

Caymanian Times

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Complimentary

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An ever-evolving police service

One hundred and twelve years ago, ground-breaking legislation was enacted that would formally establish a police force in the Cayman Islands. In 1907 the first ever officers to police in Cayman were supervised by a British inspector, who oversaw four local constables. Their work was to keep the peace among the 5,000 or so inhabitants who lived in the islands, as well as oversee postal and customs duties and guarding short-term prisoners. Their daily demands included hoisting the Cayman Islands flag over government buildings every morning.

In 1925 Major Rodriguez (Roddy) Watler became known as Cayman's head of police. Mr Roddy knew everyone in Cayman and held down a multitude of jobs as well as the islands' top police officer, including lighthouse keeper, foreman of public works, head of immigration and warehouse keeper. He also ran the Home Guard in Cayman from 1942 to 1945. His bravery in saving lives during the hurricane of 1932 earned him the King George Silver Medal.

In 1957, while Cayman was still under Jamaica's rule, a contingent from the Jamaican police came to Cayman



► Cayman's first Head of Police article Roddy Watler and his officers welcome the Governor. Photo circa 1930s to 1940s. Photo courtesy Joan and Colin Wilson

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Premier wants discussion on high rise buildings

By Lindsey Turnbull

Giving his annual unofficial state of the union address at Royal Fidelity's Cayman Economic Outlook Conference last Thursday, Premier Alden McLaughlin said he wanted to start a discussion in Cayman about whether to introduce high rise buildings that far exceed the current limit of ten storeys along Seven Mile Beach and also at Camana Bay. Acknowledging that this would be a contro-

versial discussion point, the Premier said he welcomed the discussion because it was necessary to take bold measures to ensure Cayman's continued success in the decades to come.

The Premier said that if Cayman was to continue to grow it was his view that Cayman needed to make really creative use of the scarce space the island had. Government was currently consulting

... Continued story on page 7



► Royal Fidelity President Michael Anderson, Premier Alden McLaughlin and Fidelity Cayman President Brett Hill

THE UK-OTs SAME-SEX FAMILY FEUD



The United Kingdom and its Caribbean overseas territories are on a collision course over the contentious issue of same-sex marriage.

A recommendation that the British Overseas Territories (OTs) legalise same-sex marriages has been met with an immediate, harsh and ongoing flood of rejection and condemnation.

It's contained in a report by the Foreign Affairs Committee (FAC) of the British parliament titled; 'One family: Rethinking Britain's relationship with the Overseas Territories'.

It comes out of a six-month-long inquiry into the future of relations between the OTs and United Kingdom - the 'mother country'/administrative authority.

The title of the report, while clearly aiming to address a concern held by many of the UK's Caribbean OTs that they feel less than family, however brings to the fore the rules and behaviours within the 'family' that they are expected to adhere to.

Missing from this is who makes the rules, the conditions under which they are imposed, and whether such family

... Continued story on page 8



Caymanian Times



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EDITORIAL

Knowing our History

We can never plan for the future, if we do not know our past

This week the Caymanian Times launches a brand-new series taking a look at all aspects of life here in Cayman now, and as it was decades ago. Having recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of our Coat of Arms, we thought this a fitting exploration of how far we have come as a small nation.

We are very excited about this series and look forward to those good old memories that will be brought to print, once again, by Lindsey Turnbull.

Some of the memories that we will be re igniting include Education/schools, Transport, Tourism, Art, Healthcare and even the media.

One of our goals is to encourage the youth to read about Cayman History and we are certain that those students



at CIFEC who are regular readers of the Caymanian Times will be excited to learn of this new column. 🌐

COMMUNITY NOTICES

Interprimary Sports 2019

The royal visit scheduled to occur during the period 27th to the 29th March has impacted the hosting of the 2019 Interprimary sports. On Wednesday 27th March, 2019 students will be required to be at the airport to greet the Royal family.

In addition Thursday 28th March has been officially declared a Public Holiday.

As a result, the 2019 Interprimary sports will now take place on Thursday 4th April, 2019 when Field events will occur and Friday 5th April, 2019 when the Track Meet will take place.

The Department of Education Services apologizes for any inconvenience caused. 🌐



Planned Works – Lawrence Blvd Road Closure

Water Authority-Cayman wishes to advise its valuable customers and the motoring public of a partial closure of Lawrence Blvd. The turning lane from West Bay Road into Lawrence Blvd will be closed to facilitate the installation of new wastewater infrastructure. Work will commence on Monday, 25 February and last for approximately one week.

During this period a diversion will be in place to allow road users access to Lawrence Blvd and representatives

of the Authority will be on hand to direct traffic.

Traffic signs will be posted in the area. Motorists are asked to drive with caution to ensure their own safety, as well as the safety of Water Authority staff.

The Water Authority apologizes for any inconveniences this may cause, and thanks the public for their patience and understanding as it upgrades its wastewater infrastructure to better serve you. 🌐

COMMUNITY VOICE

CPR Cayman Rebuttal to Premier McLaughlin's Chamber Luncheon Address

Public Money

Premier McLaughlin again stated at last week's Chamber of Commerce luncheon that no public money will be used to build the proposed cruise berthing facilities. This statement may be technically correct, however it is misleading. Taking into consideration the accounting principle, substance over form, while public money might not be allocated to pay for the facility up front i.e. the initial capital, the cost is actually a loan to Cayman which will be repaid to one or more private companies, in the future from port, or other, as determined by the government, receipts out of future public money.

