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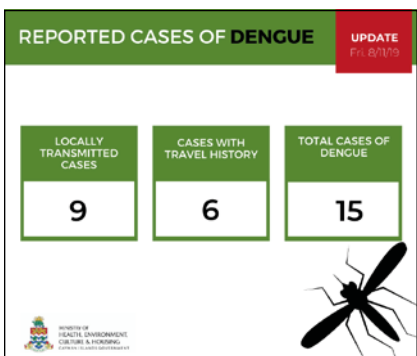
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ANTIGUA BANKS ON VENEZUELA FOR LIAT

Another Fantastic Pirates' Landing



► Pirates!

Full story on page A3 >>

A Community Budget

By Ralph Lewis



Premier Alden McLaughlin and his Government presented the 2020/2021 budget on Friday in the hall of the Legislative Assembly titled "Delivering Today's Priorities; Meeting Tomorrow's Challenges".

His Budget Policy Statement would be his last as Premier and sought to address amongst other things the strong state of the economy and his legacy.

Speaking directly to Caymanian Times, the Premier listed the many achievements over the past six years and made special mention of the excellent executive team that make up the Cabinet and whom he was proud to lead throughout their accomplishments.

... Continued story on page A6

NY cabaret music night set to take the stage

By Lindsey Turnbull

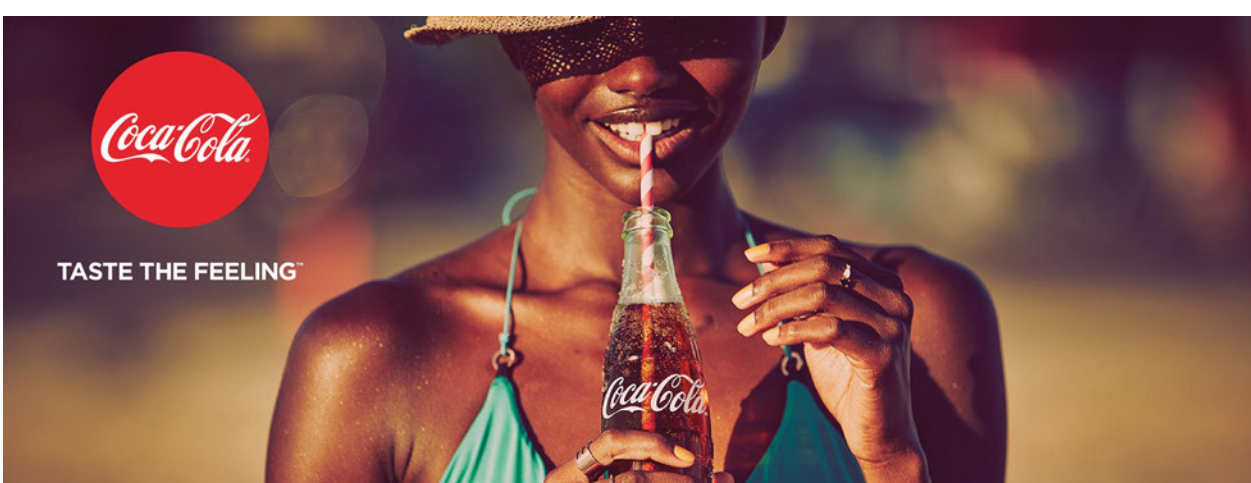
Back by popular demand, cabaret star KT Sullivan and her friends are all set to wow event-goers once more with another New York cabaret music night, this time at the Westin Grand Cayman Seven Mile Beach's Governor's ballroom.

Organised by Cayman Arts Festival, the New York cabaret music evening will feature award-winning Broadway star KT Sullivan, along with Natalie Douglas, another award-winning singer who is no stranger to Cayman, both ladies having performed in Cayman during the 2018 and 2019 Cayman Arts Festivals. At this upcoming event, to be held on 23rd November, they will be joined by Nicolas King who has been performing since the age of four. An accomplished performer before he even reached his



► Matt Baker

... Continued story on page A8



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National Community Enhancement Project Winter 2019

The final National Community Enhancement (NiCE) Project for 2019 will run for three weeks starting on Monday, 25 November 2019.

"I look forward to my Ministry once again delivering the NiCE programme to help build stronger communities and support the most vulnerable, in keeping with the Government's broad policy outcomes," said Minister for Commerce, Planning & Infrastructure, Hon. Joey Hew.

"The project will also ensure that Caymanians benefit from a healthy environment," he added.

The Ministry, which ran this year's NiCE Summer Project, will partner with the Public Works Department (PWD), the National Roads Authority (NRA) and the Department of Environmental Health (DEH) to deliver the programme. Finishing on Friday, 13 December, the project will also help beautify the island ahead of the festive season, as well as providing upskilling opportunities and wages for those who qualify.

Registration for the 15-day project will be held at the Lions Centre on Wednesday, 13 November, at 9 a.m. Late-comers will not be allowed to register. The session will also include orientation by partner agencies, involving basic health and safety, work skills and conduct training, before ending at 12 noon. Open to unemployed Caymanians and spouses of Caymanians (18 years old and over), strict vetting will take place to



► Minister for Commerce, Planning and Infrastructure, Hon. Joey Hew

ensure that only those who qualify register, organisers confirm. NiCE workers will work up to three weeks, Mondays to Fridays (7 a.m. to 3 p.m.).

As well as organising the day-to-day supervision of work duties throughout the three-week project, CPI staff will co-ordinate the logistics. The Ministry will work closely with Workforce Opportunities and Residency Cayman (WORC) to ensure that those able to take up full-time work opportunities after the programme are given every assistance.

The bi-annual initiative, as well as tackling repairs and maintenance, will again be clearing sargassum, if needed. NiCE workers will also be beautifying cemeteries, parks, beaches, beach access and roadside verges.

NiCE application forms are now available at district libraries in Grand Cayman, and MLA Offices, as well as the Government Administration Building's reception area in George Town.



► NiCE Winter Project 2019 starts later this month (Photo by Elphina Jones, GIS)

Notice

Tree Trimming in North Side

Old Man Bay • Rum Point • Cayman Kai



When and Where: During November and early December, CUC will be conducting aggressive tree trimming on weekdays between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. in North Side from Old Man Bay to The Kaibo.

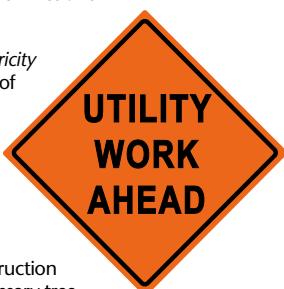
Why: Due to excessive growth, the trees and vegetation along North Side Road, Rum Point Drive and Water Cay Road have become an imminent safety hazard to power lines and must be trimmed back immediately.

CUC is obligated to and has a legal right in accordance with the *Electricity Law 2008, Rev. Section 22 (1)* to trim or remove trees for the purpose of maintaining sufficient clearance from the overhead power lines at all times. CUC is responsible for providing safe and reliable electrical service to Grand Cayman. To satisfy this responsibility, it is necessary to ensure that trees and other vegetation do not obstruct or interfere with power lines or constitute an unacceptable source of danger.

Who: CUC utilises two subcontractors, Utility Maintenance & Construction (UMC) and Power Services Cayman Ltd. (PSCL), to perform the necessary tree trimming. These contractors use qualified linemen who are certified arborists utilising professional tree pruning techniques to ensure safe and effective tree trimming and to promote the healthy regrowth of trees.

CUC asks for your cooperation during the upcoming weeks. Please exercise caution and due diligence when driving in these districts and be on the look out for the bright orange "Utility Work Ahead" signage as there will be temporary lane blockages and traffic management in place.

