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FDA gives approval for kids

At a meeting last week of the U.S. Food & Drug Administration's (FDA) Vaccines and Related Biological Products Advisory Committee, unanimous agreement was given to recommend the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine to be given to children in America aged five to 11, having already approved the vaccine for children aged 12 and over.

The FDA panel had to approve the question as to whether the benefits of the Pfizer vaccine outweighed the risks for children aged 5 to 11, with all panellists voting for the decision to allow the vaccine to be given to younger children and one abstaining. The decision was discussed via a 7-hour-long live YouTube broadcast, which eventually saw support in favour of the vaccine being given to children.



▶ The FDA have approved the Pfizer vaccine for younger children

SEE VACCINE FOR CHILDREN, Page 9

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POLICE NEWS

Check debit and credit statements carefully

Covid has meant more of us are conducting business online, but with this, the police are seeing an increase in fraudulent activity being reported, so the RCIPS Financial Crime Investigation Unit is advising the public to play close attention to their credit and debit card statements. Anyone who notices suspicious or unauthorised transactions is advised to inform their bank immediately and contact the RCIPS Financial Crime Investigation Unit at RCIPS.FCU@rcips.ky.

Identifying and reporting suspicious or unauthorised transactions in a timely manner allows you to prevent further transactions from occurring, the funds from which may be difficult to recover.

In some cases, people have only become aware of a series of unauthorised transactions months after they first began. In cases like this, even if the individual transactions are for relatively small amounts, the cost can quickly add up.



The FCIU is also reminding the public to exercise caution when conducting credit card transactions. When paying for purchases, avoid allowing persons to walk out of sight with your credit card, especially for extended periods. People should also be extremely cautious about giving credit card information over the phone.

If you have any reason to be suspicious, monitor your credit and debit card transactions carefully, and immediately report any unauthorised purchases to your bank and to the RCIPS FCIU at the email address above.

Man arrested in relation to Martin Drive shooting

A man, aged 29 of West Bay, has been arrested on suspicion of two counts of murder, along with possession of an unlicensed firearm. The

arrest is in relation to the shooting which took place on Martin Drive on 1 July. He remains in custody as investigations continue.

Thefts from cars on the increase

The RCIPS has issued a warning not to leave valuables in cars, as there has been a spate of thefts and attempted thefts from vehicles that have taken place in the Smith Road and Windsor Park areas over the past few weeks. The police are therefore reminding the public not to leave items like shopping bags, handbags, electronics, money or jewellery where they are visible in a vehicle.

They also warn people not to leave valuables overnight or for extended periods in their cars and suggest people park vehicles in well-lit areas and, if possible, in places with security cameras or security

officers on sight. People are urged to lock their cars and to ensure that all doors and windows are properly closed whenever they leave their vehicle. People should not leave vehicles running or leave vehicles with the keys inside unattended, even for a short amount of time.

The RCIPS is investigating these incidents and is encouraging all members of the public to report any such incidents to the police, regardless of whether or not anything was stolen, by calling the George Town Police Station at 949-4222, or your nearest police station.

RCIPS issues advisory on tech support scams

Police have received reports of an increasing number of 'tech support' scams across the Island, which involve scammers making contact and using scare tactics to trick people into paying for unnecessary technical support services to 'fix' a non-existent problem with an individual's device or software. The goal of such scams is to steal personal or financial information.

There are two main ways these scams are conducted. Knowing what these are will help people know the best way to respond:

The scam may be carried out using urgent pop-ups warning people that their computer has a serious problem, telling them not to turn it off, and giving a phone number to call. Real error messages from Microsoft or other tech companies do not include phone numbers to call for support.

The police urge people NOT to call the number or click any links. Instead, they should restart their device immediately.

The scam may involve unsolicited phone calls or messages warning people they've spotted a critical problem with their computer or account that they need to fix. Police say NOT to click any links or call any numbers in the message and not to give the caller remote access to a computer or any personal information like passwords or account numbers. Instead, they say people should delete the suspicious messages. If it's a call, hang up.

If you believe you have suffered financial loss or had your computer compromised as a result of one of these scams, please contact the RCIPS Financial Crime Investigation Unit at RCIPS.FCU@rcips.ky

Quarantines slows garbage collection

The Department of Environmental Health is seeking the public's patience and understanding as residential garbage collection services experiences may be delay in some areas due to a small number of staff members having to go into quarantine.

Richard Simms, DEH Director explained that the current rise of Covid-19 cases in the Cayman Islands is starting to impact the Department's garbage collection schedules, as some members of staff have been mandated to isolate.

"We are seeing a trickle effect with DEH persons having to quarantine. However, we are committed to give continuation to our weekly routine. We will always seek to make our collections on time, but we recognise that some routes may be delayed by a day or so," he said.