Bigger ships

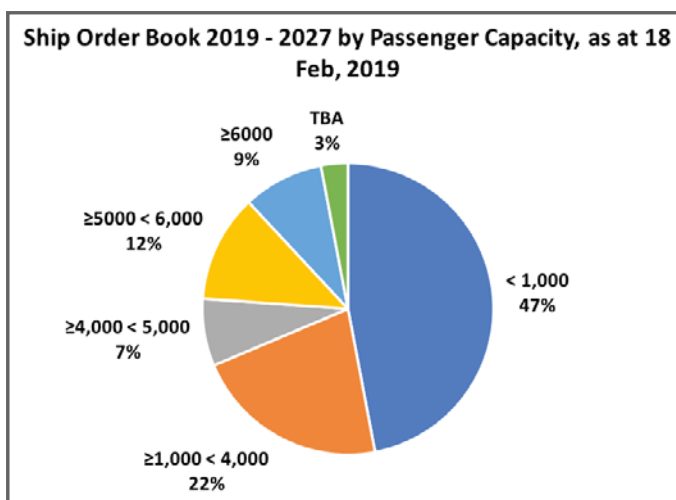
The Premier refers to the cruise lines building bigger and bigger ships, again, correct but misleading. The cruise lines are building a few bigger ships, however, as supported by the cruise industry order book for new vessels, the majority (69%) of new ships on order between 2019 and 2027 are for the smaller vessels with passenger capacity under 4,000, all of which can tender. The largest class ships with passenger capacity over 6,000 represent 9% of new ships on order during this period. The cruise industry recognizes there is a limited market for the novelty new larger ships, and publicly available industry reviews indicate cruise visitors prefer the smaller vessels, notably under 3,000 passengers. Further, of the announced destinations for the 28 ships on order with passenger capacity of over 5,000, only one is scheduled to sail the Caribbean, in contrast with 6 to sail in China, and 5 to sail in Europe and Asia.

Innovate or die like Kodak

We do need to innovate, but it is wrong to think that bigger is better; that multiple millions of cruise visitors and more of the same for more crowds is the way to go, where is the innovation in that?

What we actually need to do is protect our cruise tourism by enhancing our offering, improve the experience of our current visitors and make ourselves a distinct and unique destination, stand out from the crowd. And we can do this without incurring hundreds of millions of dollars of debt to the cruise lines and losing control of our cargo and cruise port.

If one of Cayman's tourism industry goals remains to convert cruise visitors to stayover visitors, we need to improve our offering with a focus on quality of experience rather than downgrading it through overcrowding.



The environment

The Premier saying that 'the developers will do their best to keep the environmental impact to a minimum', is of little comfort to anyone who has even a basic understanding of the Environmental Impact Assessment report and/or understands the nature of the limitations clearly stated in the report. At the moment George Town harbour and its surrounding is enviable, with clear waters and beautiful Caribbean sand, full of snorkelers, swimmers, glass bottom boats and submarines. All of this will disappear from dredging during construction and under the silt from bow thrusters and fuel pollution from huge ships at permanent, dockside berths. A high cost for current and future Caymans to pay in terms of lost ecosystem services, loss of cultural and historic ship wrecks, loss of scenic coastline, and lost tourism revenue for the businesses currently operating there.

Massive economic gains, increased employment and business opportunities

So many construction jobs and business opportunities, but for whom?

The Government have failed to disclose the type of new job opportunities that they claim will be made available, how they have evaluated the economic benefits and are reluctant to share with the public the business opportunities.

\$245 million economic benefits? An interesting figure, where does this come from and more importantly who does it go to? Given that the cost of the project has been projected to exceed US\$250 million and we know that this will rise again (and again), most likely to well over US\$300 million, where's the economic benefit in that?

To use the words of our Premier:

This comes down to a question of judgement – do the economic and environmental costs outweigh the benefits? This should be a question asked to the Citizens of this country, whose children and grandchildren will be the ones most impacted. In an informed democracy, the government should enact the will of the people.

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Enhanced Recruitment Process is Focus for Health Ministry Managers

Some 20 senior managers and human resources (HR) staff from the Ministry of Health recently attended a two-day training intended to enhance their recruitment skills.

SHRM Senior Certified Professional Susan White, a former Senior Vice President and Human Resource Executive at global financial services firm JP Morgan Chase, led the sessions. Key topics that she covered included job analysis, identifying competencies for various positions, and the assessment of competencies through behavioural interviewing.

Ministry of Health Chief Officer Jennifer Ahearn explains that behavioural interviewing is the process of determining how an interviewee will act in specific

employment-related situations in order to find the right recruitment candidates.

"Ms White is a specialist in the area of talent development. This is a key goal for the Deputy Governor's Five Year plan, but also a necessity for any agency or organisation that wishes to achieve sustainable success," Ms Ahearn remarks.

"Another focus for the five year plan is leadership", the Chief Officer adds, "And we thought this would be an excellent opportunity to build capacity at the top of our organisations while at the same time empowering leaders and HR teams to shape their organisations going forward."

The Ministry's Chief Officer, Deputy Chief Officer, Heads of Department,

Deputy HODs and all HR staff from agencies within the Ministry took part. As such representatives from the Departments of Health Regulatory Services, Environment, Environmental Health, Counselling Services, and the Mosquito Research and Control Unit were among those present.

The workshop used hands-on exercises to guide them through activities such as identifying competencies and writing behavioural interview questions, all while conducting effective and fair interviews.

Human Resources Manager in the Ministry of Health Marcia Murray, who regularly attends Society Human Re-

sources Management conferences in the United States, came up with the idea for the training as a cost efficient way of sharing the same expert level of knowledge as widely as possible within the Ministry.

Deputy Governor Franz Manderson says he was pleased to see agencies like the Ministry of Health using the Five Year plan as an impetus for staff development.

"Ultimately if we build the capacity of our leaders they will be able to better harness and keep the talent needed to create a better workplace and deliver world class services to our customer", Mr Manderson comments.



► Some 20 senior managers and HR staff attended the two-day training session led by SHRM Senior Certified Professional Susan White (front row 3 -L)



► Ministry of Health staff during a two-day training session that focused on using interview techniques to find the right recruitment candidates (Photos by GIS)

Gender Affairs Unit Bolsters Honouring Women Month

Preparations for March's Honouring Women Month (HWM) events have been significantly boosted by a strategic alliance between the Ministry of Community Affairs' Gender Affairs Unit (GAU) and the Family Resource Centre (FRC).