For further information, please contact our Customer Service Team at 949-5200 or via e-mail at service@cuc.ky.



The Environmental Management System at the North Sound Road Power Plant is registered to ISO 14001

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE Gold Unit 2019

BEST PLACE TO WORK 2019



COMMUNITY NOTICES

North Side Pump Station Work

Water Authority – Cayman wishes to advise its valued customers in North Side, East End and Bodden Town of possible low water pressure over the next week. This is due to optimization work taking place at the Authority's North Side Pump Station. Works will be conducted between **11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

in intervals lasting no longer than ten (10) minutes. These works will be completed on Friday 15 November.

The Water Authority appreciates the patience and understanding of its customers and the public as it undertakes these works, and apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause.

Seven new cases of Dengue Update as of 8 November 2019

• Since the last update on November 4, 2019, 25 additional results have been received from the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) confirming **seven** new cases of dengue in the Cayman Islands.

• Of these **seven** new cases, **two** patients had travelled to a country with year-round transmission of dengue, while **five** had no travel history, which suggests that person acquired dengue within the Cayman Islands.

• This brings the total number of confirmed dengue results (since the first locally transmitted case in October 2019), to **nine** locally transmitted and **six** imported cases.

• To date confirmed cases have been distributed between East End, George Town, West Bay and Bodden Town.

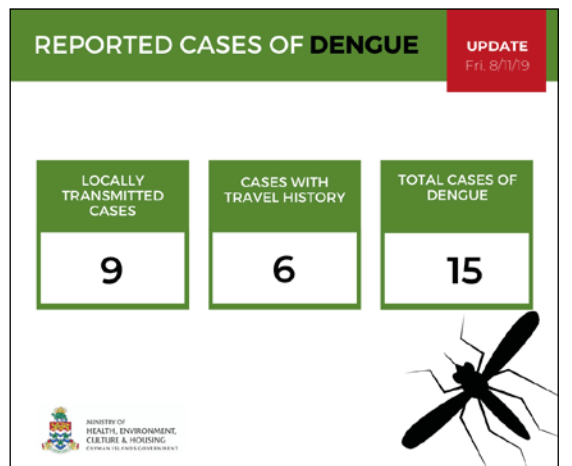
• Since the start of the year the Cayman Islands has sent a total of **116** samples to CARPHA to be investigated for dengue.

• Of that number, **28** persons were admitted to the Cayman Islands Hospital and Health City, Cayman Islands

showing clinical symptoms that might potentially be dengue.

The Public Health Department's Surveillance Unit continues to deploy systematic and enhanced surveillance measures, working closely with government and private sector physicians to review reports of suspected dengue.

For more information, contact the Public Health Department on 244-2648. For advice on mosquito control, contact MRCU on 949-2557 in Grand Cayman, or 948-2223 on Cayman Brac; and Department of Environmental Health on 949-6696 in Grand Cayman, or 948-2321 in Cayman Brac.



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Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories Lay Remembrance Wreaths at Cenotaph for First Time

Representatives of the Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories have laid wreaths for the first time at the National Service of Remembrance at the Cenotaph (Sunday 10th November 2019).

This year a representative from each of the three Crown Dependencies and representatives for the inhabited Overseas Territories laid their own wreaths in remembrance of their many contributions in both World Wars and other conflicts.

The Crown Dependencies and Overseas Territories have previously been represented by the wreaths laid by Her Majesty The Queen and the Foreign Secretary respectively.

The change comes at an especially poignant time as this year marks the 100th Anniversary of Remembrance Sunday and has also seen the addition of other new wreaths, including from Nepal to honour the Gurkhas, and by the Foreign Secretary and the Home Secretary

who laid wreaths on behalf of the Intelligence Agencies.

The three Crown Dependencies were the Bailiwick of Guernsey, the Bailiwick of Jersey, and the Isle of Man.

The inhabited Overseas Territories represented were Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands, Gibraltar, Montserrat, Pitcairn Islands, Saint Helena, Ascension and Tristan da Cunha, and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Governor Martyn Roper said:

"In January 1916 around 300 Caymans signed up voluntarily to the British Merchant Navy. The Cayman Islands Government will now join the rest of the UK family to commemorate the sacrifices made by those Caymanian recruits as they defended our freedom, way of life and democracy. We must never take their sacrifices for granted. Being included in such an important ceremonial event is an honour."



DCFS Sprint Ahead with Plans for Universal Children's Day Race

The Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) is holding a Universal Children's Day 5K Run/Walk Sunday, 24 November 2019, 6 a.m., at Dragon Bay (formerly Safehaven). The theme of the family-friendly event is "I Have a Voice, Hear Me Roar" with all funds raised going to local families in need.

Open to all, the run/walk is being organised to celebrate the annual United Nations observance, which falls on Wednesday, 20 November this year.

Would-be participants are invited to pre-register through www.caymanactive.com/ucd. Alternatively, those wanting to pay in person by cash can do so on Wednesday, 20 - at the main entrance of the Government Administration Building, 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. Registration costs \$15 for adults and \$5 for children (16 years old and under).

While the first 75 registrants will receive a complimentary event T-shirt, all

participants will get a free raffle ticket, with prizes drawn at the end of the race. Organisers advise that well-behaved dogs on leashes are welcome and that water is going to be available during the race and at the finish.

"Universal Children's Day is observed globally to improve child welfare and to promote and celebrate children's rights," said DCFS Director Paulinda Mendoza-Williams.

"The day also supports unity and awareness among children and their communities. DCFS wants the children of the Cayman Islands to feel comfortable using their voices to share their hopes, opinions and needs. We specifically chose our Universal Children's Day 5K theme to acknowledge their agency and to highlight that their voices should carry as much weight as adults," she added.

Further race details, contact the DCFS on 949-0290.



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► Waiting for the fun to start



► The Pirates are coming!

Another Fantastic Pirates' Landing

By Christopher Tobutt

Everyone loves the Pirates' Landing because it is when the pirates rule the Cayman Islands for a week. In the old days the idea of pirates ruling would have been a nightmare, but of course, being a pirate now really just means having as much fun as possible, and that was exactly what happened from the moment that the two Pirates Schooners came ashore at George Town's Hog Sty bay.

There was a quick skirmish, swords glinting in the afternoon sun, as the "Red Coats" tried in vain to stop the Invasion. But it was no good, and the wicked pirates came ashore with lots of loud roars and Arrrrrhs and even a few cries of "Shiver-me-Timbers!"

The Arrrhhing and Timber Shivering continued as they kidnapped the "Governor," (not the real Governor but someone who plays the part of the Governor).

... Continued story on page A5



► Caymanite Synchronized swimmers and mermaids



► West Bay's float



► The costumes were wonderful



► "Arrrhhhh"



► Time for the Pirates' rule



► Pirate- spectacular!



► Mermaids ahoy on the floats



► Part of the West Bay float

Another Fantastic Pirates' Landing

... Continued story from page A4

Then the fun exploded, as all the pirates in their wonderful costumes let everyone take photos. Oh and don't forget the pirates in the crowd too. Moms and dads and the little ones all had their day at being pirates, and it was great fun.

Just before the Landing, there had been a demonstration of synchronized swimming from the Caymanite Synchronized Swimming Club, who gave a beautiful display, as four lovely mermaids sat on the Harbour wall, splashing their tails in the sea to watch. Dream Chasers, Cayman's most energetic dance groups, were chasing their dreams on the big stage set up nearby, and they were great. There is so much talent among Cayman's youth.

One of Cayman's top artists, Tansy Maki was a beautiful and mysterious Coral Lady and many people were taking photos of her, and her friend who was another undersea goddess. There were other characters from movies too; of course one of the great sources of in-

spiration has been Disney's Pirates of the Caribbean, and Captain Jack Sparrow was there, as well as some Hector Balbossa, and a wonderful Davy Jones, who came ashore underwater, appearing on the Beach, as if out of nowhere.

