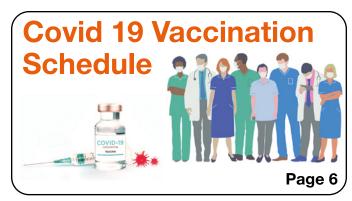
Caymanian Wednesday, May 12, 2021 Issue No 660 Www.caymaniantimes.ky



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Ministers roll up their sleeves



PAHI Minister Tours Departments, Meets Staff



Acting Director, Public Works Department Troy Whorms with Hon. Jay Ebanks during a Department tour

Newly appointed Minister of Planning, Agriculture, Housing and Infrastructure (PAHI), Hon. Jay Ebanks toured a number of departments under his portfortio and met with staff members last week.

These included the Public Works Department, Department of Vehicle and Equipment Services, Facilities Management, Department of Agriculture, National Roads Authority, Department of Vehicle and Drivers' Licensing, National Housing Development Trust, among others.

"It is important for me to meet the staff in their work environment, see what they do and have some discussions before making plans for the ministry," said Minister Ebanks.

SEE **PAHI MINISTER TOURS,** Page 9

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EDITORIAL

LET'S VACCINATE BEFORE IT GETS TOO LATE

The turnout for Saturday's 'vaccination rally' (complete with the prize incentives) was both impressive and encouraging with reports of around 1,000 people lining up to get the jab.

It suggests that the message about the importance of the COVID-19 vaccine for individuals and the wider community is getting through again.

After the initial good response which had put Cayman in the top league of the global vaccination roll-out, the rate slowed down, especially when the campaign was opened up for those 16 to 50age range.

Getting vaccinated remains a matter of choice but there is a wider community good at stake.

The information from the scientists, governments and others who are directly involved and leading the global effort against the COVID-19 pandemic, is that the vaccines on the market are safe, to the extent that they are also getting vaccinat-

A reluctance to take the vaccine is understandable especially with the reports of a small minority of cases of severe reactions to at least one of the vaccine brands. the Oxford AstraZeneca.

It's reassuring however, that the greater majority of people who have been vaccinated have had little or no adverse reac-

And while the current indications globally and locally are we may have to learn to live with the virus, the level of protection against severe illness that the vaccines provide eclipses the doubts being



Sabrina Turner, Martyn Roper, and Clinton Whittaker who took his first shot

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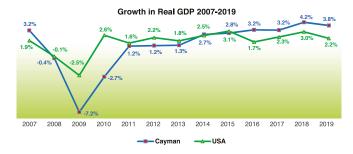


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CathyChurch's AT SUNSET HOUSE 949- 7415

Business Survey 2021 Your Response Matters!

In 2019, Cayman's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew faster than the GDP for the USA



How did COVID-19 impact businesses in 2020?

The annual System of National Accounts (SNA) survey collects the information necessary to measure the health and performance of Cayman's economy and its various industries.

The survey runs April 12th to June 11th, 2021.

Data collected for the SNA survey is **CONFIDENTIAL** under the Statistics Act (2016 Revision) and is **EXEMPT** from the Freedom of Information Act.

Better Data...Better Decisions...Better Business

For assistance or enquiries, please check www.eso.ky or call 244-4676/244-4608.

expressed...and some have been rather outlandish to put it mildly.

The COVID-19 vaccine should now be viewed as just another in the arsenal of vaccines that protect us from diseases or reduce the risk of us becoming seriously ill should we be unfortunate to contract one of the many viruses in circulation.

Here's a list to consider across all age groups (sourced from the UK National Health Service - NHS); flu, rotavirus, MMR (measles, mumps and rubella), tuberculosis, chicken pox and shingles. There's also vaccines that provide a safeguard against pneumonia and hepatitis A and B.

Add to that list vaccines against, smallpox, diphtheria and rabies plus others being researched.

They all have side effects but that is far outweighed by the proven benefits to the individual, their family, the community and the world.

Side issues about the profitability of 'big pharma' and a slew of conspiracy theories face into the background when measured up against the efficacy of these vaccines which now include the COVID-19 vaccines.

So let's play our part for ourselves and for Cayman.

Let's not be close-minded. Our health depends on this.

Opening up the borders and the economy also depend on it.

So, come on Cayman, It's getting late, let's vaccinate. Also, note the vaccine expiry date.

It would be a crying shame To end up throwing away

Vaccines which have been donated by

While elsewhere in the world people are literally dying

For the lack of vaccines





Cavmanian

Issue # 660

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► Governor Martyn Roper, with Department of Health workers, and Dr. Lee



► Health-worker heroe

Ministers roll up their sleeves at ORIA

By Christopher Tobutt

Hon Premier Wayne Panton, flanked by a whole host of government ministers and VIPs came to Owen Roberts International Airport on Saturday 7 May led a big drive to get at least 70% of the country vaccinated so that Cayman can reopen soon. While quite a few of the Ministers and MP's that make up the new government have already received both of their jabs, quite a few were coming to get their first or second doses. The Government is urging everyone over 16 to come and get their first dose of the 2-dose covid-19 vaccinations before June 9, so that as many as possible can be vaccinated before the current shipment from the UK effectively expires.