Meanwhile, Michael Haworth, Assistant Director Solid Waste, reiterated the DEH pledge to ensure the health and safety of all its employees and the members of the public they serve.

"We are doing all we can in terms of minimising risk in the workplace. We have Covid-19 protocols in place for employees to protect themselves and co-workers. Nevertheless, DEH staff like everyone else have families and homes and are not immune to community spread," he said.

For any additional information, please call the DEH at 949-6696, send an email to dehcustomerservice@gov.ky, visit the DEH's website at www.deh.gov.ky and its Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/Department-of-Environmental-Health-Cayman-Islands-Government-335107266641072>



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'Shock to the system' - Covid now 'widespread' in Cayman

By Staff Writer

The current wave of Covid-19 community cases continues its rampage through the Cayman Islands in what the Chief Medical Officer Dr John Lee has now described as "widespread" and the Minister of Health and Wellness, Sabrina Turner, has termed "a shock to the system".

Between Monday and Thursday alone this past week, 447 additional community-spread cases were recorded with numbers increasing daily from 81 on Monday, to 90 on Tuesday, and 123 on Wednesday. By the time the update was released late on Thursday for tests in the previous 24 hours the number of positive results had jumped to 153.

Case rates for Friday were likely to be higher and further concerns about potential super-spreader events from weekend Halloween festivities were also likely to trigger a further surge.

With the government ruling out any further postponement of its plan to reopen the borders on 20 November - previously delayed from 14 October due then to the emergence of community cases - increasing calls are being made for details of the reopening plan and measures to mitigate the impact of the current surge in cases beyond the current guidance on mask-wearing.

Cayman's high vaccination rate - one of the highest globally - is highlighted by government and health officials as a buffer along with the current low number of hospitalisations from the disease and the introduction of lateral flow tests.

However, significant areas of concern remain, among them the large number of

people required to isolate. The latest available figures up to 26 October was 1,458. That number would have increased since then.

The PACT government has set aside an 'isolation stipend fund' of CI\$1 million which has been estimated to equal the tourism stipend of CI\$1,500 (which is expected to be halted once the borders reopen).

In the event that the current surge continues and necessitates more isolations especially among the working population, the cost to the government in paying additional stipends, and the costs to the private sector from lost staff and business turnover could be severe, adding to an already stressed economic climate.

The implications for the business community with workers having to isolate for up to 14 days if someone in their workplace or household becomes infected is also known to be occupying the attention of business owners, with some now calling for clear and enforceable policies on public movements to safeguard the reopening plan.

The government has ruled out a lockdown and, in an address late Friday evening aimed at reassuring the community in the face of the surge in the community cases, Hon. Premier Wayne Panton had quashed such rumours and insisted that his administration would not ever from its new reopening target of 20 November.

He called on residents to be responsible and follow the guidelines to prevent further spreading of the virus in the community.



The guidelines at present are heavily focused on mask-wearing with the public being required to "exercise good judgement" for their own safety and that of the wider community in other circumstances.

to suppress the further spread of the disease so as not to jeopardise the reopening plans.

Describing the current crisis as a "war on Covid" that should not descend into a local turf war, it was suggested that a level of response equal to that of a hurricane activating hazard management was now required.

The ability of the health system to cope with the increased demand for tests and results as well as the availability of beds should hospitalisations increase were among the issues addressed.

The official line has been that there is currently enough spare capacity to cope, once hospitalisations remain at the current low level. However, it is feared that any worsening of the situation - from serious illnesses to staff themselves possibly having to isolate - could put the health-care system under severe pressure.

The call was repeated on The Panel for an individual or agency to be charged with coordinating the reopening plan with clear measures, practical restrictions to curb the escalating spread, and a workable communication strategy.

With Cayman looking to rekindling stay-over tourism industry, it was felt that should visitors contact the disease while in Cayman due to lax measures, the fallout from that could seriously damage the recovery effort.

(Listen back to this week's programme via these links) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EilMPFasspc>

<https://www.facebook.com/CaymanianTimes/videos/165227619152174>

"Describing the current crisis as a "war on Covid" that should not descend into a local turf war, it was suggested that a level of response equal to that of a hurricane activating hazard management was now required."

The Delta variant is said to be the dominant feature of the virus in Cayman but the emergence of the even more infectious DeltaPlus variant is now becoming a cause of worry for governments around the world.

Many countries, including the UK, are now experiencing another spike in cases with several already putting in place or considering mitigating measures.

'The Panel' calls for clear strategies

Prior to the latest developments, this past Wednesday's edition of the *Caymanian Times* programme, The Panel, highlighted several of the issues now coming to the fore.