"The Gender Affairs Unit and the FRC essentially share the same goals in advocating for gender equality and highlighting the role of women in society. We both appreciate the importance of government agencies working collectively towards common objectives, especially those

which will impact not only women and their families but the community as well," says Senior Policy Analyst (Gender, Diversity and Equality) Karlene Bramwell.

"Many of the campaigns and programmes that the Family Resource Centre runs; particularly those for March's Honouring Women Month, are designed to promote greater equity and social cohesion in the wider community. Therefore it is entirely natural that we support one another," explains the Ministry's Deputy Chief Officer André Ebanks.

Earmarked to offset the cost of staging activities to mark the 20th anniversary of the observance in the Cayman Islands; the GAU contributed \$9,000 which represents the largest single donation made to the Family Resource Centre from an entity. Additionally, the

GAU will also be participating in many of the HWM's activities.

Mr. Ebanks presented the cheque, following a tour of the FRC's temporary offices at Walker House, 77 Mary Street, George Town on Friday, 22 February 2019.

Programme Facilitator Anne-Marie Diaz, who received the cheque on behalf of the FRC, agrees: "We are delighted by the Ministry's donation in support of HWM activities. There is increasing evidence that shows that empowering women in communities is a precursor of social and economic growth."

For the Honouring Women Month events schedule, visit the FRC's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/FamilyResourceCentre/>, email frc@gov.ky or call 949-0006.



► Programme Facilitator Anne-Marie Diaz receives a \$9,000 cheque from the Ministry of Community Affairs for March's Honouring Women Month activities presented by Deputy Chief Officer Andre Ebanks

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Opposition Calls for Deliberative Approach to UK Proposals

Responding to recent remarks by Premier Alden McLaughlin that implementation of certain proposals by a UK House of Commons committee would trigger his “lead[ing] the charge for independence”, the Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Ezzard Miller has called for a more deliberative response reflecting an “appropriate level of seriousness.”

The Leader of the Opposition’s comments follow Mr. McLaughlin’s remarks at the recent Chamber of Commerce legislative luncheon.

“With Cayman obviously not being ready for independence, I can only infer from the Hon. Premier’s remarks that he regards the report as of no consequence or importance at this stage,” Mr. Miller said.

“That is unfortunate, as any perception of potential triggers of independence at this time should be taken very seriously and every effort should be made to deter any internal or external untimely precipitating actions,” Mr. Miller said.

“A better approach would be to give active consideration to the report and respond in a timely way with a view to forestalling any potential negative consequences,” Mr. Miller said, adding: “My first option would be to channel the passion inspired by the report into tabling and debating it in the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly, with the aim of formulating a joint position and communicating that to the UK through the appropriate channels.”

The report, issued by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, is entitled “Global Britain and the British Overseas Territories: Resetting the Relationship.” The Foreign Affairs Committee was appointed by the House of Commons, and the report was published by “authority of the House of Commons” on February 21, 2019. Five of the eleven members comprising the Foreign Af-

fairs Committee, including the chair, are members of the Conservative Party now in power.

Mr. Miller said that, whilst it is true that the report originates with a committee of the House of Commons and not with the executive arm of the UK Government, and therefore at this point can be said to hold no immediate threat, “The committee will eventually channel these recommendations to the House of Commons and the proposals could ultimately find their way into legislation that, if passed, would bind the UK Government.”

Drawing a parallel with the Open Registry which is due to be implemented in the OTs in 2023, Mr. Miller noted that in that case the corresponding legislation presented in the House of Commons was opposed by the executive, but it bound them nevertheless when it was subsequently passed.

The recommendations being met with concern by many persons in Cayman are those proposing, respectively, that all locally resident UK and British Overseas Territory citizens be given the right to vote and hold elected office and that same-sex marriage be legalised. Barring the highly unlikely possibility of Cayman acceding to these controversial recommendations, if the corresponding legislation is passed in the House of Commons the UK Government would issue an Order in Council bringing them into force in the Cayman Islands.

“I join the Premier in his concerns about these two issues as well as others in the report, but where our views diverge is with respect to the notion that we should sit tight and hope that the recommendations go nowhere, while at the same time hold independence as a sort of sword of Damocles in the event the proposals do materialize as local law,” Mr. Miller said. “When we hear a train whistle, we don’t need to wait to



► Leader of the Opposition the Hon. Ezzard Miller

see the train before we take preemptive action. We must take appropriate formal action now, debate the report in the Cayman Islands Legislature and report our concerns to the UK through appropriate channels.”

Mr. Miller explained: “We do not want external actions to push us towards a state for which we are not ready. We must take advantage of all available diplomatic options to press home our views with the hope that we can resolve issues without any harmful impacts for the Islands and our people.”

The Leader of the Opposition said, nevertheless, that as a British Overseas Territory “We must begin from now to prepare for greater internal management of our own affairs by improving our standards of governance and by investing in our people and our institutions that would foster strengthening of our governance capacity.”

Mr. Miller said that such preparation must include greater attention to safe-

guarding and expanding our economy, while continually assessing global trends such as Brexit and threats to our financial industry.

However, a very important aspect of preparation was “to begin to consider the impacts and value of constitutional progression,” he said, adding: “We must begin to set benchmarks in governance as a part of a naturally evolving process of constitutional development.”

Looking ahead, Mr. Miller said: “I do hope that one day we will arrive at a constitutional status that would allow us a significant level of true self-governance,” and added: “If we are to achieve that, as a developing territory we should begin communicating about and debating the advantages and values of constitutional advancement.”

However, Mr. Miller added: “But right at this juncture, we should not be making rash statements about independence, however passionately we may feel.”

INAUGURAL INTERSCHOOL CHESS TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS

More than 120 students from 8 local schools participated in the inaugural Interschool Chess Tournament sponsored by Dart Minds Inspired. Hosted by Cayman International School, the competition was held on Wednesday, 27 February, at the Arts and Recreation Centre in Camana Bay.

The tournament, which featured round robin and championship rounds with divisions for primary, middle and high school students, lasted for approximately four hours.

MLA Barbara Conolly, who attended the event on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, Agriculture and Lands to present the winning students with their medals, says chess plays an important role in building academic and life skills.

