 'For services to the Environment and to the Community in the Cayman Islands'.

Sharon MARTIN, Educator (retired), cellency explained: "I am also delighted to the Government's Public Education System, Cayman Islands, is made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) 'For services to Education and to the Community in the Cayman Islands'.

Valerie WOOD, Horticulture volunteer, the Queen Elizabeth II Royal Botanic Park, Cayman Islands is awarded a British Empire Medal (BEM) 'For services to the Community in the Cayman Islands'.

For the two honourees recognised locally by the Office of the Governor, Her Ex-

announce two King's Certificate and Badge of Honour awardees. These are awarded locally by Governors in some Overseas Territories to those who have made outstanding contributions to our Islands."

The recipients are:

Melissa Martinez-Ebanks 'for services to the Cayman Islands Postal Service' Morgan DaCosta 'for voluntary ser-

vice and service to cultural preservation and development'

Caymanian Times congratulates the awardees.

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS – BASIL SPRINGER COLUMN ON DECEMBER 31, 2023

"For I know the plans I have for you, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future." – Jeremiah 29:11

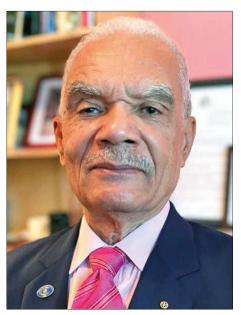
Shortly before I moved to Trinidad 10 years ago, I was invited by a colleague to attend a seminar coordinated by a Barbadian life coach who offered a free 30-minute introductory consultation. At the time, exploring the use of life coaching services was not on my agenda, but I kept her business card.

When I arrived in Trinidad there were many changes to my lifestyle: a different social environment; commitment to a new personal relationship; operating in a contrasting, albeit favorable, economic space; challenges of work-life balance; and consulting professionally in a virtual environment. It did not take long before the potential value of life coaching came to mind.

I consulted my Rolodex, accepted the complimentary offer and quickly hired the life coach to help me with the transition. I was familiar with business mentoring since it is integral to my professional consulting activities, but I was unfamiliar with the field of life coaching.

The skills and methodology the life coach employed were most impressive. In particular, the program introduced me to the practice of positive affirmations of abundance in the spiritual, intellectual, physical, relationship, financial and business aspects of my life.

Having experienced its benefits, I can now conclude that not only did life coaching help me to transition more smoothly to my new lifestyle, but I am also now convinced that life coaching and business mentoring services should be twinned in my consulting business and called "Shepherding Services" to guide young entrepreneurs along the journey to business success.



Dr. Basil Springer

As a result, the 3M Shepherding model (Metamorphosis of business ideas; Management of entrepreneurial mindsets and business systems; and Money through an equity fund) has been enhanced accordingly.

I am often asked about the importance of New Year resolutions in both the business and personal arenas. As we approach the end of another year, it's a perfect time to reflect on this topic and its relevance to our journey towards success and fulfillment.

In the spiritual realm, our resolutions might involve dedicating time to meditation, prayer or other forms of spiritual nourishment. This strengthens our inner peace and resilience, qualities that are invaluable in both personal and professional contexts.

Intellectually, we might resolve to learn something new or challenge our minds in novel ways. This could be through reading, 2023
Accomplishments

1.
2.
3.
4.

taking courses or engaging in stimulating discussions. Intellectual growth keeps us sharp and adaptable, which is essential in the ever-changing business landscape.

Physically, resolving to maintain or improve our health is crucial. This might mean regular exercise, a balanced diet or adequate rest. A healthy body is the foundation upon which we build our daily productivity and long-term achievements. I'm grateful that my grandson has just given me a plan for geriatric health.

In terms of relationships, we might focus on nurturing and strengthening the bonds with those around us – family, friends, colleagues and business partners. Healthy relationships are a cornerstone of a fulfilling life and a prosperous career.

Financial resolutions could involve better budgeting, investing, finding ways to increase our income, or pension planning. Financial stability and growth enable us to focus more on our other goals without the nagging anxiety of financial insecurity and budgetary constraints.

Finally, in the business aspect, our resolutions should employ the 3M Shepherding model. The business world is dynamic, and staying ahead requires a commitment to continuous learning and adaptation.

Collectively, when we embrace these resolutions, we not only improve ourselves; we also contribute to the growth and improvement of those around us. Our collective resolutions can create a ripple effect, leading to broader societal and economic growth.

## Big uptick in stayover visitor arrivals

Cayman saw a substantial increase in visitor arrivals in 2023, according to the latest figures released by the Department of Tourism

Between January and November 2023, Cayman received 379,370 stayover visitors exceeding 2022's year-to-date numbers by 61% and representing approximately 85% of 2019's numbers.

The destination saw a sustained increase in visitation throughout 2023 with particularly high numbers in November which saw 35,765 visitors arriving by air, representing 93% of November 2019's numbers – the highest recovery rate so far compared to pre-pandemic visitation.

November 2023 saw the third largest number of visitors to arrive in that month since the department began recording statistics only surpassed by 2019's 38,463 and 2018's 38,172. The US was the Cayman Islands' primary source market for stayover visitors to the destination, contributing 83% of total arrivals for 2023 up until the end of November. In particular, the US achieved a substantial recovery in November 2023, with an impressive 95% of 2019's visitation – the highest recovery rate for the market recorded to-date compared to pre-pandemic levels.

The Northeastern region was a particu-



▶ Director of Tourism, Rosa Harris

lar standout, up 3.3% when compared to November 2019, and a 10.2% surge over arrivals from this area in November 2022.

Canadian air arrivals in November were 88.6% of 2019's numbers and Canada remained the second largest source of stayover visitors for Cayman, representing 6.4% of the overall visitation YTD up from 5.9% in 2019 indicating a sustained recovery for this market.