Premier Panton said: "Taking the vaccine is key to our plan to reopen the borders to start our tourism industry, and it is really the only solution moving forward. It is obviously a public health issue, but at the end of the day it translates to a global economic crisis, too.

"This is the only solution, moving forward. We have to get to a point where we have the maximum number of people who are vaccinated. At some point in the

coming months we have to have a plan for the reopening of our borders and central to that plan to restore a normal economy is having a well-vaccinated population – there's just no getting around it. We're leading from the front and have to make sure that as a government, we are all fully vaccinated, to show the way forward for the rest of the country. Please do your part, and be part of the solution.

Rolling up their sleeves were Chris Saunders, the deputy premier and Minister of Economic Development and Labourm and while Kenneth Bryan, Minister of Tourism and Transport, as well as East End Member of Parliament, Isaac Rankine.

Chief Medical Officer Dr. Lee said, "Its really good news that so many of the people have come out today to take the vaccine. We're getting through our last remaining doses and we really want to make sure that we use them up, because they are a real gift to all of Cayman to protect us from the coronavirus.

His Excellency the Governor, Martyn Roper was also encouraging everyone to come and get vaccinated. "This is really important and I'm really thankful to Premier Panton and his team



▶ Government Ministers and MP's proudly show their vaccination sticky-plasters. Photo includes Minister of Health Sabrina Turner, Chris Saunders, Kenneth Bryan, Katherine Ebanks-Wilks, Bernie Bush, Isaac Rankine, and McKeeva Bush

encouraging our community to take the vaccine. We have an incredible opportunity with our supply of vaccines from the UK but they do expire at the end of June. So you have to have your first dose by the ninth of June, so you can have the second dose at the end of June. Otherwise we will have to waste some of the

vaccines which, when you look around the world would be a crying shame."

Sabrina Turner, Minister of Health and Wellness. I want to say that this event is very important today and we are really encouraged as well, there has been a lot of effort into getting the uptake of vaccines. When we look globally and see what's happening we have a golden nugget here that is about to expire and we really hope that the message is sent out clearly here in combination with what is happening globally then the people will realize how blessed we are to have a vaccination like this that is highly sought-after."



▶ Premier Wayne Panton, and his 17-year old Foster Son proudly show their vaccination cards



► Minister of Tourism and Transport Hon. Kenneth Bryan receives his first jab, with Hon Premier Wayne Panton looking on



▶ Chris Saunders

Pre-schoolers to get new literacy programme

Young children in certain preschools will be benefitting soon from a ground-breaking new early years literacy programme, thanks to the non-profit organisation, Literacy is For Everyone (LIFE).

LIFE has teamed up with the Cayman Islands Early Childhood Association (CIE-CA) to bring Thrive By Five firstly to Precious Gems Preschool on Walkers Road this September, and then it is to be rolled out to eight preschools in total over the coming two years. LIFE organisers say the programme is designed to foster a love of language and extends the scope of LIFE programmes to target children in the birth to five age-range.

The programme has been sponsored by Deloitte Cayman Islands and their Head of Corporate Responsibility and WorldClass programmes, Clarisa Pelozzi, said it would provide a unique platform for children to develop a vital skillset, to succeed in both their learning and throughout all stages of their lives.

Underscoring the importance of introducing literacy to children at a very early age, Juliet Austin, LIFE's Executive Direc-

tor, explained that decades of research showed that early investment in literacy could have a profound impact on brain development and learning, with its benefits far exceeding academics.

"As well as raising educational achievement and future job prospects, high literacy levels improve health and wellness, eliminate poverty, impact crime and incarcerations rates, and ensure long-term socio-economic stability for all," she said.

Thrive By Five is made up of several elements, including LIFE's signature curated classroom libraries. Participating preschools receive high-interest classroom libraries to support the Early Years Curriculum, with culturally appropriate titles selected by dedicated LIFE volunteer, Kirsten Penner, to promote diversity and inclusion, while cultivating a lifelong love of language and books.

LIFE intends to use the programme to help bolster training for teachers, with each member of staff engaged in the Thrive By Five programme receiving professional learning opportunities courtesy of LIFE's new 10-point Teacher Education Video series.



▶ Deloitte LIFE sponsorship. Thrive By Five, Phase 1

The series was written and devised by CIECA President, Nicola Williams, and is delivered by a host of local educational specialists, including: government Literacy Specialist Yosha Alphonse; Acting Director of the Early Childhood Care and Education Unit Dr Pearlyn Burrell; LIFE Board Member and Early Childhood advocate Reina Jefferson and Village Montessori owner, Jeifrene Small.

Workshops will be held as well to support parents and caregivers.

Ms Williams said that early childhood education was a highly specialised field and Thrive By Five focused on engaging with the most up-to-date research.

"Many people think that literacy begins when children learn how to read and write words, but the building blocks for literacy are formed much earlier. When literacy experiences are personal, purposeful, and embedded in context, young children gain a deeper understanding of how print helps people to organise and express themselves and get along with others," she said.

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THE ROADS LAW (2005 Revision) Section 3 Declaration of Intent

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Governor by Section 3 of the Roads Law (2005 Revision), and acting upon recommendation by the National Roads Authority and Cabinet in the public interest, it is hereby declared that;

1. It is the intention of the National Roads Authority and in the public interest to open an access road as described hereunder:

REGISTRATION SECTION:

North Side

REGISTRATION BLOCK:

45A

BOUNDARY PLAN:

BP 627

PORTIONS OF LAND NEEDED:

The proposed roadwork is defined by boundaries outlined in green on BP 634 and listed in the Schedule below.