“As Councillor for Education, I was pleased to attend the first Interschool Chess Tournament and present the medals to the winners. It’s never too early for a child to learn how to play chess and I can attest to that as children from the age of seven participated in this tournament,” she says. “The game of chess helps children develop critical thinking skills such as problem solving, creative thinking, strategic thinking and sportsmanship, amongst others.”

Dart Education Programmes Manager Glenda McTaggart says she hopes the success of the inaugural tournament will encourage the development of chess clubs at other local schools that do not currently have chess programmes.

“Playing chess and participating in chess tournaments can create oppor-



► The winners of the 2019 Interschool Chess Tournament pose with MLA Barbara Conolly, tournament organiser Stephen Wise and Dart Education Programmes Manager Glenda McTaggart after receiving their awards

tunities for Cayman’s youth to compete at national, regional and international chess events,” she says, adding that the Cayman Chess Club hosts free chess classes and open challenges every Sat-

urday at 11:00am at the George Town Public Library for interested students.

Mrs. McTaggart says the event’s success depended on the coordinated efforts of volunteers from several local organisations and the support of local businesses.

“Volunteers from the Lions Club of Grand Cayman and the Cayman Chess Club oversaw the competition, Kirk’s Market and Foster’s Food Fair provided sandwiches and snacks, and the staff and senior students of Cayman International School assisted tournament organiser Stephen Wise throughout the event,” she says. “Without their enthusiastic, loyal, and capable help, this tournament could not have taken place.”

Mr. Wise says he was encouraged by the level of student and parent participation in the inaugural event.

“The tournament exceeded all our expectations. Enthusiasm and excitement was clearly evident among all the

students and parents who attended,” he says.

The Primary School Division was won by Luc Sinton of the Cayman Chess Club, the Middle School Division by Ryan Heffernan of Cayman International School, and the High School Division by Edmund Pileta of Clifton Hunter High School. Congratulations to runners-up Arjun Dhanasekar of St. Ignatius Catholic School, and Alexander Grover and Tyler Dykstra of Cayman Prep and High School. Also competing in the Medal Round were Ignatius Finch and Ricardo Douglas of St. Ignatius Catholic School, Laia Swaminathan and Lennox Turnham-Wheatley of Cayman International School, Daniel Suico of Triple C School, and Khobika Rajesh Kannan of Cayman Academy.

The 2nd Interschool Chess Tournament is expected to occur in early 2020 with further details to be announced closer to the event. For more information, visit mindsinspired.ky.

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THEN AND NOW

This week the Caymanian Times launches a brand-new series taking a look at all aspects of life here in Cayman now, and as it was decades ago. Having recently celebrated the 60th anniversary of our Coat of Arms, we thought this a fitting exploration of how far we have come as a small nation

An ever-evolving police service

... Continued story from page 1

to restructure the police and create the formal position of Chief of Police. Two years later Cayman recruited its first female police officers, Zelda Valerie Anderson and Marjorie McField. They were responsible for cases involving women and children.

The 1970s saw a new headquarters in George Town for the police and the next decade saw even more growth for the organisation, in keeping with the new waves of immigrants moving to Cayman following the previous decade's introduction of key legislation that would form the basis of the islands' financial services industry. In 1983 HM the Queen visited Cayman and the police took on 'Royal' in their title as a result of the royal visit. In 1996 the police's professional code of conduct was written and implemented and the following year the word 'force' was replaced by 'service' to create the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service or RCIPS. That same year officers' uniforms transitioned from the old khaki uniform to the modern white shirts and black pants with a red stripe with which we are familiar today.



► George Town HQ

A modern service

In 2000 there were 268 officers and 50 support staff and that year saw

a cycle unit out on the beat wearing shorts, a new introduction to the RCIPS uniform. Specialist divisions were introduced to better manage crime, including the Air Operations Unit, the Joint Marine Unit and Uniform Support Group. In 2009 the Joint Marine Unit's fleet was bolstered by the arrival of the Tornado and Niven D boats and in 2010 the Air Operations Unit came into being, bringing a helicopter on board to help combat crime and keep the island safe. Its uses have been numerous and include border protection, emergency response, air ambulance capabilities support for Fire and Rescue services, firearms operations and disaster response.

In 2016 Police Commissioner Derek Byrne became Cayman's Chief of Police. In 2017, RCIPS officers answered 80 per cent of all emergency calls dispatched by the 9-1-1 Communication Centre, and 31,865 calls for service in total, encompassing both 9-1-1 dispatches and reports received through police stations. Today, officers and personnel work in a variety of roles, including emergency response, road and marine safety and enforcement, child protection, criminal investigation, intelligence, drug and firearm interdiction, border security, community outreach, finance and administration, and many others. Presently there are approximately 70 civilians and 404 police officers in the RCIPS.



► Police HQ 1973. Photo of Ed Oliver drawing courtesy RCIPS



► Albert Forbes, Hillary Ford, Gladys Prince, Jacques McLaughlin and Cardiff Solomon outside the old GT station. Photo courtesy RCIPS



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▶ Albert Berksoy



▶ Willow Wilkinson



▶ Andrew Jacques

Good turnout for the second PwC Junior Grand Prix

The second PwC Junior Grand Prix for 2019, organized by the Tennis Federation of the Cayman Islands (TFCI), took place at the Cayman Islands Tennis Club (CITC) on Friday, February 22 and Saturday, February 23, 2019.

There was a good turnout with eight players in the 10& Under age group, fifteen in the 14& Under age group, and five in the 18& Under age group.

The 10& Unders competed in singles while the 14& Under and 18& Under age groups had the opportunity to play in both singles and a doubles tournament.

Tournament Director, Ilian Nachev, was pleased to observe that all players demonstrated exemplary behaviour and sportsmanship. The weather was great during both days of the tournament, so there weren't any delays due to rain and all matches went as scheduled. The results of the tournament are as follows:

In the 18& Under division, Jake Booker defeated Lauren Fullerton in a three-set drama fest (1-6, 6-3, 6-2), to capture the singles title. Third place went to Willow Wilkinson, who defeated Zach Jackson with 6-3, 6-2. The young ladies, Lauren Fullerton and Willow Wilkinson defeated the young gentlemen, Jake Booker

and Zach Jackson 8-5 in an entertaining doubles final.