Stayover visitors from the UK and Ireland accounted for 3.5% of the total arrivals in November 2023 on par with 2019. Between

January and November air arrivals from the UK and Ireland represented 89.6% of 2019's record and YTD arrivals from this region accounted for 3.3% of the total arrivals, 0.2 percentage points above 2019.

Air arrivals from Latin America in November 2023 represented 70.8% of 2019's numbers and arrivals YTD represented 1.3% of the overall visitation on par with 2019.

Though cruise passenger arrivals represented less than 70% of 2019's, the Cayman Islands has surpassed 1 million cruise ship visitors for the first time since 2019, the DOT said.

Director of Tourism, Rosa Harris commented on Cayman's standout 11-month performance:

"The Cayman Islands exceeded its visitation goal of 70% for the first 11 months of the year and is now on track to surpass 400,000 stayover visitors for the first time since 2019. We are especially pleased with our United States visitation, as these statistics underscore the healthy rebound and resilience of the United States as our main source market and further affirms the Cayman Islands' position as a preferred destination for American visitors," she said.



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### **IMAC** elects 2024 Executive Committee

The Insurance Managers Association of Cayman (IMAC) held their Annual General Meeting (AGM) in early December, announcing new board positions for 2024. The Executive Committee will be Chaired by Kieran Mehigan, with James Trundle serving as Vice Chair. Mike Scott will serve as Treasurer and Erin Brosnihan will serve as Secretary.

When asked about the upcoming year, Mehigan said, "I am looking forward to everything we've planned for 2024. IMAC and our members are dedicated to working together with other stakeholders within Cayman's financial services industry to continue representing our growing industry both locally and internationally. I also want to thank Lesley Thompson, the previous IMAC Chair, for her dedication to our Association's mission."

Since 1994, IMAC has represented insurance managers, captive insurance companies



► Kieran Mehigan, 2024 IMAC Chair

and service providers, acting as a vital link between the industry, government and regulator in the Cayman Islands.

IMAC has active committees that focus on different key functions of the long-running association:

The Cayman Captive Forum Committee will be Chaired by Alanna Trundle. The Cayman Captive Forum just celebrated its 30th year in November 2023 with close to record-number attendees.

The Marketing Committee, who focus on expanding the Association's reach locally and internationally will be Chaired by Martin Cooke

The Education & Social Committee, who arrange lectures, panels, member socials and fundraisers throughout the year will be cochaired by Heather Deveau and Joni Steffen.

The IMAC Educational Scholarship Foundation (ESF) will be Chaired by Lesley

Thompson, IMAC's past Chair. To date, the ESF has successfully raised more than \$5 million, enabling IMAC to support 65 young Caymanians in pursuing higher education internationally.

Paul Macey will Chair the Legal & Regulatory Committee, joined by Clayton Price, and Jenny Pooley will serve as the IMAC Office Oversight.

The Insurance Managers Association of Cayman (IMAC) represents the international insurance industry in the Cayman Islands. IMAC liaises with government and the regulator on the industry's behalf and promotes innovation and international competitiveness to maintain Cayman's advantageous market position. The Cayman Islands is the second largest domicile in the world for captives and a dominant jurisdiction for healthcare captives, group captives, catastrophe bonds and international reinsurance

# GirlForce100 Launches in Full Force for the 2023/2024 Career Mentoring Year

A robust and focused GirlForce100 launched their scheduled programming for the 2023/2024 academic year earlier this month. This inaugural event, hosted by KPMG, was facilitated by Fawne Taylor of Code Cayman, who spoke to the group of pre-career girls on the topic of "Understanding your Digital Footprint" and highlighted the need for a strong awareness when using social media as a communication and career tool.

The mission of GirlForce100 in the local community is to support and mentor young women from local high schools towards gaining confidence, skills and industry knowledge through their tertiary education stage.

GirlForce100 took the opportunity to share its strategic vision for the year, which

will focus on preparation for internships; preparation and readiness for scholarships; and pre-career opportunities. GirlForce100 is proud to be working in conjunction with the vision of its community partners, LifeOptions and NOVA Connect in these sessions, which will target the mentees' learning on resume writing, interview skills, preparing a personal statement, scholarship applications and business networking.

With over 70 mentor and mentee pairings in the 2023/24 career-mentoring year, Girl-Force100 is proud to be a conduit for pre-career opportunities offered by both private sector and government agencies in the Cayman Islands. The overall objective is to connect GirlForce100 mentees with oppor-

tunities and to act as a resource for private sector stakeholders in introducing qualified and capable Caymanian talent. Alongside an ethos of work experience, community service is encouraged and facilitated through GirlForce100 for its mentees.

Christina Bodden, Partner at the Maples Group and a global board member of 100 Women in Finance, notes that "GirlForce100 develops mentees through confidence, provides career opportunities and builds powerful peer networks. We do this in conjunction with the Cayman Islands Ministry of Education and its faculties, working closely with our local high schools and, of course, the invaluable support of private sector. GirlForce100 uses a holistic approach to help



female students gain exposure to careers and to offer much-needed support through career mentorship. We are excited to watch GirlForce100 expand, grow and develop as a programme in its own right in 2024."

GirlForce100 is still actively recruiting mentors. If you or someone you know is interested in participating in GirlForce100, or for more information, please email Kelly Sage at kellysage@rampd.consulting or follow @girlforce100cayman on Instagram.

### Cayman Islands Marketing Professionals Association Announces 5th Annual Scholarship Recipient

The Cayman Islands Marketing Professionals Association (CIMPA) is thrilled to announce Mr. Jaxon Bodden as the winning recipient of the 5th annual CIMPA Scholarship. Jaxon's story coupled with his commitment to his future and passion to succeed stood out amongst a pool of 15 impressive scholarship candidates.