Then it was time for the Float Parade, when all the districts heritage and schools show off the floats they have been working on for weeks. This year it was more spectacular than ever, with 22 different floats full of imaginative depictions of Cayman's rich culture and heritage. The West Bay Heritage Committee had put together a wonderful display of many things; there was even a full-sized model of a donkey, and many outfits depicting Cayman shipwrecks. John A Cumber School had a wonderful display full of catboats, and national dress. Then there were all of Cayman's royalty: the beauty pageant queens, including Miss Teen, Miss Cayman Islands World, and Miss Cayman Islands Universe. Last but not least there was a big red truck from the Cayman Islands Fire Service, full of people waving to the crowd. 🇻🇪



► Kadejah Bodden, Miss Cayman Universe



► East End's parade



► International Pirates love coming to the Pirate's Week

A Community Budget

“A perfect example of Fiscal Responsibility”

... Continued story from page A1

Here are a few of the achievements that he spoke of:

- Central Government Debt has been reduced from \$586M in 2012 to \$404m – a reduction of \$182M which will be further reduced by \$108M with the re-financing of the bullet bond
- The total debt reduction is projected to be \$290M over the two terms
- No new taxes were added since 2013 and this budget does not include any new taxes
- Caymanian un-employment has been reduced from 10.5% to 5% and 3,300 more Caymanians have been employed

According to Premier McLaughlin, the future looks incredibly bright and would be brighter yet if the Port Project moves ahead. The economy is strong, and they have decided to leverage that positive economic position by focusing on the needs of the community.

Significant attention will be paid to Education including the completion of the John Gray High school and improving the levels of student performances.

Care for the elderly will also be prioritised.

He confirmed that roads infrastructure will be upgraded in addition to progress on the Solid Waste Management solution.

In the past, we have heard concerns from our readers that the future looks bright for only a few while many in the middle to lower income bracket continue to struggle with daily challenges in meeting basic living expenses.

The Premier confirmed that this is being addressed and the Needs Assessment Unit will be provided with the necessary resources to assist with these challenges where warranted.

The population level is now at 68,000 and with the current trend, is expected to increase by 4k to 7k over the next four years.

The strong economy and the attractiveness of the Cayman Islands will attract businesses who will relocate or expand operations in the Cayman Islands. This will not only provide employment for Caymanians but also increase the need for expatriate workers with specialized skills.



► Premier Alden McLaughlin

Premier McLaughlin reminded the Caymanian Times that his concept of ‘Good, Sensible, Prudent, Financial Management (GSPFM)’ resulted in the successful performance of his Government, made possible with the support of his

fabulous team of Ministers, other members of Cabinet and Civil Servants.

For our readers we have chosen to expound on the main components of the Budget written by our Senior Journalist, Lindsey Turnbull. 🌐

Two-year Budget outlined



By Lindsey Turnbull

In the Legislative Assembly last week, Premier Alden McLaughlin presented his Government’s two-year budget – the largest in the country’s history at more than \$2 billion - covering the time frame from 1st January 2020 to 31st December 2021.

Here is how the budget might affect you.

Traffic

Government plans to extend the East-West Arterial Road, first to Northward and then through to Look Out in Bodden Town. This project has been brought forward into this budget period rather than being left until the next, as had originally been planned.

... Continued story on page A7

BE INFORMED

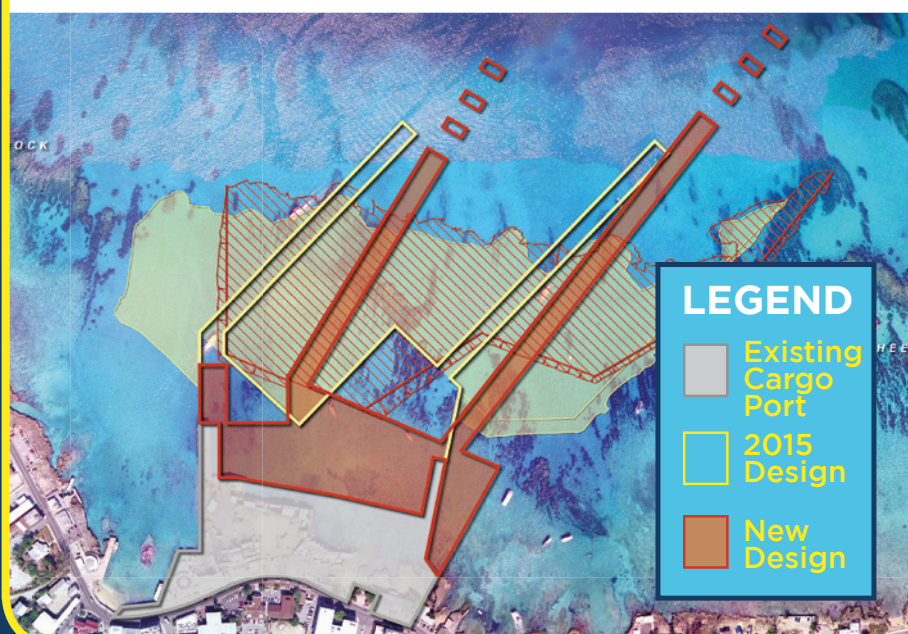
Cruise and Cargo Port Facility PUBLIC MEETINGS

The conversation about whether or not to build a cruise terminal has been ongoing for more than 25 years. We now stand at a pivotal point and must choose which way to go.

Come and hear officials from Government and Verdant Isle Port Partners speak about the project and have your questions answered.

ALL MEETINGS START AT 7PM.

- TUESDAY 12th November Mary Miller Hall, Prospect & Red Bay
- THURSDAY 14th November Family Life Centre, George Town East, South & West
- SATURDAY 16th November Venue TBC, George Town, North & Central
- TUESDAY 19th November John A Cumber Primary School Hall, West Bay
- SATURDAY 23rd November Savannah Primary School Hall, Savannah & Newlands
- TUESDAY 26th November Bodden Town Civic Centre, Bodden Town East & West
- TUESDAY 3rd December East End Civic Centre, East End
- THURSDAY 5th December North Side Civic Centre, North Side



A Community Budget

... Continued story from page A6

Home ownership

Help is on hand for more young Caymanian families to buy their own homes. Government is extending the current provision for first-time Caymanian home buyers that allows them to buy a property up to \$400,000 duty free, and now allows all Caymanians wishing to purchase a first home to enjoy the first \$400,000 duty-free, regardless of the value of the home.

The Government Guaranteed Home Assisted Mortgage programme, or GG-HAM, is set to be reinvigorated. This programme, run in conjunction with participating local banks, provides the lending institution with a Government guarantee of up to 35 per cent of the mortgage amount. This covers the required down payment, as well as provides some additional risk protection for the bank. Government is also looking again at the 'Build on Your Own Property Programme' to help those individuals who own their land but need some help qualifying for a mortgage. It's also continuing to fund the work of the National Housing Development Trust.

Government is looking to develop a comprehensive, cross-government housing policy and is forming a special inter-Ministerial committee to develop that. Its report is expected to be available in time to begin implementation through the 2022-23 budget and beyond.

Older people

A package of concessions will be enacted to reduce the costs falling on older persons. Across government, 14 fees or duties will be significantly reduced or waived for people over 65. The package includes reductions in vehicle licensing fees, duty reductions for mobility scooters and wheelchairs and reduced post office box rental fees. Work permit fees for caregivers of older persons will be reduced import duties for older persons coming through the airport will also be reduced. Government calculates that the revenue foregone by government will total approximately \$830,000.