- 2. The National Roads Authority and its agents are authorized to enter upon lands listed in the Schedule below for the purposes of undertaking the road works, such authority to take effect 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice in the Cayman Islands Gazette.
- 3. Boundary Plan Number 627 may be inspected at the offices of:
- The National Roads Authority, North Sound Road;
- The Lands & Survey Department, 133 Elgin Avenue, both of George Town, Grand Cayman or at the Lands Office, 19 Kirkconnell Street, Cayman Brac, or online at www.caymanlandinfo.ky under 'Road Schemes'.

SCHEDULE

Block	Parcel	Approximate Area loss in acres				
45A	91	0.11				

Made in Cabinet this 1st February 2021. Clerk of Cabinet

Investigation Launched into Incident at Clifton Hunter High School

The Department of Education Services (DES) advises that the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) has undertaken investigations of an incident involving three Clifton Hunter High School students, who fell ill after allegedly ingesting food that contained an unknown substance. Of those involved, two individuals have already been identified and excluded from the school until the investigation is completed.

Acting Director of DES, Mrs. Tammy Hopkins is reassuring the public that the safety and wellness of students in the Government schools are priorities. "We are committed to supporting the affected students and ensuring their physical and emotional well-being. Immediate and necessary actions have been taken to address this matter in line with the National School Discipline and School Behaviour Policy," Mrs. Hopkins added.

To learn more about the National School Discipline and School Behaviour Policy visit: http://www.education.gov.ky/portal/page/portal/mehhome/education/policies





▶ PWD/NRA teams ready for their assignments at launch of annual joint hurricane prepared-



▶ At each building teams reported their efforts to staff back at PWD who logged the results

PWD/NRA Teams Prepare for Hurricane Season



Acting Director of Public Works Troy Whorms with representatives from Hazard Management Cayman Islands

The Public Works Department (PWD) and National Roads Authority (NRA) completed their 34th consecutive joint hurricane preparedness exercise on Wednesday, 5 May 2021.

Some 170 PWD and NRA staff fanned out around Grand Cayman to inspect 97 Government buildings for hurricane preparedness ahead of the start of the Hurricane Season on 1 June. All 15 purpose-built hurricane shelters were found to be available for shelter if needed.

Teams testing for overall hurricane readiness, shuttered up key government buildings and shelters, checked and started standby generators and verified that cistern water levels were at an acceptable level and state.

Once the facilities were shuttered, inspectors also carried out detailed inspections to certify that the buildings are adequately secured. This exercise replicates the activities that will take place in the event of a real hurricane.

Some statutory authorities also participated in the exercise, by securing their own facilities.

Speaking to staff at the PWD compound at the start of the exercise The Acting Director of

PWD Troy Whorms and Ministry representative Leyda Nicholson-Makasare thanked the team for their contributions to preparedness and urged them to exercise safety during the exercise.



► Convoys head out to begin the shuttering exercise on Grand Cavman

The long-established standard is for the exercise to be complete within six hours. This year's exercise time took 5 hrs. and 10 mins.

The first CI Government official shuttering exercise was held in 1988 some months before Hurricane Gilbert hit the Islands.



THE ROADS LAW (2005 Revision) Section 6—Notice of Entry

In exercise of the powers conferred on the Governor by Section d 6 of the Roads Law (2005 Revision), and acting upon recommendation by the National Roads Authority and Cabinet in the public interest, it is hereby declared that;

1. It is the intention of the National Roads Authority and in the public interest to open an access road as described hereunder:

REGISTRATION SECTION:

North Side

REGISTRATION BLOCK:

45A

BOUNDARY PLAN:

BP 627

PORTIONS OF LAND NEEDED:

The proposed roadwork is defined by boundaries outlined in green on BP 636 and listed in the Schedule below.

- 2. The National Roads Authority and its agents are authorized to enter upon lands listed in the Schedule below for the purposes of undertaking the road works, such authority to take effect 15 days from the date of publication of this Notice in the Cayman Islands Gazette.
- 3. Boundary Plan Number 627 may be inspected at the offices of:
- The National Roads Authority, North Sound Road;
- The Lands & Survey Department, 133 Elgin Avenue, both of George Town, Grand Cayman or at the Lands Office, 19 Kirkconnell Street, Cayman Brac, or online at www.caymanlandinfo.ky under 'Road Schemes'.

Government agencies offer preparedness tips

only a few weeks away, organisers of the the island in the event of a hurricane). 34th annual hurricane preparedness exercise encouraged members of the public to review their own home protection plans with a focus on the following items:

- 1. What materials will be used to cover windows and glass doors in the event of a hurricane (usually plywood or purpose-built aluminum shutters).
- 2. Where will these materials be obtained, and how will they be installed (it is often too late to consider this once a hurricane warning has been issued as
- With the start of the hurricane season these materials are in limited supply on
 - 3. Is your home a safe place to stay in the event of a hurricane? If it is situated on or near the sea, or it is of poor construction, then it is not. If not, where will you stay? In the home of a friend, relative or at your workplace or in a public hurricane shelter?