A resilient and determined young Caymanian, Jaxon recently began his college journey at Lynn University in Florida. Expressing his gratitude for being selected as the scholarship recipient Jaxon shared "Thank you to the CIMPA Scholarship Committee for selecting me as the 2023 Scholarship award recipient. I am beyond grateful. Life at Lynn has kept me really busy as I am adjusting to balancing academics with my personal life. So far this has been such a rewarding time. I've been introduced to amazing technology that brings real life to the art of Graphic Design. The thing that has surprised me most about this journey is the passion that I am gaining in developing my craft. The grant of this scholarship helps ensure that

I continue my dream of becoming a Graphic Designer and making a difference in the way that everyday products are marketed to the public."

Hollie Whitelocke, Chairwoman of CIMP, expressed her enthusiasm about Jaxon's achievement, stating, "The CIMPA Scholarship aims to empower local students in pursuing their dreams in the realm of marketing. Jaxon's journey is truly inspiring, and we are proud to support him on his path to success. This scholarship is not only a testament to Jaxon's promising future, but to CIMPA's continued commitment to fostering local talent and contributing to the growth of marketing professionals in the Cayman Islands."

Susanne Palmer, Head of Training at CI-MPA, commended Jaxon for his resilience and dedication. She remarked, "Jaxon's story embodies the spirit of perseverance and determination that it takes to succeed in academics and beyond. We believe that investing in the education and development of individuals like Jaxon is an invest-

ment in the future of our community. CIMPA is dedicated to providing opportunities for aspiring marketing professionals to thrive and make a meaningful impact in the field."

The CIMPA Scholarship, now in its fifth year, continues to play a vital role in fostering the growth of talented individuals in the field of marketing. The association remains committed to supporting aspiring marketing professionals in the Cayman Islands,

providing them with the resources and opportunities needed to excel in their academic and professional endeavors.



► Jaxon Bodden Scholarship Winner

For more information about CIMPA and its scholarship program, please visit www. cimpa.ky.

# Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency trains local energy auditors

Training programme is part of the RESEMBID-funded Cayman Islands Government Energy Efficiency Programme



▶ MSCR trains local energy auditors

Thirteen members of the public sector successfully completed an energy audit training course last month as part of a Ministry of Sustainability & Climate Resiliency programme to increase energy efficiency in the Cayman Islands.

In 2022, the Ministry was awarded more than 1.2 million Euros from the Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Biodiversity Programme (RESEMBID) in support of the programme. The Cayman Islands Government Energy Efficiency Programme has two main components: The first aims to improve energy efficiency and facilitate retrofits for existing public sector buildings while the second aims to improve energy efficiency, facilitate retrofits and install solar energy for National Housing Development Trust homes.

225 gallon mobile water tanks.

500 gallon septic water tanks.

By reducing the amount of energy needed to power public buildings and Government-built affordable homes, the programme will provide cost savings for homeowners and the Cayman Islands Government.

Minister for Sustainability & Climate Resiliency Hon. Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, LLB, MP, congratulated the trainees on successfully completing the programme.

"Training to build local capacity is an important component of the Cayman Islands Government Energy Efficiency Programme and I am pleased to congratulate the thirteen individuals who successfully completed this energy audit training course."

The training cohort included members of the Ministry's project team, and facili-

digging with the

new low profile!

ties managers from across the Civil Service and the University College of the Cayman Islands.

"After sixteen hours of virtual and in-person learning, the trainees are familiar with how energy audits are conducted on residential and commercial buildings, the equipment needed to conduct energy audits, and the utility data required," Ebanks-Wilks said. "I want to thank everyone who participated for doing their part

to save energy. Together, we can work towards a more sustainable future for our country that improves quality of life and lowers cost of living for our people while building the capacity needed to prepare our people for the green jobs of the future."

The training programme included site visits to conduct energy audits on select public sector buildings and NHDT homes which are being prioritised for energy efficiency retrofits and solar energy.

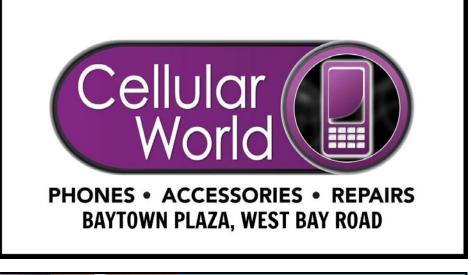
Now that the training and site visits have been completed, baseline assessments, energy savings calculations, financial analysis and reporting are underway. Preliminary findings providing an overview the energy audit results have already been created and full reports analysing both the public and private sector results will follow.

In addition to the RESEMBID-funded programme, the Ministry has also produced Do-It-Yourself (DIY) Energy Audit guides that can be used by local residents and business owners to identify easy opportunities for saving energy in local properties.

The Ministry has also developed a Kids Energy Guide and Energy Saving Habits Guide to help the whole family get involved in saving energy. All of these resources and more are available at www. energy.gov.ky.



Call **9253822** or **9393367** for more details





# Sangster Airport voted No.1

Jamaica's Sangster International Airport has been named Caribbean Airport of the Year in the 10th annual Caribbean Travel Awards. The airport in Montego Bay has seen significant improvements and upgrades recently which won't be completed for a year or so - but has still gained the top honour.

It's a remarkable accolade considering earlier this year, JA Prime Minister Andrew Holness said the problems at Sangster underscored the need to push through the US\$70 million modernisation and expansion project that was already underway.

The work is scheduled to be completed by 2025, and Holness said the improvements at the Caribbean's largest and busiest airport "will make Jamaica more attractive and make Jamaica more competitive with other countries in the region, which have also invested heavily in improving their infrastructure."