Seafarers, veterans, social assistance, long serving civil service pensioners

Their monthly income will rise by \$100 to \$850. The budget provides for a further \$100 per month from January 2021, lifting the monthly payment to \$950.

Government has allocated approximately \$26 million per year to cover that cost in each of the next two years.

Civil servants pay increase

Government has allowed for a 5 per cent cost of living increase for civil servants with effect from 1st January, 2020. Premier McLaughlin said this

increase acted as a signal to private sector employers and as a stimulus to wage growth elsewhere in the economy.

New investment Ministry

This budget creates an appropriation for the new Ministry of International Trade and Investment, Aviation and Maritime Affairs. Premier McLaughlin, who is the Minister for this new entity, said the role of this Ministry was outward-facing, presenting a single front door to potential investors in Cayman and ensuring that the jurisdiction was effectively plugged in to key existing and emerging markets.

Premier McLaughlin said it could be the focal point for future efforts to diversify the economy and to create new opportunities that channel that pioneer spirit of Caymanian enterprise. In this next budget period, the Ministry was deliberately starting relatively small. However, if the Ministry was as successful as he believed it could be, then it would grow to be the powerhouse for the next iteration of the Cayman economic miracle, he said.

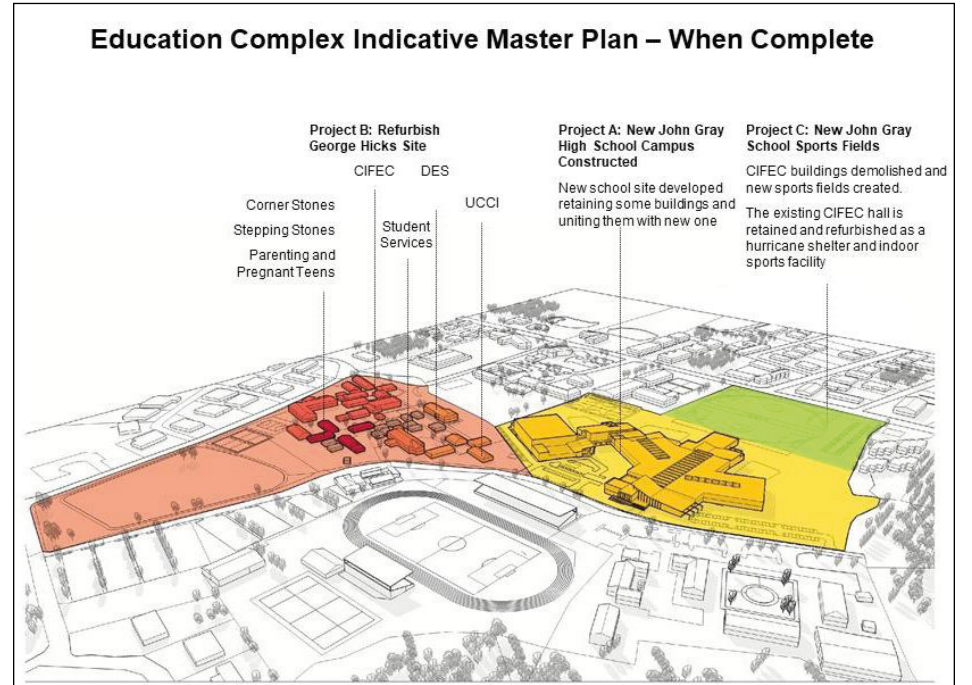
The dump

The main challenges in taking the integrated solid waste management project forward had been resolved and



► Cayman Islands Government Administration Building

Government and the Dart-led consortium preferred bidder for the project have now begun to work together in concrete terms while the contract negotiations are being concluded. There will shortly begin a consultation on the terms of reference for an environmental impact assessment for the new facilities to be constructed under the project, including the waste-to-energy plant. Work will be-



gin on capping the existing landfill early in the New Year.

Fair Employment Opportunities Commission

Government will be legislating to create a new Fair Employment Opportunities Commission. The Ministry is in receipt of the initial draft Bill and has been researching similar such commis-

ter, more modern equipment. Taken as a whole, the new facilities will greatly enhance the opportunities for training and personal development for up to 150 Caymanians with special needs.

Law and Order

The RCIPS will be viewed at the Ministry level in Government terms rather than at the Department level. The consequence of this is that the Deputy Governor is inviting the Commissioner of Police to act as a Chief Officer and to be part of his formal leadership team. This will facilitate further integration of the activities of the RCIPS with other Ministries for the benefit of the government-wide approach to keeping communities safer.

The budget provides the funding necessary to complete the three-year commitment made to recruit 75 new police officers and to support the refocusing of policing on to a neighbourhood approach, in addition to the 11 Community Safety Officers who were assigned to work in the community, who are civilian members of all districts who patrol communities and identify areas and issues of concern while helping bridge the gap between the police and the community. The implementation of this new service continues to be funded through this budget.

The RCIPS has acquired a new class of state-of-the-art, fully-equipped vehicles. More will come into service in the coming budget period. The budget provides for the full-year funding for the new police helicopter and for the second helicopter that will arrive next month and extend further the capacity of the RCIPS for operational policing, border security and disaster management.

Progression on the development of the new West Bay police station will also take place. Funding has also been provided for the RCIPS to help in the fight against money-laundering and terrorist financing and the new digital forensics hub creates new capacity to investigate and tackle cybercrime.

The budget includes a capital allocation to fund the next stage of the court house redevelopment project that will see facilities for the Court of Appeal in the Government-procured Scotia building, a new six-story court facility and a renovation of the existing courthouse to provide additional courtrooms. The budget also takes forward the much-needed work on a new prison facility to replace the existing male and female prisons at Northward and Fairbanks to provide modern facilities for all types of offenders in a single location.

The fire service will get replacement fire trucks and new safety equipment to enable firefighters to carry out their duties more effectively.

The new Coastguard service will also continue to move forward thanks to resources provided within the budget. Of particular note is the capital allocation being made to purchase new vessels and to upgrade equipment in the new service. This investment is being made in part as a response to the need for enhanced border security.

Investments proposed in the coming budget period for Cayman's new Customs and Border Control Service will continue the success of the changes already implemented. Plans to introduce new electronic passport kiosks for immigration are funded as part of this budget.

Sister Islands

Renovations and additional buildings for District Administration in Cayman Brac will be completed, as will the parking lots and hard courts for tennis at the Brac Playfield, and the interior works to the multi-purpose hall. Work will also be undertaken to construct the Little Cayman Boat Launch Ramp and Jetty. 🌐



sions in other jurisdictions to provide further drafting instructions to Legislative Drafting. It is anticipated that the Bill will be submitted to the House within the first quarter of the New Year to provide for public consultation. The Commission will work across the whole economy and be empowered to look at the treatment of Caymanians in all sectors and all levels. If there are barriers to the advancement of Caymanians it will be the Commission's role to ensure they are eliminated.

Vocational training

Funding provided in the current budget is allowing the construction of a dedicated apprentice training facility at the Public Works compound and the upgrading of PWD's electrical, plumbing, AC and carpentry workshops to make them suitable for apprentice training in addition to their normal work use.

Currently construction is on target for completion by December with a facility opening and launch of Level 3 (Supervisory) Training in January of 2020. This coming budget allocates funding to support the continued development of PWD's apprenticeship programme. By this time next year, the programme will expand to 50 Caymanian apprentices in training including customized classes for persons already working in the industry who need to be up-skilled or certified in their particular area of expertise or to access emerging opportunities within the sector.

School projects

The target opening for the new John Gray High School project remains the start of the 2021 academic year with the potential for some of the new facilities to come on-stream before that date.

Alongside the John Gray project, other capital investments programmed for the 2020-21 budget period include works to improve the primary school estate, most notably an upgraded hall at the Bodden Town Primary School.