Interested persons should visit the Hazard Management Cayman Islands website at http://www.caymanprepared.gov.ky/ for official guidance on Disaster Preparedness.

SCHEDULE

Block	Parcel	Approximate Area loss in acres
45A	91	0.11

Made in Cabinet this 15th February 2021. **Clerk of Cabinet**

UCCI Innovation Tour Taken by the Force

Two groups of local entrepreneurs, investors and mentors toured the tech side of Cayman on Tuesday and Thursday, May 4 and 6, getting a close-up view of what the island nation has to offer and what it might bring to the future.

The tour participants also got a taste of a galaxy far, far away as they encountered Han Solo, Yoda, storm troopers, X-wing pilots and even a Wookie along the way. Tuesday's tour coincided with Star Wars Day ("May the 4th be with you") and the tour members good naturedly high-fived the characters and even posed for selfies. The characters showed up again on Thursday to keep the element of fun on the tour.

Hosted by the University College of the Cayman Islands and sponsored by Digital Cayman, the event was intended to promote the country's tech industry capabilities and included a tour of the UCCI campus and a pitch showcase by local startup companies.

"The university is acting as the convener to bring different elements of society together related to the tech industry," said Tom Jenkins

Jenkins, a local retired tech executive, organized the event. While he has put together similar programmes many times in other locations, he believes this was the first tour of its kind in Cayman.

UCCI President and CEO Stacy McAfee said the tour spotlighted the type of proactive role the university can take.

"In recent months, there has been a great deal of talk about the potential of

a vibrant tech industry here in Cayman," McAfee said. "In providing education and training that will equip students with the necessary tools to succeed and flourish in the tech industry, UCCI is an active player in its development. But we can also serve as a catalyst, creating synergy among the leaders in this field by bringing them together in a fertile environment. The Innovation Tour is one example of that."

On Thursday, Andre Ebanks, the newly appointed minister for investment, innovation and social development, was on hand for a portion of the UCCI tour and met with local students, entrepreneurs, mentors and incubator executives. Ebanks said such events are beneficial.

"It's incredibly important for us to be on the cutting edge of technology," Ebanks

Showing local experts and entrepreneurs the potential of programmes and Caymanian students at UCCI is important, Ebanks said. Adding that those students "are the future."

The tour was sponsored by Digital Cayman. Managing Director Polly Pickering said it was a chance to show off Cayman's tech potential.

"Being a part of this tour is a good example of what Digital Cayman is all about," Pickering said. "We set out to help diversify Cayman's economy and support community innovation. It is really exciting to help drive this process forward."

Others who partnered with the tour were equally excited.



▶ UCCI President and CEO Stacy McAfee and storm trooper

"Being a part of the innovation tour aligns well with our goals," said Cayman Enterprise City CEO Charlie Kirkconnell. "Cayman Enterprise City is focused on building a comprehensive technology ecosystem for companies of all sizes and stages of development. Our mission is to help diversify Cayman's economy and develop a business community where innovation thrives."

Gene Thompson, co-founder and chairman of TechCayman, said the tour was part of a larger effort to boost the local tech industry.

"These innovation tours have provided a showcase for the work being done to develop the local tech ecosystem, which is quickly becoming a key sector of Cayman's economy. Developing an ecosystem requires a multi-disciplinary, cross-section of players to embrace a spirit of competitive collaboration. Our team at TechCayman is committed to enhancing its role in this ecosystem by facilitating and supporting technology creation and innovation on all three of our islands, thereby creating more opportunities for Caymanians."

The daylong schedule included a stop at Cayman Islands Centre for Business Development and tours of Tech Cayman and Cayman Enterprise City before arriving at UCCI. There they were greeted by steel pan music, the Star Wars characters and host President and CEO McAfee

SEE UCCI INNOVATION TOUR, Page 7

COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule

MAY 2021

The COVID-19 vaccine is available to ALL persons 16 years and over, regardless of surname.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
10	11	12	13	14	15	
ORIA 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	ORIA 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	CAMANA BAY 5-9pm	ORIA 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	CAMANA BAY 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	ORIA 8am – 11am 12:30 – 4pm	
17	18	19	20	21	22	
PUBLIC HOLIDAY Clinic Closed	ORIA 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	BODDEN TOWN PUBLIC BEACH 5 – 9pm	ORIA 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	CAMANA BAY 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	ORIA 8am – 11am 12:30 – 4pm	
24	25	26	27	28	29	
WEST BAY - SIR JOHN A. CUMBER PRIMARY HALL 5-9pm	ORIA 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	EAST END 4 – 9pm	ORIA 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	CAMANA BAY 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm	ORIA 8am – 11am 12:30 – 4pm	
31						

WEST BAY -SIR JOHN A. CUMBER PRIMARY HALL 5-9pm

COVID-19 VACCINE CLINIC LOCATIONS

- ORIA OWEN ROBERTS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
- CAMANA BAY
 (FORMER CAYMAN MAC LOCATION)
- DISTRICTS AS NOTED ON THE

DOSE 1 & 2 will be given at any of the published clinic times.

When receiving your 2nd dose, you MUST also bring along your vaccination card reflecting your 1st dose.

(Do NOT laminate your card)

The date on your vaccination card for the 2nd dose is the <u>earliest</u> that is recommended.