The runway was lengthened at a cost of \$34 million which was finished in the summer. Jamaica attracted over four million visitors in 2023, a record. The

Tourism Ministry aims to draw five million visitors annually by 2025. That would be a 35% increase from Jamaica's peak of 3.7 million tourists in 2022.

The award, made by Caribbean Journal, the largest website covering Caribbean travel, highlighted Sangster's exceptional achievements and transformation into one of the Caribbean's premier aviation hubs.

Alexander Britell, tor-in-chief, and founder of Caribbean Journal, declared Sangster International Airport as the standout choice for the prestigious  $% \left( 1\right) =\left( 1\right) \left( 1\right) \left($ title. The airport has had a recent makeover, resulting in a superior, more digitised passenger experience, enhanced services, and an upgraded food and beverage offering, featuring the world's first-ever Bob Marley-branded restaurant. The commendation also acknowledged Club MoBay, one of the finest airport lounges in the wider Caribbean, and SIA's remarkable contribution to the region's fast-growing airlift networks.

Shane Munroe, CEO of MBJ Airports Limited, said: "We are thrilled to be named Caribbean Airport of the Year by a publication that focuses on Caribbean travel. This award acknowledges our airport's ongoing growth and development, our commitment to providing an exceptional passenger experience, and a further testament to our dedication to excellence."



▶ The Sangster International Airport has been upgraded



► The Bob Marley restaurant is popular

## LIAT gets \$11m boost as Antigua plans big



▶ LIAT still operates around the Caribbean

Antigua and Barbuda has allocated around US\$11.1 million from its 2024 budget to bolster failing airline LIAT 2020 Ltd, the new company name of beleaguered Caribbean carrier LIAT 1974 Ltd, Prime Minister Gaston Browne announced.

"Despite hurdles in 2023 including unserviceable aircraft, unresolved issues for former workers, financial constraints, staff attrition, and disruptions caused by the hurricane season, LIAT 1974 Ltd operated a limited schedule ensuring vital connectivity across destinations with 167 dedicated staff," Browne said in Parliament recently.

Delivering the \$481m national budget to Parliament, Browne said that the airline, which has been under court-appointed administration since July 2020, "has long been an essential thread in the fabric of Caribbean connectivity."

The shareholders of the cash-strapped

carrier are the governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Dominica, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Besides Antigua, Bridgetown in Barbados, Dominica Melville Hall, and St Vincent Argyle International, LIAT also serves Basseterre in St Kitts & Nevis, Grenada on the island of Grenada, St Lucia Vigie in St Lucia, St Maarten on Sint Maarten (the Dutch part of the island), and Tortola in the British Virgin Islands.

Reports emerged in April that Air Peace was ready to acquire a majority stake in LIAT, following an agreement with the government of Antigua and Barbuda to form a joint venture.

The Antiguan government will spend \$10m to "ensure LIAT 2020 Ltd has all the aircraft needed and the appropriate maintenance and operational arrangements are in place for the safe, reliable, and efficient delivery of service to the people of the region," Browne added.

## St Lucia's latest golf resort is world class



► Cabot Saint Lucia is in a picturesque spot

Saint Lucia has added a world-class golf resort to its tourism portfolio.

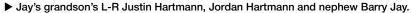
The Cabot Collection, developer and operator of luxury resort and residential golf destinations, has officially opened Cabot Saint Lucia, situated along one-and-a-half miles of breath-taking coast-line with striking views of the Caribbean Sea.

Cabot Saint Lucia offers a great Caribbean golf experience, magnificent real estate opportunities and unique amenities on a spectacular 375-acre peninsula at the northern tip of the island.

At the heart of the sprawling property lies Point Hardy Golf Club, featuring a show-stopping 18-hole Coore & Crenshaw golf course. In addition, comfort stations, a food and beverage experience, a retail shop and sports courts are available onsite. Additional amenities to follow include a beach club and restaurant, expansive clubhouse, luxury residences and world-class wellness and fitness facilities.

Recently featured as the cover star of Golf Magazine's November/December issue, the course debuted as No. 76 in its "Top 100 Courses in the World" ranking.

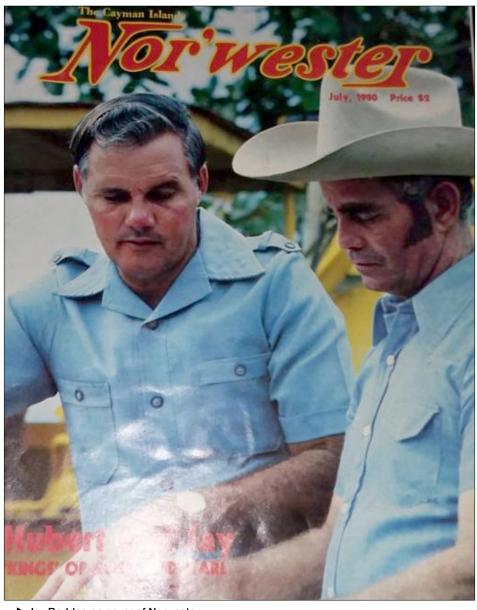






▶ Granddaughters

## Jay Bodden: A True Caymanian Pioneer



▶ Jay Bodden on cover of Norwester

### By: Flynn Bush

Undoubtedly, one would have seen, or heard, that the new "Airport Connector Road" has been officially opened. This much anticipated stretch of highway will help to alleviate traffic and to improve connectability in George Town. While those among us who have been in Cayman for at least three decades would understand the choice of name, there may be some who are wondering why it was named the Jay

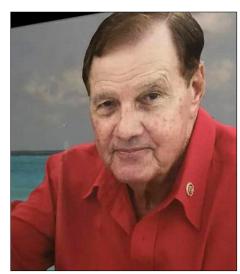
Bodden Highway. Who was this Mr. Bodden, after all? Well, perhaps some enlightenment is in order.