Albert Berksoy defeated Rafael Wejbora with 3-6, 6-3, 10-3 to win the singles title in the 14& Under division. This was a rematch of the final of the January tournament in which Albert managed to squeeze out the victory as well. Phin Ellison secured third place by winning 6-4, 6-4 against Jake Fagan. Jay Jackson triumphed in the Consolation tournament by defeating Milana Thompson with 6-2, 6-3. Berksoy and Wejbora outplayed Ellison and Danny Kish 8-1 in the 14& Under doubles final.

In another exciting match, Noah Mitten defeated Andrew Jacques 6-4, 6-4, sealing the title in the 10& Under age division. Noah has won both tournaments this year. Lea Neverilova was victorious over newcomer Luke Higgs for third place, whilst the Consolation tournament was won by Alex Linkowski.



▶ Group photo with PwC banner

Thanks to the TFCI for organizing yet another great junior event and to PwC for sponsoring it. Many thanks also to the CITC for generously providing their tennis courts for the tournament.

The next PwC Junior Grand Prix will be held from April 5th to 7th at the CITC. If you are interested in signing up, please contact the TFCI at admin@tfciky.com.

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Affordable Residential Development Seeks to Meet Local Market Demands

19 North Development Company Ltd. ("19 North"), a new affordable for-sale residential development in the Cayman Islands, recently launched its pre-sales initiative to resounding response. Pre-sales opened to the public in December 2018 through a digital-led whisper campaign, and only 20 of the development's 75 apartments are still available for purchase.

Located along the northern stretch of Esterly Tibbetts Highway, just west of the Dart Nursery, the new residential community boasts five acres of land for its 75 units, which are laid out across three buildings. Ranging from one- to three-bedroom apartments, homes start from only CI\$212,000.

Working with Cayman Islands-based architect Pedro Theye of Elegant Design and local construction firm Thistle Cayman, who have managed large-scale development projects including Boggy Sands Club and Margaritaville Beach Resort Grand Cayman, 19 North has been intelligently designed with its future residents in mind. The development's three apartment blocks are centred around ample outdoor facilities and communal gathering spaces that create a balance of style and purpose; combining high living standards and plentiful amenities with an affordable price point.

Apartments range from 400 to 1,175 square feet and all feature balconies overlooking the property's gardens and public spaces, high ceilings, modern finishes, and open-plan interior layouts with exceptional functionality. Future residents will also have access to a state-of-the-art gym, 60' pool and dedicated barbecue area, as well as extensive gardens featuring native trees and shaded pavilions for outdoor recreation and activities.

Director of 19 North, Jonathan Murphy, explained how the development will meet demand in the local property market. "We understand from talking to a number of local businesses that there is a lack of quality, affordable housing solutions that are conveniently located for their employees. With a pipeline of projects that will serve to booster Cayman's tourist and service industries, there will be continued pressure on the residential market to provide viable housing options for both locals and expats. Communities like 19 North, on the Seven Mile Beach corridor, aim to fill this void by providing a convenient and competitively priced solution for first-time homeowners and renters alike."

For many of its future residents, 19 North will also offer unparalleled



► Exterior – all units feature balconies overlooking the property's gardens and public spaces

monthly rental rates in a sought-after rental property location. It is in close proximity to shopping amenities in The Republic West Bay Plaza and popular restaurants within Morgan's Harbour and the Cayman Islands Yacht Club, and benefits from excellent transportation links to Camana Bay and George Town. The new community will also bring repeat customers to these and other local businesses in West Bay and create local construction job opportunities.

The development is on schedule to break ground in March 2019 and be ready for residents to move in by April 2020. Details of the development will continue to be released as construction progresses. For more information on purchasing at 19 North visit, www.19north.ky or contact sales@19north.ky. To keep up-to date with the latest project happenings, follow 19 North on Facebook (www.facebook.com/19northky) and Instagram (www.instagram.com/19northky).



► Kitchen – future residents will enjoy top of the range Whirlpool appliances from A.L. Thompson



► Living room – open-plan interior layouts feature high ceilings and modern finishings

Premier wants discussion on high rise buildings

... Continued story from page 1

on a draft National Planning framework that is beginning to look at some of the crucial land use choices that face Cayman in the years to come.

"I support that consultation process and I hope that everyone will want to take part in the debate," he said.

On the way up

In particular, the Premier focused on the benefits he said would be brought about by taking buildings beyond the regulation ten storeys.

"Over a period of decades, we have gradually allowed taller buildings as demand for property increases," he said. "This demand continues and strengthens and under the growth we are now experiencing there is already pressure to go beyond the current maximum of ten storeys."

The Premier asked the audience to consider whether the Cayman community wanted to continue with incremental change, as had been the case historically, or whether now was the time to "think bigger and act more boldly" when it came to land use and building heights.

"If so, how high and where do we want future development to be allowed?" he questioned.

The Premier also called for input as to how George Town could be revitalised. He said that Government had already



► Moderator Chris Duggan from Dart Enterprise Ltd greets Governor Martyn Roper to the RFCEO conference



► Left to right: Roy McTaggart, Minister of Finance & Economic Development; Mike Anderson, President Royal Fidelity; Brett Hill, President of Fidelity Cayman; Chris Duggan, of Dart Enterprise Ltd and event moderator

removed some restrictions for building in the capital and asked whether Government should consider allowing taller buildings in George Town. The other obvious example of the potential for taller buildings was along the Seven Mile Beach corridor, the Premier said.

"All the messages about the strength of the tourism market and the luxury housing market suggest that there

may be no obvious links with building heights in terms of what the market will bear," Mr McLaughlin stated. "The question becomes then what does our community want to see happen. The answer to that crucially is dependent upon the benefits any such development brings. If we are to take bold steps then there must be clear and tangible benefits for Caymanians."