All persons must present photo identification showing date of birth.

Facemask required – Please bring your own.

Most up to date schedule will be on www.hsa.ky

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DoE ADVICE IGNORED ON FILLING IRONSHORE FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Environment: (DoE) has distanced itself from a decision allowing the filling in of part of the ironshore on North West Point for a luxury property development project.

In a statement dated, May 6th regarding the decision which is being questioned by some residents in the area and environment campaigners, the DoE said its recommendations were ignored.

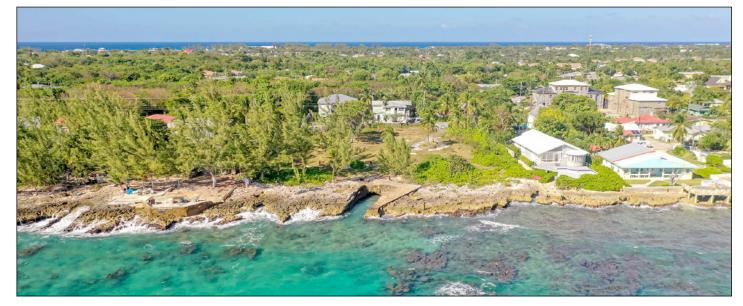
"We highlighted that there would be impacts to the marine environment from this filling," the DoE said while pointing out that "the Central Planning Authority (CPA) may accept or reject these recommendations when they make their decision."

"Our recommendations were not followed," the DOE said.

According to the Department of Environment, it was made aware of activity at the site (called Serrana) and sent its Conservation Officers to assess the situation.

The DoE said it was previously consulted on plans for the development in 2019, which included partially filling the barcadere and a reduced setback from the sea.

"We recommended that the proposed building be relocated further from the sea to increase the coastal setbacks (to meet the minimum legal requirement under the



Development and Planning Regulations) and avoid the need to fill the barcadere," it said

The DoE also explained: "We highlighted that there would be impacts to the marine environment from this filling."

However, it also points out that The Central Planning Authority (CPA) may accept or reject these recommendations when they make their decision," adding that in

this case "our recommendations were not followed."

In March 2020, the CPA granted permission for the development, including a variance to the standard coastal setbacks allowing it to be built closer to the sea, and partially filling the barcadere.

According to the DoE, "As these works were given planning permission and fall within the landowners' boundary, this is the jurisdiction of the Planning Department."

Under its mandate, the 13 member CPA decides whether or not to support an ap-

plication for Development and dictates any conditions of approval if applicable.

The environmental impact of residential and commercial projects in Cayman, was a prominent factor in the recent election campaign and is expected to form a key pillar of the policies of the new PACT administration led by Premier Wayne Panton.

Mr Panton, a previous environment minister, has given the issue an even higher profile and priority by renaming it the Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency for which he has taken direct portfolio responsibility.



UCCI Innovation Tour Taken by the Force

CONTINUED FROM Page 6

Participants met with entrepreneurs who are using digitally based strategies to change the business landscape, from food delivery to easing online access for services such as license registration and bill payment.

A campus tour included stops at the Cisco Networking Academy, the chemistry lab, the solar observatory and the new One Stop Centre, where various Star Wars-themed pastries and food sculptured created by the hospitality students were on display. There was also a student presentation of the recent CFA research competition, where UCCI won first place among universities in the Caribbean and Atlantic division.

A luncheon catered by the hospitality students, featured Star Wars themed

items, such as tie-fighter-shaped sandwiches and storm trooper patties.

Following lunch, local teams of entrepreneurs participated in a pitch competition, presenting solutions for local challenges that have the potential for global export, such as an app for mobile services, online appliance sales and a gaming program designed to reduce stress and anxiety.

Jenkins said education and cooperation were the goals of the event.

"We're bringing angels (mentors) together with entrepreneurs and industry leaders to talk about the possibilities here in Cayman," Jenkins said. "It shows that the Cayman has enough critical mass in its tech ecosystem for this kind of thing to happen. It's great news."

COMMUNITY NOTICES

DVDL Offices to Close on Thursday, May 13

The Department of Vehicle and Drivers' Licensing (DVDL) wishes to advise the public that all its offices will be closed on **Thursday**, **May 13**, **2021**, to facilitate a training workshop and staff meeting.

All offices of DVDL will resume business as usual on Friday, May 14.

Customers are reminded that they can renew their vehicle and driver's licences online via DVDL's website at www.dvdl. gov.ky.



▶ DVDL Red Bay office

Police Clearance Certificate required for processing of WORC applications

Workforce Opportunities & Residency Cayman (WORC) would like to remind its customers that applications will not be accepted without a Police Clearance Certificate included when making submissions. Therefore, to ensure the timely processing of applications, customers are asked to ensure they apply well in advance for the certificate through the RCIPS.



Contact WORC Customer Care at 945-9672 or email worc@gov.ky with questions or further information.



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

ATTORNEY GENERAL WINS AT PRIVY COUNCIL ON REFERENDUMS ISSUE

The Chambers of the Attorney General has welcomed a Privy Council ruling upholding an Appeal Court judgement in favour of the government that an overarching law is not needed for people initiated referendums in the jurisdiction.