Sunrise Adult Training Facility upgrade

The Budget allows for the building of a new Sunrise Adult Training Facility. Along with a new building will be bet-

New women's healthcare facility showcases services

By Lindsey Turnbull

OceanMed has just held an open evening event for doctors and the public to showcase its facility as Cayman's only female-specific healthcare clinic, uniquely run by women for women, located on the second floor of Bayshore Mall in George Town. They offer patients gynecological and obstetrics services and also diagnostic services, such as mammography, ultrasound and biopsy.

Shahla Powery, Managing Director at OceanMed, explained that the centre was leading edge, with quite a few modalities unique to their facility on island, unique in the Caribbean and only available in a few centres in the United States.

"We are on a worldwide state-of-the-art scale," she confirmed.

Shahla gave some background as to how OceanMed came about.

"Through personal experiences, talking to friends, talking to family, we realised that there was a gap in healthcare specifically for women. This would be a place that is their own sanctuary where they would feel comfortable, a place to lessen the anxieties. With the right environment, we know that more women will come in, get screened and have a healthy outcome," she confirmed.

OceanMed have a full time ObGyn doctor and a second one joining them in January. Women who see these physicians will have been referred by their GP for specialist diagnostics. If a woman doesn't have a GP and they need to see an ObGyn, they are welcome to come, Shahla said.

"With regard to diagnostics, we will take referrals from your physician, because we have such advanced equipment. We will accept and work in very close partnership with your primary care physician and hand those results back so they can continue your care," she said.

Dutch obstetrician and gynecologist Dr Diana Van Der Borden is OceanMed's

current full-time ObGyn, and brings a wealth of experience from her practice in the Netherlands as well as overseas work in Gibraltar and Abu Dhabi. Some of her core competencies include diagnostic and therapeutic hysteroscopy, hormonal disturbances and menstrual irregularities, colposcopy, infertility and recurring miscarriages, as well as high-risk pregnancies.

The facility has a full-time consultant breast radiologist on board as well, Dr Sana Pascaline from Estonia, who is also registered with the General Medical Council in the UK, and who specialises in women's imaging and has practiced as a breast consultant radiologist in several UK hospitals.

Designed for women

The overall atmosphere at OceanMed is serene and calm, with an eye for detail that includes aromatherapy in many rooms, coastal décor and relaxing sounds piped into rooms. Patients are shown to a stylish waiting room after signing in.

"Our lounge is designed if you are coming in for a diagnostic procedure. We have lockers like a spa so you can lock your handbag away and take a key, so you are in full control of your personal belongings and it's neatly stored away. This means you don't have to fuss when you go into an exam room while you do your exam," Shahla advised. "It's a very warming environment; we've used a lot of aromatherapy to relax. If you have a biopsy planned or a pelvic ultrasound, there's a lot of anxiety involved, so we give you that chance to relax, drink some tea, drink some coffee, listen to the relaxing sounds and take in the aromatherapy scents."



The waiting room allows for a smooth transition, taking the patient out of the general public area so they have a private waiting space and is well equipped with a luxurious bathroom that offers a good space for women to change.

Shahla said that OceanMed did a huge amount of research before they put the facility together, working closely with GE Healthcare in the United States to understand specifically what they had to offer for women's healthcare. She said she visited their facility in Boca Raton, Florida several times to try and achieve that kind of standard in Cayman.

Budget-friendly, state-of-the-art care

With such a well-designed and thoughtfully laid-out facility, patients might think that healthcare at OceanMed is more expensive than at a more traditional facility such as a hospital, but Shahla says that is not the case.

"We are not any more expensive than anyone else, in fact we only charge standard health insurance fees. We wanted to make sure that every woman was given the exact same opportunities as everyone else," Shahla said.

Women can expect high tech diagnostic equipment, including leading technology for imaging that produces a 2, 3 and 4D image, in particular allowing healthcare practitioners the highest level of images when it comes to fetal health. Their Hologic breast biopsy system gives patients a much more comfortable experience when their breasts are biopsied and their GE Invenia Abus (Automated Breast Ultrasound System) is cutting edge breast cancer screening technology

for women with dense breast tissue which can improve breast cancer detection by 55 per cent over mammography.

"This is the only one in the Caribbean, the only one in the region and with regard to this particular model, only a few have been released in the US. All of our machines are FDA approved and GE held off and gave this to us early because they've seen our vision and they love what we are," she said.

Their mammography room is specially designed to make women feel particularly at home during what can be an uncomfortable experience. Their Pristina 3D mammography machine allows women to apply more compression if they feel comfortable to do so via a remote control and offers a with-contrast facility, should the radiologist feel further enhancement of the breast is needed.

Because OceanMed is a diagnostic rather than a treatment centre, healthcare coordinator Elyse Burt is the reference point for patients and the primary care physician, overseas physicians and in-house physicians.

"We've found a lot of times that women don't know what to do, they need answers and we have that with our healthcare coordinator," Shahla stated. "There's no cost involved; it's a service that we want to offer so that no woman leaves wondering what to do next."

Shahla said that they work closely with the Breast Cancer Foundation, referring patients to and from each entity.

While OceanMed is geared up for women's health, it will never turn away a man who is in need of a mammogram, Shahla confirmed. Even though breast cancer in men is rare, cases have been seen in Cayman and Shahla said that men could use their facilities if need be, but they would be seen after hours to ease the stress for any male patients.



NY cabaret music night set to take the stage

... Continued story from page A1

teenage years, Nicolas performed on Broadway in Beauty & The Beast, then in A Thousand Clowns opposite Tom Selleck, and Hollywood Arms directed by Hal Prince, all before the age of 12. Matt Baker completes the line-up, and is a fresh new face on the jazz landscape. With a smooth-as-silk voice, he's been touted as one of the hottest musicians out there currently.

Cayman Arts Festival's Executive Director, Marius Gaina, said there was clearly a great appetite among the Cayman community for this type of entertainment.

"Cayman Arts Festival has grown significantly over the years, from a once every two years event to monthly performances," he advised. "Our main festival is held in February each year; we have two always sold-out piano concertos each year and many other music

events in between. I am now in the process of signing up the final piano recital slot for 2020 and am looking to begin booking for 2021."

Giving back

Marius explained that both KT Sullivan and Natalie Douglas are part of The Mabel Mercer Foundation, with KT having been named its artistic director in 2012 and Natalie a Master Teacher for the Foundation. The Foundation was established to promote public interest in classic popular song and the art of cabaret and as such, they undertake training of youngsters who show potential in singing cabaret.

"An integral part of the event is the masterclass that takes place the day before, held by Natalie Douglas. She will see around 12 young people with an aptitude for singing and one will get the chance to sing with the artists at the concert. Two years ago, they spotted Caymanian student Jaedyn Hanna who sang with the artist and eventually went to New York and attended the New York Cabaret Convention at the Lincoln Centre," Marius said.

"We decided to hold this additional New York Cabaret Music Night in addition to the one held during this year's Cayman Arts Festival in February based upon the feedback we had received from the public, but, what puts that in the shade is the fact that Cayman's young musicians can be exposed to this level of musical performance," Marius explained.



► KT Sullivan

The Cayman Arts Festival has been steadily building a strong reputation for itself globally as a sought-after event to attend for musicians, with the winner of the most recent and highly prestigious Vendome Prize for Piano that was held at the Verbier Festival (held every two years in Switzerland), winning the chance to perform at Cayman Arts Festival, Marius explained.