The Premier said that if the development was seen to be just luxury hotels and accommodation for rich foreigners then the community would rightly reject it.

"If, on the other hand, it is not just seen to be, but actually is, about delivery of improvement of infrastructure and in the economic and employment opportunities and the social conditions of Caymanians, then I believe this is a debate we should be ready to engage in," he confirmed.

The Premier said that by way of a kickstart to that debate, representatives from Dart Enterprise Ltd had already spoken with Government regarding plans for a landmark development within Camana Bay that included an "iconic tower that greatly exceeds current development height limits, creating a new skyline that will be recognisable the world over."

Dart were promising to also commit to investing an additional \$1.5 billion, not just in the development itself, but also infrastructure improvement and supporting workforce development.

The Premier said that everyone knew that future development along Seven Mile Beach was inevitable and had already started to take place. The question was whether to restrict the type of development permitted. He said that perhaps Cayman could be happy with the incremental approach that had taken place so far over the years, but queried what would happen in decades to come.

"This approach is unlikely to ensure the country will maximise the full economic benefits of the Seven Mile Beach corridor," he said, adding that the alternative was to be bold. A more proactive approach was one that that considered taller buildings that generate much more economic activity and income for the islands than other types of development, and one that required developers to provide further setbacks, creating a larger space between the building and the beach.

"I believe we must at least take a long hard look at the potential for the kind of tower that what Dart is proposing. The potential economic benefits are considerable," he said.



► Premier Alden McLaughlin

Repression Stands in the Way of Political Solution to Crisis in Venezuela

By Humberto Márquez

The violent repression that prevented food and medical aid from crossing into Venezuela, which left at least four people dead and 58 with gunshot wounds, has distanced solutions to what is today Latin America's biggest political crisis, although 10 countries in the hemisphere are stepping up the pressure while at the same time ruling out the use of force.

But for the United States, "all options are on the table," including the use of military force, according to President Donald Trump, and as his Vice President Mike Pence reminded the 10 governments of the Lima Group that met on Feb. 25 in Bogotá to discuss the situation in Venezuela.

Venezuela's neighbours "don't want war but continue to struggle for a political solution that would involve the departure from power of President Nicolás Maduro. By repressing the entry of humanitarian aid trucks, we have an excuse to increase political, economic and diplomatic pressure on the regime," said Carlos Romero, a postgraduate professor of political science at two public universities in Caracas.

The international aid accumulated in border areas of Colombia, Brazil and the neighbouring Dutch island of Curacao consisted of a few hundred tons of medical supplies, some emergency medicines and food supplements that opposition Juan Guaidó ordered across the border on February 23.

Venezuela, with a population of 32 million people, more than three million of whom have left the country in the last five years, according to United Nations sources, is in the grip of an economic and social crisis marked by hyperinflation measured in millions of percent annually, as well as the collapse of its public health system and of other essential public services.

Figures from a study by the three main universities in Caracas indicate – in the absence of official figures over the past three years – that poverty affects 80 per cent of the population, and GDP has plunged 56 per cent in the last five years.

The Maduro administration militarised and closed the borders, arguing that the aid was a pretext for foreign military intervention supported by the opposition led by Guaidó, the president of the parliament, who declared himself "acting president" on January 23.

Two trucks that made it partly across one of the bridges on the border with Colombia, some 860 kilometres from Caracas, caught fire as Venezuelan se-

curity forces repelled young men advancing next to the vehicles, while in the neighbouring cities of Ureña and San Antonio members of the security forces and armed civilians used gunfire to disperse opposition marches aimed at receiving the aid.

In the extreme southeast of the country, where the Pemón indigenous people live, hundreds of native people have been trying since February 22 to keep out military personnel attempting to prevent the entrance of trucks carrying aid from Brazil.

Alfredo Romero, director of the human rights group Foro Penal, said the military shot their way through, according to indigenous leaders, leaving four dead and 25 with bullet wounds.

Indigenous groups seized and held several of the commanding officers for more than 24 hours, but then "some 70 vehicles, including buses full of members of the security forces, secured their release on their way to Santa Elena de Uairén," a local resident of that city near the border with Brazil, 1,260 km from Caracas, told IPS.

Indigenous leaders are hiding in the countryside and in Santa Elena there is a de facto curfew, according to local residents who provided IPS with harsh photos and videos showing what happened there, while the opposition leadership and the media were focusing on the events on the border with Colombia.

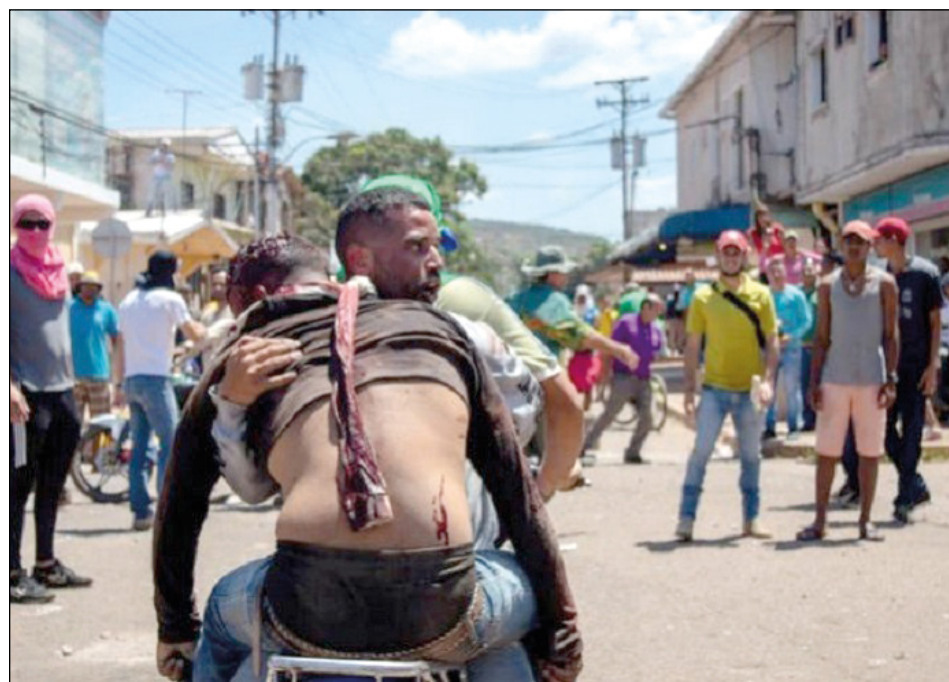
Opposition leaders denounced the murders of at least 15 people in the area and the Foro Penal recorded nine cases of missing persons since February 23.