Born in 1931, the youngest of three sons born to Harold Bodden and Pearl Dean Jackson Bodden, Harold Alfred "Jay" Bodden went on to become one the country's premier pioneers. Even contracting Rheumatic Fever as a young child, a diagnosis that was often fatal at the time, did not stop Jay from going on to become a successful entrepreneur. He along with his brothers

managed to become the main suppliers of marl and crushed rock in Grand Cayman, and to found Island Paving as well. That company is still, today, the premier road paving and development company in the country.

It should also be pointed out that the major area of industrial park, located way in the back of CUC and near to where the new highway culminates, is the beginning of a major town center, Jay's dream; after Jay acquired the land and initially placed the office for his company, CAYMARL, Ltd there. Mr. Bodden's accomplishments, and his contributions to the community, also led to his being awarded the British





▶ Jay Bodden



► Grand daughter Kim and his great grand daughters





### Jay Bodden

CONTINUED FROM Page 8

Empire Medal (BEM), in 2001, an award that was presented by Prince Andrew in person.

Of course, to his five children, he had four daughters and one son with his wife, Mary, he was more than a successful businessman. He was a loving and inspiring father who encouraged his children to do their best and to be the best that they could be. He instilled honesty, respect for the environment, and a strong work ethic in each of them. In 2001, his daughter, Heather, said, "Our father is a shining light for us and for this

country. His vision and drive will never let him rest while there is work to be done and people he can help. He could be a millionaire many times over but he chooses to give it away helping others. We are blessed to have him as our father, and Cayman is much richer because of his foresight and determination."

Well, although Mr. Jay Bodden is now enjoying his eternal rest, it behooves us to remember his legacy. Each one of us has a choice in our lives to do something, or not do something, that will have a positive impact on our community. He chose the former. He chose to contribute positively, and in the process, he set a great example for his children and for the country as a whole.



▶ Jay's daughter, Heather and Government colleagues.



### GAS PRICES

### **Gas Prices as at Tuesday 19 December 2023**



Location	Gas Station	Regular	Premium	Diesel
East End	Eastern Star Rubis (Woody's)	6	n/a	5.96
NorthSide	Jack's Esso (Jack's II)	C L	O S	E D
Bodden Town	Lorna's Rubis	5.9	6.34	5.82
Bodden Town	Mostyns Esso	5.43	5.52	6.2
Savannah	Savannah Rubis	5.9	6.39	5.86
Red Bay	Barcam	5.4	5.49	6.17
Red Bay	On The Run ( Brown's Red Bay)	5.4	5.49	5.83
George Town	Peanuts	5.68	6.08	6.68
George Town	Jose's Escape	5.69	6.09	5.69
George Town	Refuel	5.27	5.47	5.19
George Town	Esso Tigermart 4 Way Stop (JS)H&B 11	5.41	5.5	5.49
George Town	Eastern Avenue Rubis	5.87	6.29	5.95
George Town	Walkers Rd. Rubis	5.87	6.29	5.82
George Town	On The Run (Mike's Walkers Rd.)	5.4	5.49	6.12
George Town	On The Run ( Brown's Industrial Park)	5.4	5.49	5.83
George Town	On The Run (Mike's 7 Mile)	5.4	5.49	6.12
West Bay Rd.	H & B Esso (H&B 1 Seven Mile)	5.41	5.5	5.79
West Bay Rd.	7 Mile Rubis (AA 7 Mile)	5.67	6.19	6.1
West Bay	Hell Esso	5.4	5.48	6.12
West Bay	Esso 4 Way Stop (Four Winds)	n/a	n/a	n/a
George Town	Scotts Landing	5.49	6.19	5.99
Cayman Brac	West End	n/a	6.2	6.4
Cayman Brac	The Pit Stop	n/a	6.2	n/a
Little Cayman	Village Square	n/a	6.98	6.77

Lowest Prices	Grand Cayman	5.27	5.47	5.19
<b>Highest Prices</b>	Grand Cayman	6	6.39	6.68

### 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.

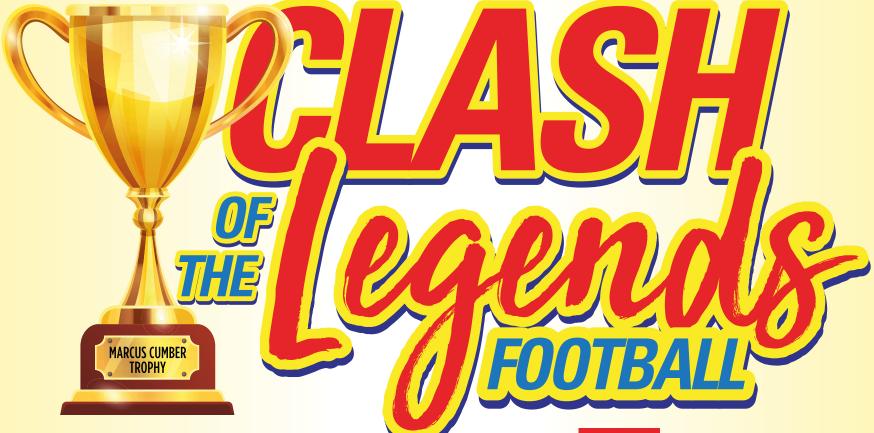


**Vehicle Replacement –** Consider replacing your vehicle with a fuel efficient model.



in association with













## **MONDAY, 20 MAY 2024**

**ED BUSH STADIUM, WEST BAY** 

**FAMILY FUN DAY STARTS AT 3PM CLASH OF THE LEGENDS GAME KICKOFF AT 5PM** 

10 - \$100 GIFT CERTIFICATES FROM PRINCESS JEWELLERS STAYCATION AT HOLIDAY INN







































### **Hope Foundation Community Challenge**

Contact Brent at 928-9099 www.caymanhopefoundation.com

Contacts: David Arch 939-0025 • Antonio Smith 916-3977 • Brent McLean 926-4040 • Lloyd (Stoocka) Ramoon • Neil Murray

Cayman is home to many people with substance abuse. As a community we can all make a difference in the lives of those individuals.