The New York Cabaret Music Night will take place on Saturday 23rd November at 7pm at the Westin's Governor's Ballroom. Doors open at 6pm and the

cost is US\$50 for adults, which includes a glass of wine, and US\$15 for students up to 18 years old, which includes a glass of juice. You can buy tickets at <http://caymanartsfestival.com/events/ny-cabaret-music-night/>

Marius said he was deeply grateful to the sponsors of the event: Ogier, Robert Loverd and Christel Ibsen, RBC Bank and KPMG, presented in conjunction with The Mabel Mercer Foundation.



► Natalie Douglas

Cayman ARTS FESTIVAL

PRESENTS
NEW YORK CABARET MUSIC NIGHT

KT Sullivan

Natalie Douglas

Nicolas King

Matt Baker

Tickets available at www.caymanartsfestival.com

USD 50 Adults
(one glass of wine included)

USD 15 Students
(up to 18 years old)

Saturday, November 23rd, 2019 ~ 7pm
Doors open at ~ 6pm
Westin Hotel Governor's Ballroom

Event sponsored by:

For more information please contact us at enquiries@caymanartsfestival.com or 345-922-5550

Royal Bank Robert Loverd & Christel Ibsen

ANTIGUA BANKS ON VENEZUELA FOR LIAT

A move by Antigua and Barbuda that would further consolidate its position as a key shareholder of the regional Caribbean LIAT has encountered a blowback from the US.

The Antigua and Barbuda prime minister Gaston Browne has signed a \$US 15.8 million loan agreement with Venezuela to recapitalise the financially-strapped airline which plies routes linking the islands.

But almost immediately US displeasure came via a Tweet, not from President Trump, but the top echelons of the Democratic Party.

Senator Dick Durbin of Illinois tweeted: "Troubling to see Antiguan Prime Minister Browne convey legitimacy to Maduro while he arrests & tortures his opposition & millions of Venezuelans flee in hunger & desperation."

Senator Turbin, who as Democratic Whip since 2005 holds the second-highest position in the Democratic leadership in the US Senate, wondered: "When will the proud democracies of our Caribbean neighbors stop enabling Maduro's criminal regime?"

At the meeting in Caracas, Antigua and Barbuda had also signed on to the Venezuelan-backed ALBA regional development bank set up in 2005.

It joined St Vincent and the Grenadines, Dominica, Cuba, Nicaragua, and Bolivia as members.

That in particular seemed to raise the ire of the US senator:

While he did not call for any US diplomatic action targeting Antigua and Barbuda, the intervention by the Senator Turbin further highlights the schism between Caribbean and US politicians of all ideological shades over the region's relations with Venezuela.

Durbin is a strong supporter of interim Venezuelan President Guaidó, who

he recently said "has shown remarkable courage and determination to forge a better future for the Venezuelan people."

Antigua and Barbuda was one of the countries absent from a US White House invitation list of regional leaders who met with President Donald Trump in Florida earlier this year in what was regarded as a reward for supporting the US administration's stance against Venezuelan president Nicolas Maduro.

President Trump had met with leaders from the Bahamas, Dominican Republic, Haiti, Jamaica and St Lucia at his private club in Palm Beach, Florida.

The expectation of automatically towing a US foreign policy line is being challenged by some Caribbean states, testing the strength of relations forged over many decades of diplomatic ties built on capitalist principles.

Formal relations with socialist Venezuela are more recent, dating to the 1990s Hugo Chavez PetroCaribe era.

While the Venezuelan cash injection for LIAT secured by Antigua and Barbuda might have caused some consternation from the ranking US Democrats senator, it will at least reduce the pressure on the airline's finances.

However, it no doubt raises questions about Venezuela's ability to be so magnanimous, whether or not that is seen as an investment with long term returns in financial or diplomatic benefits accrued.

The country is currently gripped in a severe and seemingly unending economic crisis which has led to extensive social upheaval.

Ironically, while Venezuela is lending 4US 15.8 million to Antigua and Barbuda for LIAT, hundreds of its citizens have sought refuge in several Caribbean countries as economic migrants, while hundreds of thousands more are flee-



ing the country for neighbouring Latin American countries.

The PetroCaribe deal which provided oil supplies to Caribbean countries on concessionary terms has also been placed under stress due to the crippling economic crisis in Venezuela.

While the Venezuelan loan might not yet steer LIAT clear of financial headwinds it has been encountering for years, it strengthens Antigua and Barbuda's hand as a shareholder.

It has not been a smooth flight for LIAT in its 63-year history and its future still seems uncertain despite the Venezuelan loan injection.

Speaking a few days ago during a Caribbean trade forum in Barbados - a major LIAT shareholder, that country's prime minister Mia Mottley cautioned that the airline risks being "doomed" under its current ownership arrangement.

Suggesting that there are urgent and serious discussions to be had about the future of the regional carrier she declared; "LIAT is not a CARICOM issue; LIAT is the issue of three or four governments having to have shareholder discussions

Between them, Barbados, Antigua and Barbuda and St. Vincent and the Grenadines along with Dominica own 95% of LIAT's shares.

Prime Minister Mottley also warned that "what we have done is to place the burden of LIAT only on the shareholders without recognizing that routes cannot be sustainable unless there are either financially profitable or economically desirable."

"I trust and pray that we can find the common ground for all of the stakeholders because while LIAT 1974 Limited may not be a viable proposition, reasonable, affordable, reliable air travel is the prerequisite for the growth of this region," she stated.

A planned deal announced earlier this year for Antigua and Barbuda to take over Barbados's LIAT shares failed to fly.

On taking out the loan agreement with Venezuela after the Barbados plan collapsed, Antigua and Barbuda's prime minister Gaston Browne concluded that "LIAT is our infrastructure that links our scattered islands into a single economic space and it breathes oxygen into our tourism industry."

He noted that while his government was the sole signatory and borrower with Venezuela, he nevertheless regarded the cash injection into LIAT as an investment on behalf of the entire region.

The skies ahead look clearer for LIAT for the time being at least, though less so for relations between the US and some Caribbean states over Venezuela. 🌐

CARICOM Countries Say Ongoing Embargo against Cuba Hurting the Region

Caribbean Community (CARICOM) member states say the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba is impeding regional development as a whole, as the United Nations (UN) General Assembly adopted a resolution for the 28th consecutive year, calling for an end to the sanctions.

During a vote on Wednesday, 187 UN Member States underlined their support for the resolution while Brazil and Israel joined the US in voting no.

Two countries—Colombia and Ukraine—abstained.

During presentations ahead of the vote, the 15 members of CARICOM highlighted Havana's support to the region. Cuba has deployed medical professionals to distressed areas, including those affected by natural disasters, among other initiatives.

Grenada's Ambassador to the UN, Keisha McGuire, recalled that the country was among the first to assist The Bahamas in the aftermath of Hurricane Dorian in September.

She characterized the embargo as "an anachronism and aberration" in an era when global cooperation is critical to address common challenges such as climate change.

"It is in this broader context that we view the embargo—not just as a puni-

itive act against Cuba but as an impediment to Caribbean regional development as a whole," she told the General Assembly.

The embargo is rooted in the Cold War, when Fidel Castro and his revolutionaries seized power. Tensions only eased more than a half-century later when the Barack Obama administration established diplomatic relations with Cuba, modifying several aspects of the embargo such as lifting some travel restrictions.

However, as the UN resolution states, these policies "contrast" with measures implemented by the current President, Donald Trump, in 2017.

Cuba's Foreign Minister, Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla, reported that in recent months Washington has begun to "escalate aggression", including by preventing international fuel shipments to the island, scaling down consular services, and attacking national programmes that support other developing countries.

"The blockade has caused incalculable humanitarian damages. It is a flagrant, massive and systematic violation of human rights," he charged. "It qualifies as an act of genocide under Articles II (b) and (c) of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted in 1948. There is not



► UN General Assembly votes on the necessity of ending the economic, commercial and financial embargo imposed by the United States against Cuba. (UN Photo/Evan Schneider)

one single Cuban family that has not suffered the consequences of this."