In Ureña and San Antonio, in southwest Venezuela on the border with Colombia, more than 20 people were wounded by bullets fired by members of the security forces or armed civilians wearing ski masks, according to reports from journalists in the area. Several opposition demonstrations in support of the entry of international aid were also cracked down on heavily in the country's hinterland.

Meanwhile, at least 326 members of Venezuela's military and police, including several mid-level officers, have deserted since February 23, fleeing mainly to Colombia.

The Lima Group – ad-hoc, this time made up of Argentina, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela-Guaidó- and the United States urged the military to stop supporting Maduro and to recognise and obey Guaidó as their commander.

The Lima Group stated that "the transition to democracy must be conducted



► A young man wounded by a bullet during protests in Santa Elena de Uairen is transported on a motorcycle by other young opposition demonstrators during protests after food and medical aid was prevented on February 23 from entering the country from nearby Brazil, 1,260 kilometers southeast of Caracas. (Credit: Courtesy of local residents of Santa Elena de Uairen)

by Venezuelans themselves peacefully and within the framework of the Constitution and international law, supported by political and diplomatic means, without the use of force."

That renunciation for now of the use of force "runs counter to radical people in the Venezuelan opposition who are desperate because they have not found a quick solution," Romero said.

The call for the use of force "has gained ground, because of the way the government has dug in its heels and refused to consider any alternative path that would involve giving up power, in a kind of existential struggle," Luis Salamanca, also a postgraduate professor of political science at the Central University, told IPS.

He quoted Maduro's Vice President Delcy Rodríguez, who said, hours after the violent events at the borders, that the government's determination "is a small part of what we are willing to do."

Washington increased the financial and asset blockade against the Venezuelan State, as well as measures on visas and assets of its authorities, while the Lima Group decided to increase international denunciations and tighten the diplomatic and political noose around Maduro.

Romero warned, however, that in the acceleration of the crisis so far in 2019 "no element of moderation has worked: the compromise initiative set forth by Mexico and Uruguay, the European Union contact group and some countries of the Americas died at birth, as did Pope

Francis's insinuation that he would mediate if requested by the parties."

While the government digs in its heels, the Venezuelan opposition "has to imagine and develop actions that keep people's hope alive, to fight the discouragement that set in after the goal of bringing trucks in with aid was not achieved," Félix Seijas, director of the pollster Delphos, told IPS.

The experts who spoke to IPS agreed that the opposition led by Guaidó made a mistake in making the entrance of aid on February 23 a decisive battle, arguing instead that the call for the re-establishment of democracy is a gradual process with many steps.

Salamanca stressed that "the government seems firm, but with each passing hour new pieces are moved, and there is an underground current that is crumbling the bases on which it is sustained. The desertion of the members of the military is a very striking sign in this regard."

But for now, the leadership of Venezuela's armed forces remains completely loyal to Maduro.

Meanwhile, on the international stage, the United States, the country with the greatest capacity to exert pressure in the hemisphere, requested a new meeting on Venezuela at the United Nations Security Council, this time with the backing of the Lima Group, which described the crisis in the oil-producing country as "an unprecedented threat to security, peace, freedom and prosperity throughout the region." 🌐

THE UK-OTs SAME-SEX FAMILY FEUD

... Continued story from page 1

rules - and norms - are just accepted at face value, determined by the 'de jure' head of the household, or if there's room for cultural and religious sensitivities.

As outlined in the FAC's report, it's more of the former and less - or none - of the latter.

"It is time for all OTs to legalise same-sex marriage and for the UK Government to do more than simply support it in principle. It must be prepared to step in, as it did in 2001 when an Order in Council decriminalised homosexuality in OTs that had refused to do so."

The committee insists that: "The(British) Government should set a date by which it expects all OTs to have legalised same-sex marriage. If that deadline is not met, the Government should intervene through legislation or an Order in Council."

It's this demand - much more than just a recommendation - that the OTs find particularly and understandably quite galling in this highly divisive issue.

It was already indicative during the course of the July 2018 to February 2019 inquiry that lines were already being drawn in the sand.

The FAC noted the reactions then.

"From a UK perspective, a notable point of divergence and friction is same-sex marriage, which has been legalised in all but the five OTs in the Caribbean (Anguilla, BVI, the Cayman Islands, Montserrat, and Turks and Caicos), though this bar is currently being challenged in the courts in the Cayman Islands.

"This means not only that same-sex couples cannot marry, it can also lead to restrictions on the ability of OT citizens to bring their same-sex spouse to live

permanently in the territory, even if the couple was legally married outside the territory."

It also noted: "It is certainly a problematic issue across the Caribbean, including within the Overseas Territories. It is divergent from the UK policy and approach in general. There are heated discussions, but there are certain actors within Overseas Territory societies and the Caribbean more generally, including church groups, who have fought and are fighting very strongly against any change to legislation."

The direct reactions from OT leaders is also documented.

"We asked the elected leaders of Anguilla, Montserrat and TCI if they intended to legalise same-sex marriage.

The TCI Premier said: "We consult our people when we make major changes—that is what I will say."

The Montserrat Premier said that it was important for the UK to recognise that "as separate territories, with ethnic diversity from your territory and cultural differences, we ought to be allowed to make decisions on matters such as same-sex marriages".

Anguilla's Chief Minister said: "This is a cultural issue in our part of the world, and it is necessary to have consultation."

We asked the BVI and Cayman Islands governments in writing to tell us if they would legalise same-sex marriage.

BVI told us that its constitution defines marriage as between a man and a woman. The Cayman government did not respond."