The case results from a challenge to the Appeal Court ruling over the legal process of conducting referendums in the Cayman Islands coming out of the campaign against a controversial proposed cruise ship port project.

The campaign led by the organisation Cruise Port Referendum (CPR) was seeking to force the government to have a general law in place to facilitate such referendums instead of the current system where each referendum campaign requires a specific law.

The statement from the chambers of Attorney General Samuel Bulgin welcomed what was described as "this very helpful clarification of the Constitutional position, given the understandable public interest surrounding this issue."

It said that in the ruling dated April 28th the Privy Council has refused leave/permission to Ms Shirley Roulstone of the Cruise Port Referendum campaign to appeal the Court of Appeal ruling that there is no need for the Cayman Islands to enact a general referendum law for

bringing into effect people-initiated referendums.

As a result, the Court of Appeal's clarification on Section 70 of the Cayman Islands Constitution on people-initiated referendum legislation remains the law.

The issue which has gone through a series of legal hurdles over the interpretation of the Constitution regarding referendums has also been at the epicentre of a political wrangle over the planned cruise ship port.

The statement from the Attorney General's Chambers detailed the timeline of events surrounding the case.

In its 8th July 2020 ruling, the Court of Appeal disagreed with the ruling of the Grand Court (by Acting Judge Hon. Tim Owen) made on 2nd March 2020 on action sought by the Cruise Port Referendum campaign.

The Grand Court had ruled, among other things, that Section 70 of the Constitution requires Parliament (then the Legislative Assembly) to enact a general referendum law for holding people-initiated referendums.

The Court of Appeal on 8th July 2020 disagreed with this ruling. The Court had said, among other things, that to require a general law would be a more restrictive interpretation of Section 70 than an in-

terpretation which gives the Parliament a choice between a general or a specific law.

The Court also pointed out that a general law may make it difficult to make provision for the details of a particular referendum according to its subject matter, and more difficult to reflect the circumstances of the background to the particular petition.

Accordingly, the Court confirmed that the right to participate in a fair and effective people-initiated referendum can be fully protected by a referendum specific law.

The Court stated that the substance of the fundamental right of every Caymanian voter guaranteed by Section 70 is to participate in a fair and effective people-initiated referendum.

Since that right can be fully protected by a referendum specific law, and because of the clear textual indication from the use of the terms "a law" and "a referendum", the Court concluded that it is clear that section 70 does not require a general framework law.

Following this, Ms Roulstone had sought the Privy Council's leave to appeal the decision of the Court of Appeal, thereby seeking a general referendum law for people-initiated referendums.

The Privy Council has now refused to grant the leave. The Council's refusal of



► Attorney General Samuel Bulgin

permission in effect means that Section 70 of the Constitution does not require a general referendum law.

Instead, it is permissible for the Parliament to enact separate pieces of legislation for each referendum as has been done each time a people-initiated referendum has been held so far.

According to the government statement, the Privy Council, in refusing permission to appeal, has stated that having considered written submissions from Ms Roulstone and the Cabinet and the then Legislative Assembly, it agrees that the permission should be refused on the ground that Ms Roulstone's appeal "... does not raise an arguable point of law of general public importance that the board should consider at this time".

PAHI Minister Tours Departments, Meets Staff

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

He further stated, "My first impression is that this is a very active ministry that touches many aspect of our daily lives. The staff is very hardworking and motivated to deliver on Government's policies and programmes".

Minister Ebanks noted that already he is very comfortable and feels welcomed by all.

The PAHI Minister was accompanied on the tours by Parliamentary Secretary Isaac Rankine, Chief Officer Alan Jones and Deputy Chief Officers in the Ministry.



 Director of DVDL, David Dixon shows Hon.
 Jay Ebanks and PS Isaac Rankine around the Crewe Road office



▶ Director of the Department of Vehicle and Equipment Services, Stephen Quinland speaks with Hon. Jay Ebanks and Parliamentary Secretary Isaac Rankine. Looking on is Deputy Chief Officer, Tamara Ebanks



▶ Minister of PAHI Hon. Jay Ebanks, Parliamentary Secretary Isaac Rankine and staff members of the National Housing Development Trust



Antigua offers vouchers for vaccines

The Antigua and Barbuda government is offering food vouchers as an incentive to residents who take the vaccine.

The Ministry of Health, Wellness, and the Environment is partnering with Epicurean Fine Foods and Pharmacy in a "One World Protected" campaign offering an EC\$50 (KY\$15) food voucher to each person receiving a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Prime Minister Gaston Browne recently warned

of the possibility of implementing a mandatory vaccination programme as he criticised people who were encouraging others not to participate in the national vaccination programme. The voucher is not redeemable for cash or change and must be used in one transaction.

Browne said that the pandemic has had a tremendous impact on the socio-economic development of the island



▶ Antigua is struggling to get a mass vaccine take up

since the first case was diagnosed last March. "Well, I want to say definitively to the people of Antigua and Barbuda that we do not have the luxury of not getting vaccinated and if we do not get the herd immunity perhaps in the next 60 to 90 days there is going to be weeping and gnashing of teeth in this country," Browne said, adding "that is the reality of it".

Reggae fans mark Marley's passing

Bob Marley died of cancer on 11 May 1981 and fans of the legendary reggae king are marking the 40th anniversary of his passing this week.