### POLICE NEWS

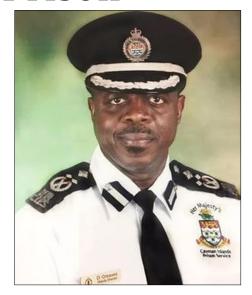
### RCIPS Works with HMP Northward and the DPSC to Tackle Drug Smuggling at the Prison

RCIPS has been working closely with the Director of HMP Northward, Daniel Greaves and partners at the Department of Public Safety and Communications (DPSC) in an effort to reduce the incidents of contraband smuggling into the Prison.

Utilising the capabilities of the National CCTV Program managed by the DPSC, the security personnel at HMP Northward successfully identified and halted the smuggling of multiple contraband packages into the facility. These illicit activities were carried out by individuals during the period from December 18 to December 26, 2023.

Three persons have been arrested by the RCIPS for the offence of Smuggling, over the festive period. A further two persons have been formerly charged for smuggling offenses that occurred previously, and the RCIPS are conducting investigations into other incidents of smuggling.

Director Greaves wishes to warn the public that the offence of smuggling contraband into the Prison is a very serious offence, which is covered by Section 43B of the Prison Act 2021 Revision. This section states that "any Person who brings, throws or in any manner introduces or conveys into any prison, an article or thing, unless authorized to do so by the director, commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of \$15,000 and to imprisonment not exceeding three



years, or to both such fine and imprisonment". Director Greaves has further emphasized that that if persons attempt to smuggle contraband into the prison they will be caught and prosecuted.

Director of DPSC, Sean Vasquez, remarked, "The DPSC remains in close collaboration with Director Greaves and his team, ensuring ongoing support for timely interventions. We are committed to fostering deterrence effects through continuous monitoring and technological interventions, maintaining a strong partnership between the two agencies."



## Police Investigate MVC Involving Cyclist

Around 6:15PM, Wednesday 27 December, police responded to a Motor Vehicle Collision (MVC) involving a vehicle and a pedal cyclist on Shedden Road, in the vicinity of the intersection with Thomas Russell Avenue.

On arriving at the scene, officers observed a male lying on the roadway and

members of the public providing first aid. The driver remained at the scene with the injured man.

Once the ambulance arrived the injured man was transported to George Town Hospital to receive treatment, where he remains in a stable condition.

Police are investigating the incident.

# Police Arrest Two Culprits Involved in Commercial Burglaries

Over the holiday weekend, between Friday 22 December and Tuesday 26 December, police received nine reports of commercial burglaries, all of which occurred at restaurants/bars.

Two culprits, a 30-year-old man of George Town and a 41-year-old woman of West Bay, have been arrested in relation to four of the nine burglaries and appeared before the court yesterday Wednesday, 27 December, and have been remanded to HMP.

Investigations into the outstanding burglaries continue. Police encourage anyone with any information related to these incidents to contact their local police station or 911. Anonymous tips can be made via the RCIPS website<a href="https://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip">https://www.rcips.ky/submit-a-tip</a>.

Police remind commercial premises to be especially vigilant with securing their premises over the festive season and leading into New Year celebrations this coming weekend. Always ensure windows and doors are locked at the end of the night, that money is removed and items of value such as electronics (laptops/phones), are secured. Ensure CCTV cameras are operational and angled correctly to cover key areas of the premises

# Police Investigate Hit and Run on Cayman Brac

Shortly after 7:30PM, on Tuesday 26 December, police and other emergency services responded to a report of a hit and run on West End Road East, Cayman Brac.

On arriving at the location, officers observed a male lying on the ground being attended to by ambulance personal.

It was reported that the victim was leaving an establishment with a friend and while crossing the road was struck by a white Honda Fit, causing him to sustain injuries. The vehicle left the scene.

The victim was taken to Faith Hospital

to receive treatment for his injuries, and is in a stable condition.

Cayman Brac police are investigating the incident and request that anyone that has any information about the incident or knowledge of the whereabouts of the vehicle, which sustained damage to the left rear view mirror, please contact the Cayman Brac Police Station on 948-0331.

Anonymous tips can be provided directly to the RCIPS via our Confidential Tip Line at 949-7777, or via our website<a href="http://www.rcips.ky/submit-atip">http://www.rcips.ky/submit-atip</a>.

# Police Officers Arrest Thief Fleeing Scene of Crime

At around 3:40PM, Friday 29 December, officers on foot patrol responded to a report of an altercation at a commercial store on Cardinal Avenue, where a women was reported to have accosted staff when confronted about an attempt to steal goods from the store.

When police arrived at the location to conduct enquiries, the suspect, a 31-year-old woman of Bodden Town, fled the scene. Officers pursued her on foot and subsequently apprehended her in a parking lot where she was arrested for the of-



fence of Theft-Shoplifting. One officer received injuries during the arrest.

The woman was taken to the Cayman Islands Detention Centre where she remains in custody at this time.

Police investigations continue.

## Halfway Through Expedition Hope: Do Offshore Seamounts Mean Good News for Cayman's Coral Reefs?

As we near the half-way point of the Central Caribbean Marine Institute's (CCMI) Expedition Hope to characterise the biodiversity of two offshore seamounts in the Cayman Islands, CCMI would like to reflect on the exciting exploration and substantial achievements made through the project so far.