The UK's Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) which is directly responsible for the OTs in the British government, reported during the inquiry that "progress towards same-sex marriage is



"notably slower" in the Caribbean OTs than elsewhere and that "rights to same sex marriage are being contested".

But tThe FCO added that the (British) Government "has been clear that the OTs must fulfil their international obligations on the issue of LGBT equality. Encouraging legislative change continues to be a priority.

It's noteworthy that while the FCO, as the administrative arm dealing directly with the OTs, speaks more cautiously of "encouraging legislative change".

On the other hand, the FAC, which is a political committee of the British parliament, displays no equivocation in how it thinks the British government should deal with the issue.

"The Government should set a date by which it expects all OTs to have legalised same-sex marriage. If that deadline is not met, the Government should intervene through legislation or an Order in Council," it demands.

While the UK has the ultimate power to impose legislation by decree on its OTs, less so for its Crown Dependencies, the very nature of the issue requires for

a more sensitive approach, while respecting human rights.

There's also a shadow of moralising hanging over the issue by many of those in the OTs those who oppose same-sex marriage, not only on argued cultural grounds but citing Christian religious beliefs.

As homosexuality is the OTs has legalised, albeit by British government imperial decree over local objections, the matter of same-sex marriage now seems more of a legal than a moral issue.

That line in the sand has already been crossed.

Will it now be erased by the very rough tide of opposition now washing over it?

This matter, coming as it does in the wake of the recent Joe Root/ Shannon Gabriel "there's nothing wrong with being gay" row puts the issue - or keeps it - in the headlines.

The headlines, and the courts, might be the best place to bring all aspects of this divisive matter out of the closet and have a frank and open discussion about it.

Brace for a bruising debate. 🌐

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 46 Like some boxes live by
 - 1 Sayings to live by
 - 7 Junk email
 - 11 Set right partner
 - 12 Speed
 - 13 Threaten e.g.
 - 14 Fresh
 - 15 Wanted poster
 - 17 Lumbering tools
 - 20 Become furious
 - 23 Ga. neighbor
 - 24 Not yet caught
 - 26 Tonic's mixer
 - 27 KGB counter-part
 - 28 Furious feeling
 - 29 Navel setting
 - 31 Hoop attachment
 - 32 Fine flour maker
 - 33 Long times
 - 34 Vacation site
 - 37 Blend
 - 39 Bed item
 - 43 Watch part
 - 44 "Seinfeld" character
 - 45 Thus
- DOWN**
- 1 Pop's
 - 2 Bauxite, e.g.
 - 3 Bauxite product
 - 4 Onion product
 - 5 A single time
 - 6 Hearty entree
 - 7 Athens rival
 - 8 Playing to the base
 - 9 Un-touched serve
 - 10 Kitty cry
 - 16 Narnia lion
 - 17 Heroic tales
 - 18 Suspect's claim
 - 19 Peripatetic
 - 21 Be in accord
 - 22 Runs into
 - 24 Pinnacles
 - 25 Haber-dashery buy
 - 30 Be excessive
 - 33 Travel aid
 - 35 Door sign
 - 36 Annoy
 - 37 That ship
 - 38 Paving stuff
 - 40 Set ablaze
 - 41 Buck
 - 42 Join together

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

Yesterday's answer

- 16 Narnia lion
- 17 Heroic tales
- 18 Suspect's claim
- 19 Peripatetic
- 21 Be in accord
- 22 Runs into
- 24 Pinnacles
- 25 Haber-dashery buy
- 30 Be excessive
- 33 Travel aid
- 35 Door sign
- 36 Annoy
- 37 That ship
- 38 Paving stuff
- 40 Set ablaze
- 41 Buck
- 42 Join together

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
11						12				
13						14				
		15				16				
17	18	19				20		21	22	
				23		24	25			
26					27			28		
29			30					31		
32								33		
		34				35	36			
37	38					39		40	41	42
43						44				
45						46				

7-11

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

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

6/15

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★

Word Search

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

- Babble
- Bobbin
- Bobble
- Bubble
- Cobble
- Dabble
- Dybbuk
- Gibbet
- Gibbon
- Gobble
- Hobble
- Nibble
- Nobble
- Nubbin
- Pebble
- Rabbit
- Rabble
- Ribbon
- Robber
- Rubber
- Rubble
- Wobble

Have fun with
**CAYMANIAN
TIMES**

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

CURTIS By Ray Billingsley

I STOPPED BY TO SEE HOW YOU'RE DOING!

CURTIS, I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU MANAGE TO SLIP PAST ALL THE SECURITY TO GET UP HERE UNANNOUNCED!!

TURN AROUND, GO TO THE ELEVATOR, GO BACK DOWN AND GO AWAY!

I'M FINE, TOO! THANK YOU FOR ASKING.

THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN By Stan Lee

I SHOULD BE ON CLOUD NINE!

THE FIRST PHOTO EVER OF THE SO-CALLED IRON FIST - AND MY FIRST BYLINE BOTH AS PHOTOGRAPHER AND REPORTER!

BUT SOMEHOW, I FEEL I SHOULDN'T HAVE OUTED IRON FIST. IT'S ONE THING TO TAKE PICS OF SPIDER-MAN MYSELF!

IT'S SOMETHING ELSE TO EXPOSE THE EXISTENCE OF ANOTHER MYSTERY-MAN TO THE PUBLIC.

JUDGE PARKER By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley

SAM, WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH NEDDY? IS SHE ALL RIGHT? DON'T LIE TO ME AND SAY SHE'S ALL RIGHT.

THE POLICE HAD A FEW QUESTIONS FOR NEDDY ABOUT GODIVA'S DEATH. QUESTIONS MORE THAN THE USUAL "WHEN DID YOU SEE HER LAST?"

WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? DO THEY THINK SHE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH GODIVA'S MURDER?!

I'M GOING TO TALK WITH A FEW PEOPLE. FIRST SOPHIE, BECAUSE NEDDY PROBABLY TOLD HER THINGS SHE DIDN'T TELL US.

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