Palestine, speaking on behalf of the developing countries' bloc, the Group of 77 and China, regretted that the US has strengthened the embargo.

"From April 2018 to March this year, the impact of the US embargo on Cuba's foreign trade amounts to more than US\$4 billion," Ambassador Riyad Mansour said.

"Limited foreign investment and difficult access to development credits translate directly into economic hardship and

humanitarian impacts for the people Cuba. The country's socio-economic reforms have also been hampered by the embargo."

US Ambassador to the UN Kelly Craft, speaking prior to the vote, insisted that the US, like all nations, "get to choose which countries we trade with".

"This is our sovereign right," she said. "So, it is worrying that the international community, in the name of protecting sovereignty, continues to challenge this right." 🌐

Jamaica Government to Divert Mentally Ill Persons from the Justice System

Health and Wellness Minister Dr Christopher Tufton says the Government is looking to provide alternatives to incarceration for non-violent persons primarily with substance use and/or psychiatric disorders.

He said the Ministry has made recommendations for the development of a range of interventions in this regard.

Dr Tufton noted that an audit of the Tower Street Adult Correctional Centre last year revealed that of the 1,550 persons incarcerated at the time, 203 had been diagnosed with mental illness.

"The goal is for persons with a mental illness to be diverted to treatment and services in the community instead of entering the justice system, and for the prevention of re-entry into the system by mentally ill offenders," he said.

The Health Minister was speaking at the launch of a research paper on incarcerated persons with mental illness, dubbed "Through the Cracks".

The comparative research report on strategies used to address the rights of mentally ill individuals in Jamaican prisons, completed by Stand Up for Jamaica (SUFJ) in August, was funded by the European Union through its European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR) country-based support schemes in Jamaica and Belize.

Dr Tufton said the research is timely and in keeping with the Government's thrust to raise awareness and eliminate stigma regarding mental illness through its 'Speak Up, Speak Now' campaign.

"It lines up with our plans under the National Strategic Plan for Mental Health 2020 to 2025, to assess the barriers that vulnerable and at-risk groups face in accessing mental healthcare and to inform the training of health and social care staff that will enable them to better care for vulnerable and at-risk groups," he noted.

Further, the Health and Wellness Minister pointed out that the research provides



► Health and Wellness Minister Dr Christopher Tufton (Credit: JIS)

vital data that can inform mental health plans, budgets and programmes, as well as prepare options for alternative ap-

proaches and provide advice to the Government on effective resource allocation to community mental health service. 🌐

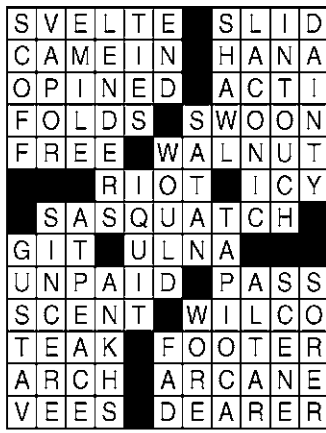
CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

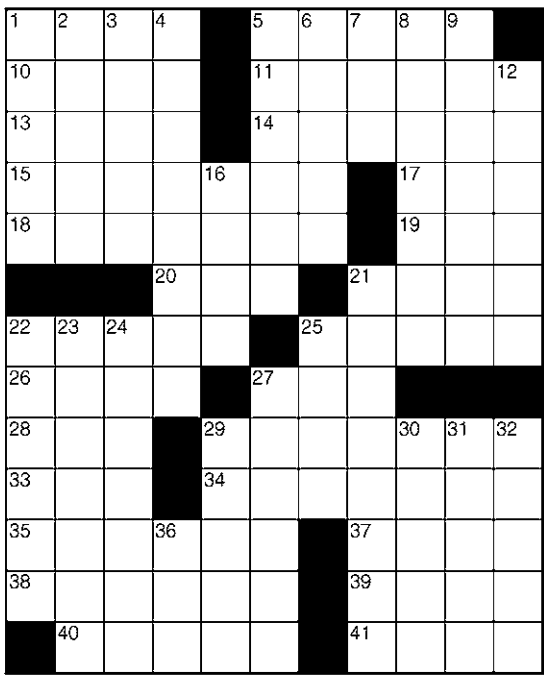
- ACROSS**
- 38 Show mercy
 - 1 British raincoats
 - 5 Glowing coal
 - 10 In a frenzy
 - 11 Pitching great Tom
 - 13 Lounging attire
 - 14 Convict's hope
 - 15 Drape's kin
 - 17 Pasture
 - 18 Sources of answers
 - 19 Carpet cleaner, for short
 - 20 Concealed
 - 21 Witty remark
 - 22 Halley's discovery
 - 25 Sits for a portrait
 - 26 Some nest eggs
 - 27 Nearest star
 - 28 Sewing aid
 - 29 Maroons
 - 33 Brick carrier
 - 34 Cut short
 - 35 Craps roll
 - 37 Bee's home

DOWN

- 1 Senator Rubio
- 2 Love affair
- 3 Mongoose foe
- 4 Drawings
- 5 Spotted
- 6 Where-withal
- 7 Hotel feature
- 8 Changes over time
- 9 Set free
- 12 Gasps, say
- 16 Stepped down
- 21 Writer Swift
- 22 Code course
- 23 Baltimore team
- 24 Nobelist Nelson
- 25 Contented sound
- 27 Publicity acts
- 29 Play part
- 30 Ingenuous
- 31 Golf course
- 32 Large chunk
- 36 Puzzle amounts