Funded by the UK Government's Darwin Plus Programme, CCMI and project partners, the Cayman Islands Department of Environment, Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation, and Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, have collected a wide range of data to describe the benthos and biodiversity of the previously unexplored seamount, 12-Mile Bank. This valuable information will support improved management of ecologically significant and poorly understood seamount habitats in Cayman, providing evidence into the Cayman Islands Government Biodiversity Action Plan.

In August 2023, 12 miles west of Grand Cayman at 12-Mile Bank, CCMI's technical scientific divers, in collaboration with the University of Delaware, Harbour Branch Oceanographic Institute, and the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute, explored uncharted waters and documented the biodiversity on the seamount up to depths of 50 meters.

During the research expedition, the team completed twice the initial number of proposed fish surveys and 20% more benthic photo-mosaics, in addition to collecting samples for eDNA and genetic connectivity assessments and producing a bathymetric map of 12-Mile Bank.

CCMI have also produced a three-part docuseries, Expedition Hope, that follows the team's journey to explore and document these never-before-seen reefs, including the challenges they encountered and the hope these ecosystems may provide for coral reefs. This gripping tale of female-led ocean exploration premieres on CCMI's YouTube channel at 12pm on Friday 15th December.

Part 1: https://youtu.be/alxlgvvVr4E Part 2: https://youtu.be/NjAFh9-mhpU Part 3: https://youtu.be/mssrMIpFWqc

As shown in the Expedition Hope series, there is a reason these seamounts remain largely unexplored, as weather conditions are rarely conducive with research expeditions. The initial efforts to reach the second seamount, Pickle Bank, were curtailed by bad weather, but the team will not be deterred that easily. In spring/summer 2024, CCMI's researchers and project partners will focus their efforts on characterising Pickle Bank, a seamount 45-miles offshore, north of Little Cayman

Both Pickle Bank and 12-Mile Bank are classified as Vulnerable Marine Ecosystems under international criteria and are thought to be home to rich biodiversity with fewer impacts from human activity due to the remote location. The first expedition indicated that 12-Mile Bank seamount harbours productive environments with high levels of coral on the south, and larger numbers and sizes of fish on the north side.

Dr Gretchen Goodbody-Gringley, CCMI's expedition leader, said:

With this docuseries, we're not only showing you what we did to document the fish, coral and biodiversity that live on the seamounts, but you get a deep glimpse into the operations





that go into expeditions like this. It's not easy to go offshore and dive to 50 meters, and sometimes things don't go as you expect. CCMI is thrilled to show viewers behind the scenes and how science happens in this exciting expedition to 12-Mile Bank.'

CCMI's data analysis will provide even more insight into the details of these cryptic habitats, including estimates of biodiversity at the population scale using eDNA, and environmental information on the driving forces that influence the marine habitats and organisms.

This collaborative effort across international research and conservation organisations will produce open access data for future conservation action and data-driven decision-making and management of these seamounts.

Once these valuable ecosystems are more understood as a result of this project, they can be better protected and conserved to ensure their health for future generations. The data from this project will be incorporated into a new section of the Cayman Islands' Government Biodiversity Action Plan and will be used to underpin discussions for future marine spatial planning legislation.

These unexplored and poorly understood seamount ecosystems could provide a glimmer of hope for the future of Cayman's coral reefs, potentially providing refuge, larvae sources and resilience from the impacts of climate change. As such, it is essential that they are understood in order to be protected.

With Pickle Bank even further away from land and human impacts, CCMI are excited to explore this unknown ecosystem in spring 2024 and share the findings of these unique and unrevealed habitats with both local and international communities and scientists.

If you want to find out more about CCMI's seamount exploration project, visit CCMI's wepage: https://reefresearch.org/what-wedo/research/resilience/#1694527144024-72d9e99a-3de7

|O|G|R|E

R|O|D|S

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.

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4		9				6		1
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	5			4				7
						5		3
	9	6		7				

### Answer to previous puzzle

4	1	9	8	2	6	3	5	7	1
8	6	7	1	3	5	9	4	2	
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Difficulty Level ★★★								7/0-	

### Difficulty Level ★★★

7/05

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### Word Search

GUMNHMNWG Ε Т Ε S Ε Ν 1 Ρ М MMLIUWREBELLOW HAMSUNVRHIMR

Mann **Beckett** Bellow Mistral Morrison Eliot Faulkner Paz Galsworthy Shaw Singer Gide Hamsun Steinbeck Heaney Tagore Hemingway Undset **Kipling** Yeats Lewis

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

### CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

**ACROSS 1** Cut, in a way

6 Less refined

11 Furious

12 Tequila source

13 Mideast's

Heights **14** Head, in

slang **15** Bolt

partner **16** Prickly plant

18 Purpose

19 Church topic

20 Christmas forerunner

21 Impudent

**23** Mall business

**25** Slip preventer

27 Crew item **28** Scoop

holders 30 Stadium

group 33 Chess

piece 34 Not pos.