In 1977, Marley was diagnosed with a form of skin cancer in his big toe, from a football injury. Herbal treatment did not work and doctors suggested amputation. Marley refused surgery, citing his Rasta beliefs. He died as a result, aged 36.

Survived by at least 12 children, he received a state funeral in Jamaica. His last album, 'Uprising' was released a month after his death, featuring a lion-maned Rastafarian image with arms raised in victory. The last song on the record, 'Redemption Song', includes excerpts from speeches by the Pan-Africanist Rastafarian leader, Marcus Garvey calling for emancipation. He recorded over 600 songs and other classics include 'No Woman No Cry', 'One Love', 'Three Little Birds'



► Robert Nesta Marley is still the king of reggae

and 'Simmer Down' although at least 50 of them are mainstream favourites.

'Legend', the greatest hits album (1984) remains the best-selling reggae album ever. Over 75 million Marley records worldwide have been sold. He was post-humously honoured by Jamaica with an Order of Merit. In 1994, he was inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame. Rolling Stone also ranked him No. 11 on its list of the 100 Greatest Artists of All Time.

St Kitts so safe it gets Hero League

St Kitts and Nevis will host the 2021 Hero Caribbean Premier League in August and three one-day international matches in July. All 33 games will take place in St Kitts' Warner Park Sporting Complex. The move demonstrates the islands' efficient management of the COVID-19 pandemic, which has seen a total of only 44 recorded cases, zero deaths and no community spread.

St Kitts and Nevis will still continue to implement robust health and safety measures. This will include only selling 50 percent of tickets and ensuring that all every-

one is fully vaccinated. The event will be a huge economic boost for the islands.

"Everybody is getting excited about it. Not that we just have cricket, but these are difficult times, and we have seen the tremendous economic impact that St Kitts and Nevis has benefited from when we host the usual five home matches," said Minister of Sports, Jonel Powell. "We now have 33 matches, four weeks of cricket, six weeks of hotel stay overs, and we anticipate tremendous economic impacts for ordinary people in St Kitts and Nevis, who have had a rough time over the last year."



▶ St Kitts and Nevis will benefit from hosting the Hero League

Trinidad steps up virus protocols

The Trinidad and Tobago government announced additional health restrictions to curb the coronavirus spread until May 23. All non-essential workers will have to work from home. All businesses including shops which are open now will be closed at 8pm.

The government also reduced public transportation capacity from 75 percent occupancy to 50 percent. Similarly, wearing masks will remain the first priority in public places.

Public gatherings during a funeral or any other event are now limited to no more than five people. Any violation will lead to police action. Businesses that come under essential services will remain operations with 50 percent employment; they can be rotational with whole staff working in different day shifts.

Domestic workers and gardeners are to remain at home unless designated as 'Live



▶ Trinidad and Tobago is restricting public gatherings

In'. Even where operations are designated as essential, it is expected that non-essential personnel will be allowed to work from home.

Barbados LIAT workers get \$2k

Barbadian LIAT workers who last month appealed to Prime Minister Mia Mottley for help, have received a one-off gift payment of B\$2,000 (K\$825) and they will soon get long-term assistance.

This was announced following a 90-minute zoom conversation with dozens of former employees of the region-

al airline who have been on the breadline for over a year.

Last month, some of the former LIAT employees were in tears as they recounted hardships suffered since losing their jobs at the airline with no severance, no



▶ LIAT's Barbadian former workers are finally receiving help

pay in lieu of notices and some salaries outstanding.

LIAT is headquartered in Antigua & Barbuda and operates to several destinations across the Caribbean. It is currently under administration.

Reggae Boyz relying on English pros

Jamaica's Reggae Boyz hope to reach the World Cup Finals next year in Qatar and the only way they believe they can do it is with a strong contingent of England's top pros. Indigenous Jamaican players are effectively semi-pros and the team needs the injection of elite players to make the step up.

Former Jamaica national team head coach, Carl Brown, who also coached the Cayman Islands national team, has called for a focus on preparation to realise the talented squad's full potential.

The Reggae Boyz have only once made the FIFA World Cup Finals - at the 1998 tournament in France.



► Bobby Decordova-Reid has committed to the Reggae Boyz

Nathan Redmond, the English-born striker of Irish and Jamaican descent, is one of Jamaica's targets. The Jamaican Football Federation is waiting for the 27-year-old Southampton striker's decision.

However, Redmond is aware that the Boyz already have recent newcomer Bobby Decordova-Reid (Fulham) and West Ham United's Michail Antonio also considering whether to join rather than hold out for an England call up.

Yet Redmond could be used in an attacking winger role, which could be a real boost for head coach Theodore Whitmore ahead of July's CONCACAF Gold Cup – a prelude for the highly lucrative World Cup qualifiers.

Redmond has already represented England, debuting as a substitute against Germany four years ago, and was in the 27-player provisional squad to tackle last year's UEFA Nations League finals.

As he was only capped in a friendly rather than a competitive match, then Redmond is not tied to the English Football Association, so he can apply to represent Jamaica.

JFF President Michael Ricketts publicly announced in March which England pros Jamaica should recruit. Andre Gray (Watford), Jamal Lowe (Swansea City) and Liam Moore (Reading) all accepted the call-up to compete in the exhibition 4-1 defeat to the United States in Austria.