Saturday's answer



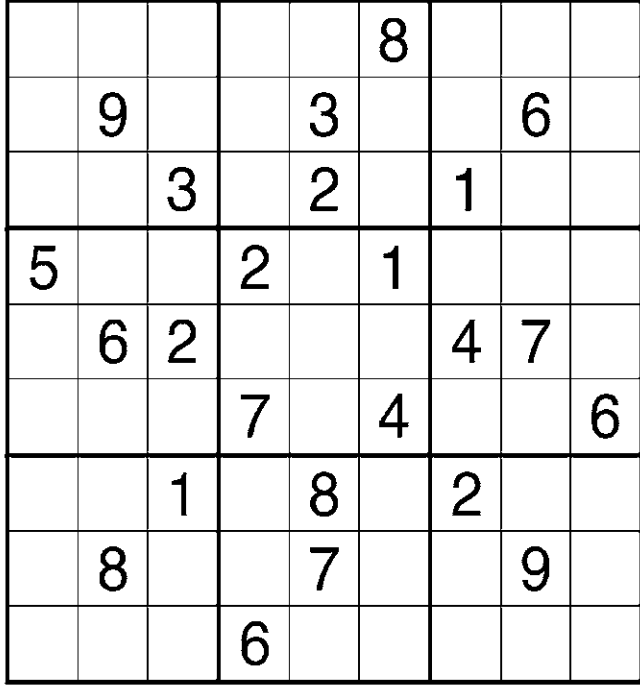
11-12

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



Difficulty Level ★★★★★

9/29

Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

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Word Search



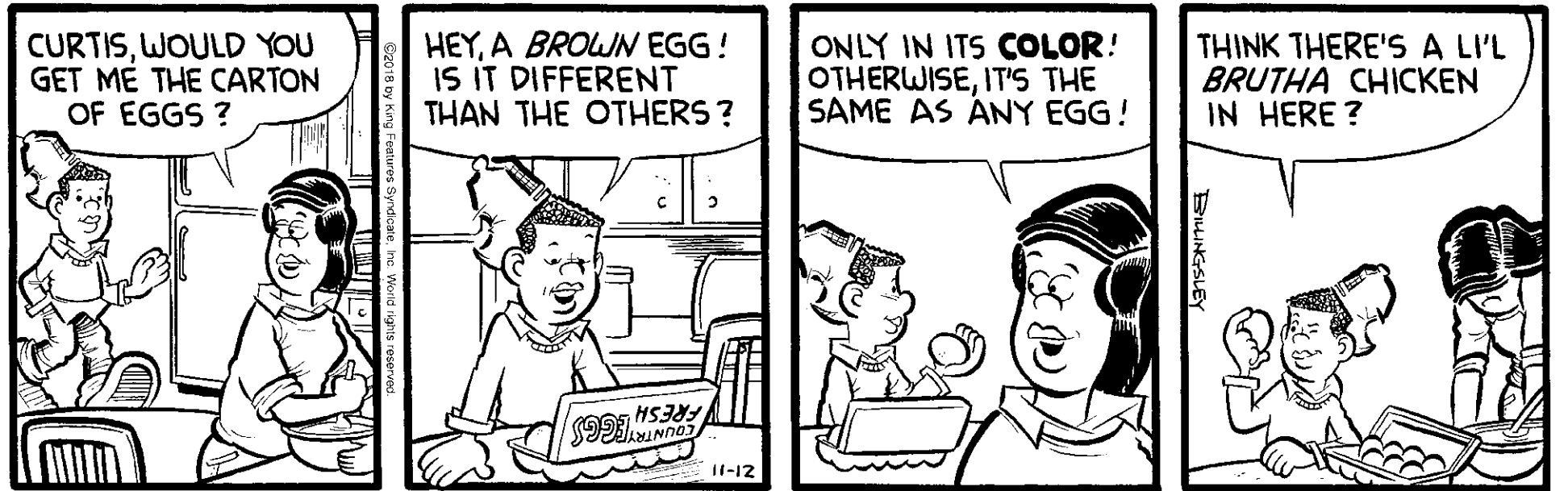
- Billion
- Decimal
- Divisor
- Double
- Dozen
- Eight
- Eleven
- Factor
- Fifty
- Five
- Forty
- Four
- Fraction
- Googol
- Half
- Hundred
- Million
- Multiple
- Prime
- Seven
- Sixty
- Thousand
- Three
- Zero

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



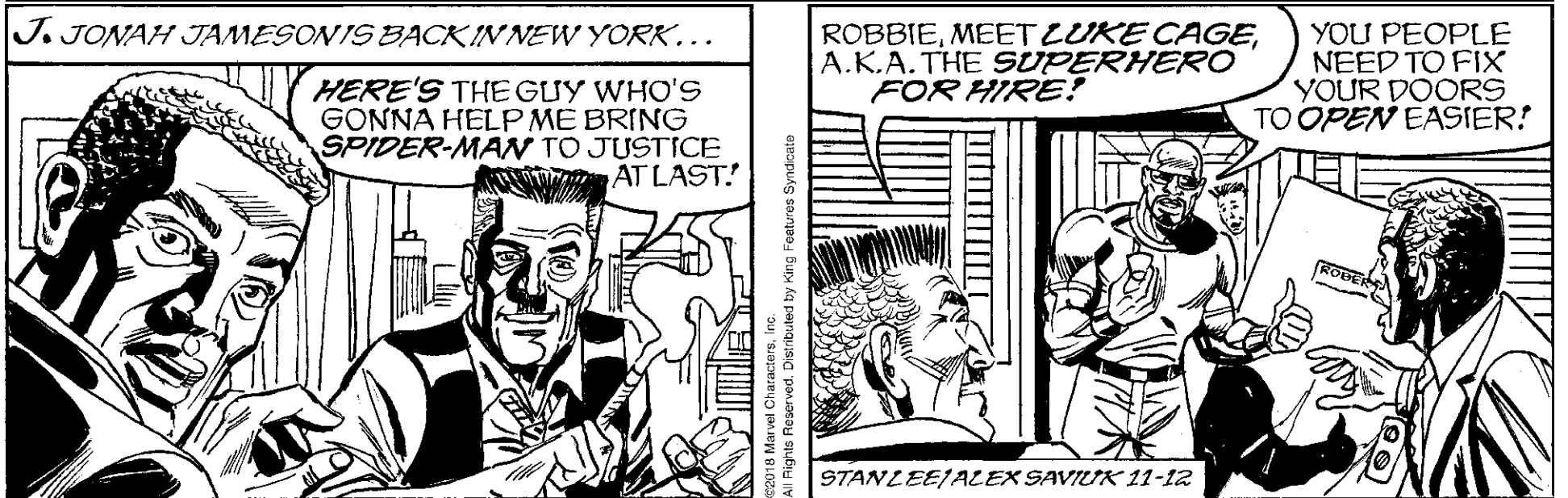
CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley



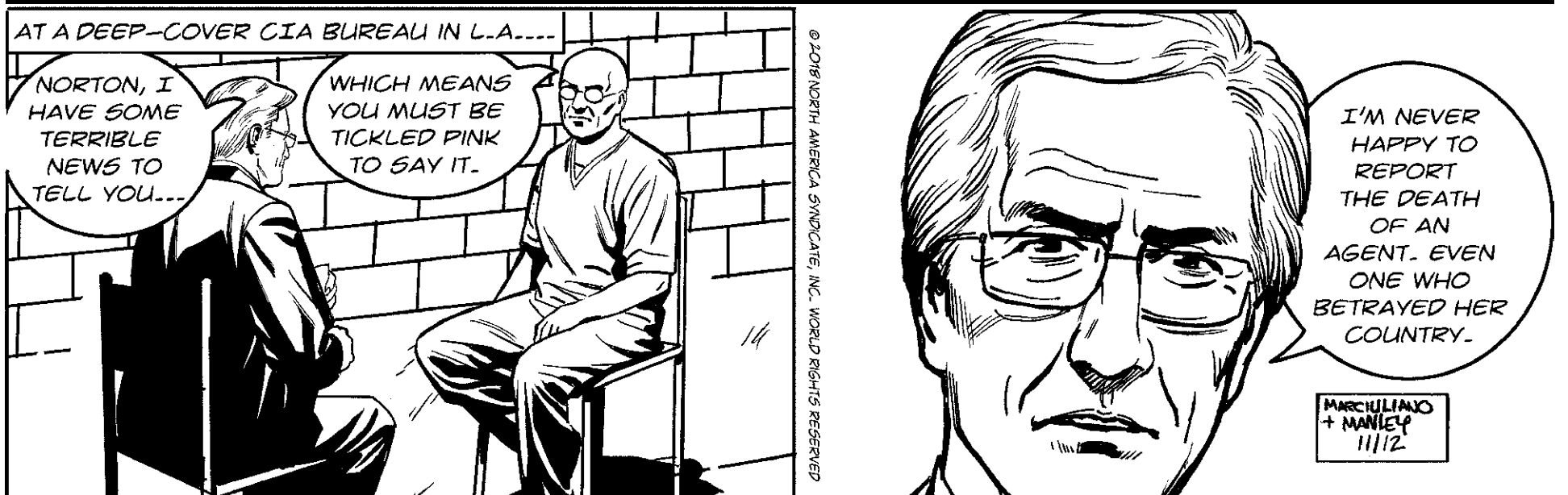
THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee



JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley





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 Cayman Finance recently celebrated the culmination of the fifth year of its Student Education and Work Experience Programme that saw more than 40 students in 2019 benefit from workshops, mentorship, and...
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 12 finalists have been selected for the 2019 Golden Apple Awards which takes place on World Teachers Day, October 5th at the Kimpton Seafire Resort & Spa.
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