36 Set afire

37 Like "first" 39 Earth-

friendly prefix

40 Vestige

41 Starry hunter

### BRA CANAL SONATA VA TUGGED O|M|E|NCARDFILE 43 Edmonton H|A|R|D|L|I|N|E player | | L | O | T | S | **44** "Taps"

AGE C tooter |B|O|S| 45 Marsh |A|A|R|D|V|A|R|K plants Y|A|R|D|S|A|L|E 46 Clear sky

U|R|A|N|U|S| |B|A|D|G|E| DOWN

1 Enroll 2 Incite

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scars

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6 Butt

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17 That guy's

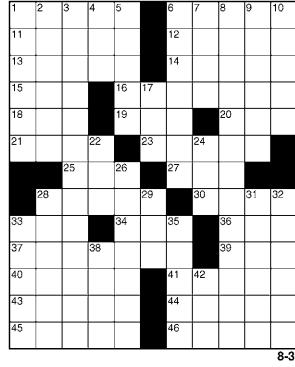
22 Chestnut 35 Geogra-24 Lummox phy

26 Sawbucks

28 Stephen **38** Tea King type

42 Furrow book

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





### Have fun with CAYMANIAN TIMES







### CURTIS By Ray Billingsley









### **IUDGE PARKER** By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley





## CaymanianTimesClassifieds



### **Senior Sales Associate**

Caymanian Times. is seeking a highly motivated sales professional who will develop, work and maintain sales targets and schedule and up sell on quality goods.

### **Mandatory Requirements:**

- The successful candidate must have a minimum of 3 years working in sales and service experience in selling Media and Newspaper Advertisements.
- Must be computer literate and advanced in the use of MS Excel.
- Must have excellent administrative and communication skills.
- Must speak, read, write, and comprehend English fluently.
- Must have the ability to drive.
- A current police record must be submitted.

### **Duties for the role are:**

- Develop, work and maintain Sales Targets.
- Develop and implement in-house and product knowledge training for staff
- Create weekly & monthly sales and customer reports.
- Be able to learn and sell variety of products.

A strong work ethic and a positive attitude will be required.

### Salary Range: CI\$2,500 - CI\$3,500.

An attractive compensation and benefits package (including medical insurance, vacation, pension and a 10% commission) is being offered to the qualified candidate. All applications received will be reviewed and only candidates meeting the mandatory requirements will be contacted for interview.

Applications should forward a detailed resume quoting reference

"Senior Sales Associate" to:

The Publisher

Caymanian Times

Email: ralph@caymaniantimes.ky





### Airworthiness Surveyor Grand Cayman Office

The Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands (CAACI) is seeking to recruit a qualified candidate as a CAACI Airworthiness Surveyor/Inspector, who will provide specialist regulatory oversight for the airworthiness of aircraft on the Cayman Islands Aircraft Register and to become an integral team member of the Air Safety Regulation Division.

### PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Analyze applications to ascertain eligibility of such applications for the issuance of certificates required for the airworthiness of aircraft.
- Process and approve airworthiness applications to ensure compliance with the appropriate regulations.
- Regulate all air carrier airworthiness standards in the Cayman Islands to ensure compliance with all safety requirements of the Air Navigation (Overseas Territories) Order and applicable international standards.
- Assess aircraft maintenance organizations technical training, and quality systems for compliance with the applicable standards.
- Conduct ramp inspections on foreign registered aircraft.
- Ensure airworthiness oversight programmes are maintained and continually developed
- Perform aircraft oversight visits for the issue/re-issue of the certificate of airworthiness, and other technical approvals.
- Perform other related regulatory duties as may be required.

### <u>ESSENTIAL QUALIFICATIONS:</u> (you must meet or exceed these areas in order to be considered)

Must have experience in  $\underline{one}$  of the two requirements below (preference will be given to candidates that meet both);

1. At least 5 years' experience with a Civil Aviation Authority in a regulatory role responsible for airworthiness oversight with OTAR Part 121 Equivalent Airworthiness, or

2. Minimum 10 years in a management role of aircraft maintenance, quality management and continued airworthiness management.

Must meet all of the following requirements;

- Hold, or have held an aircraft maintenance engineer licence (or equivalent) Issued by the Cayman Islands or an ICAO contracted state.
- Hold, or have held a Type rating on large transport category aircraft (MTOW over 47500 pounds) operating in a commercial environment.
- At least 5 years' experience of the maintenance of aircraft over 47500 pounds involved in commercial operations
- Knowledge of the requirements for Maintenance organization approval and continued airworthiness management approval
- Experience with Safety Management System (SMS) compliance requirements
- Knowledge of aircraft special airworthiness categories
- Knowledge of the Cayman regulatory (OTAR's, AN(OT)O) requirements
- Knowledge of ICAO annexes (6 and 8)
- Knowledge of internationally accepted audit techniques
- Excellent written, and interpersonal communication skills

### <u>DESIRED QUALIFICATIONS:</u> (one or more of these Qualifications will be considered highly favorable in the selection process)

- Holds a current Type rating on a B737 or equivalent size or larger CAT aircraft
- Experience in EASA certification and airworthiness standards
- Experience in corporate airworthiness
- Experience in a Training role
- Experience with International Aviation regulations
- Post-Secondary Degree in Aviation Management or Safety
- Experience drafting Technical Documents
- Experience in composite aircraft
- Experience in type certification processes
- Experience in developing customized maintenance programs (MSG 2 and MSG3)
- Experience with Incident or Accident Investigations

The ability to travel for aircraft oversight inspections, maintenance organization oversight and routine Authority business, sometimes-on short notice, is required. In your application letter, please clearly indicate how you meet the Essential, and any Desired Qualifications.

### SALARY & BENEFITS:

Salary range for an Airworthiness Surveyor/Inspector is **CI\$84,569 to CI\$139,316** per annum dependent on the individual's qualifications and experience.

Benefits include 25 days' vacation, contributory pension, and health insurance. In addition to our benefits package we also offer training and educational opportunities, and a challenging and dynamic work environment that is rewarding and fulfilling.

Closing date for application is 19 January 2024 and should be sent to:

Director-General Civil Aviation Civil Aviation Authority of the Cayman Islands 205 Owen Robert Dr P. O. Box 10277 Grand Cayman KY1-1003 CAYMAN ISLANDS

Email: careers@caacayman.com



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