In addition, the Jamaicans, currently ranked third in the CONCACAF region, have retained the core of a talented Jamaica-born contingent that has appeared at back-to-back CONCACAF Gold Cup finals in recent years.

Jamaica compete in the CONCACAF Gold Cup in July, before beginning the qualifiers in September.

"The English season finishes in May, so June is going to be a very, very important month for the coaching staff in terms of preparing the players and getting the right team for the Gold Cup," Brown said.

"The Gold Cup offers at least three quality practice games before the World Cup qualifiers and if we do well in getting to the semi-finals and final then we have at least five games.

"We cannot just take it for granted that we have a good crop of players, probably the best we have seen since 1998 but it's about preparation. If we don't properly prepare for the World Cup qualifiers we really could find ourselves struggling."



Nathan Redmond may turn out for Jamaica

The JFF also has to convince the millionaire English pros that facilities and organisation will not be as poor and disorganised as before. The clubs' coaches, medical staff and owners are reluctant to release the players because of fear of injury and them missing matches through extensive travelling, exacerbated by covid issues.

Melo regains his mojo

Carmelo Anthony looked like a spent force a couple of years ago but the veteran Portland Trail Blazers small forward has regained his past brilliance

Anthony entered the top ten in NBA scoring last week to bring him his career points total 27,337 at press time. He bumped Elvin Hayes from the elite list, and now sets his sights on Moses Malone at No. 9 on 27,409.

Anthony, 37 at the end of this month and a future Hall of Famer,

has numerous accolades. He's a ten-time All-Star, scoring champion, six-time All-NBA selection, 2003-04 All-Rookie squad member, and an NCAA champ who was the 2003 tourney's Most Outstanding Player, to boot.

At his prime in Denver, 6ft 7in Melo was one of the most feared offensive players in the league. He averaged 24.8 points per game in eight seasons in Denver and then went to New York, and was giving the



► Carmelo Anthony is playing at top level again

Knickerbockers that same production. He even led the league in minutes in 2013-14.

But then his career went into decline at Oklahoma City and Houston. Rumours about Anthony started to surface around the league and after Houston let him go after only 10 games, speculation was that his career was over. He was then ostracised by the league for the rest of that season. Now, he's in his second season with Portland, and is thriving again.

Prodigy Lawrence is already a star

Quarterback sensation Trevor Lawrence was the overwhelming No.1 NFL draft pick last week and it came as no surprise to anyone who with even a passing interest in gridiron.

Ever since becoming the country's top-ranked quarterback in high school, Lawrence was touted as a future first overall pick in the NFL draft.

The Jacksonville Jaguars made the inevitable a reality, securing one of the safest prospects in draft history - up there with John Elway (1983), Lawrence's idol Peyton Manning (1998) and Andrew Luck (2012).

The 21-year-old had a remarkable record of 86 wins and four defeats across



▶ Trevor Lawrence is expected to make a huge impact

seven years in high school and college, but he is not only an exceptional athlete.

At 6ft 6in with long blonde hair, he looks the part too, yet he's remained the humble, grounded kid that turned up for try-outs in 2007. Already touted as the next Tom Brady, it'll interesting to see how his career pans out.

Alvarez is best – and busiest

Saul 'Canelo' Alvarez is not just the pound-for-pound best fighter on the planet, he is the busiest of the elites

Alvarez continued to set records on Saturday in Texas, forcing Billy Joe Saunders to retire after eight rounds to add the Brit's WBO super-middleweight championship to his WBA, WBC and The Ring belts.

It was the Mexican banger's third fight in five months, after outpointing Callum Smith in December before easily beating Avni Yildirim in a mandatory defence two months later

Alvarez's record is now 50-1-2, including 38 knockouts. He wants at least two more fights this year and is determined to become the sport's first undisputed super-mid-dleweight champ.

Canelo now owns three of the four belts in the 168-pound division, with Caleb Plant's IBF strap his sole

focus now, which he admitted in the post-fight press conference. American Plant, 28, is unbeaten in 21 bouts but hasn't fought anyone remotely as good as Alvarez. Yet he is up for the challenge in what will earn him a career high purce.

Undaunted Plant said in March: "It would be a historic night that will leave us as the first undisputed champion in the history of the super-middleweights and do you know who it will be? Caleb Plant."

Alvarez, 30, wants to fight in the middle of September, to coincide with Mexican Independence Day. The other big Mexican holiday is Cinco de Mayo, which was three days before his bout with Saunders.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, Canelo's win over Saunders welcomed more than 73,000 fans in Arlington – almost all supporting Alvarez - with few wearing masks and no obvious social distancing. Las Vegas fully re-opens



► Canelo Alvarez smashed Saunders into submission

this summer. And Miami has been at the forefront of the bigger events in recent months despite restrictions.

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

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Word Search

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

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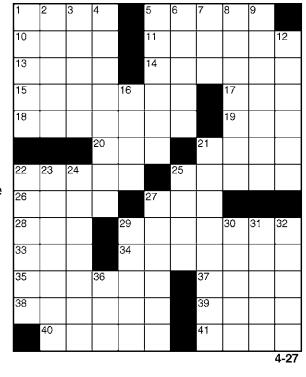
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Difficulty Level ★★★★

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