Stating that the intention was not 'destructive constructive criticism', host Ralph Lewis (*Caymanian Times* publisher) and panellists Roy Bodden and Mario E Ebanks, drew attention to the importance of clear measures and information

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BUSINESS NEWS...IN SHORT

Butterfield resume normal banking hours

Butterfield have said that beginning Monday, 1st November 2021, all Butterfield Banking Centres will return to the regular operating hours of 9:00a.m. - 4:00p.m., Monday to Friday, and

9:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. on Friday at Butterfield Place.

Clients must continue to wear a mask and follow all other COVID-19 guidance when visiting Butterfield.

Butterfield said they continues to encourage clients to utilise Butterfield's alternate banking channels, using any Butterfield ATM, Butterfield Online, or the Mobile Banking app where possible.

Butterfield earnings on the up

Having released their third quarter results for the quarter ending 30th September, 2021, Butterfield reports net income for the third quarter of 2021 at \$39.8 million, compared to net income of \$39.6 million for the previous quarter and \$30.5 million for the third quarter of 2020. As a result, the Butterfield Board has declared dividend for the quarter ended 30th September, 2021 of \$0.44 per share.



Michael Collins, Butterfield's Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, said the third quarter of 2021 continued to illustrate the value of Butterfield's business model across economic cycles.

"Our strong results were achieved despite the prevailing low interest rate environment and the continued waves of outbreaks of Covid-19," he confirmed.

"Butterfield has been able to maintain strong net interest earnings and non-interest revenue, with excellent credit quality and performance, while managing strategic business investments and prudent expense moderation initiatives."

He said Butterfield's balance sheet remained strong.

Former Chelsea physio now at RVC

Having treated some of the UK's most elite athletes, Musculoskeletal Physiotherapist Sam Foster has recently joined RVC Physiotherapy and Chiropractic Services. Sam recently arrived from the UK where he graduated from East London University and holds a Sports and Exercises Science degree from the University of Bedfordshire. Sam worked extensively with the UK's NHS and internationally, treating world class athletes from the Wimbledon Tennis Tournament, the Botswana Cricket Team and with elite club football for Chelsea and Charlton Athletic.



► Sam Foster

Sam specialises in musculoskeletal physiotherapy, providing assessment and treatment for patients with a variety of issues related to pain and limited range of motion associated with sports injuries, repetitive movement disorders and post-operative rehabilitation. He utilises many modalities perfected through years of experience that get fast, effective results including sonic shockwave therapy which is only available at RVC. Sam is currently accepting new patients. For more information, please contact Sam at 345-949-6024 or sam@rvcrehab.ky.

DCI Introduces Dropbox

The Department of Commerce and Investment needs customers to place new applications for licenses and renewals in a dropbox, where payment is being made by cheque. As soon as payment is received, a receipt will be issued via email. The dropbox at the business licensing counter can also be used to submit oth-

er documents, where a deferral letter has been issued.

While members of the public paying by cash may continue to do so at the DCI counter, DCI encourages businesses to use the online platform, available at www.dci.gov.ky, for submissions where possible.



THE PANEL

DISCUSSING TOUGH TOPICS

Live on Caymanian Times Facebook and YouTube
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Mario E Ebanks



Ralph Lewis



Roy Bodden






YouTube

Independent, candid and honest discussions on various topics affecting our Community

Recipients of 2021 Governor's Conservation Awards announced

On Tuesday 26 October, the National Trust for the Cayman Islands recognised some of the individuals and companies who are doing outstanding work in the fields of historic preservation and environmental conservation across all three Cayman Islands.

The biennial Governor's Conservation Awards was hosted by the Governor Mr. Martyn Roper, as finalists and well-wishers gathered to learn who would be the recipients of the various awards.

Governor Roper said well done to all the winners, including Tanja Laaser, who won Conservationist of the Year for her outstanding work on Little Cayman protecting Rock Iguanas.

"We are fortunate to have so many people in our community committed and passionate about our environment and biodiversity," Governor Roper said.

He congratulated the National Trust and thanked them for all their hard work.

At the event, the following recipients were announced:

1. HERITAGE PRESERVATION AWARD. The finalists were Ms. Ally McRae (for her efforts to save the Clayton Nixon house which is now located by Mission House) and Mrs. Julia Hislop (for her restoration of Aston and Ruth Ruddy home in Cayman

Brac). Recipient: Mrs. Julia Hislop

2. TOURISM INDUSTRY CONSERVATION AWARD. Recipient: Cayman Kayaks for their sustainable practices and preservation of Bio-Bay and the mangrove wetlands that they visit.

3. LOIS BLUMENTHAL YOUTH CONSERVATION AWARD. The finalists were Dinara Perara (for her mangrove conservation work) and Ms. Estefania McDermot (for her work with Plastic Free Cayman, Sail for Change Caribbean and Central Caribbean Marine Institute). Recipient - Estefania McDermot

4. CONSERVATIONIST OF THE YEAR - The finalists were Mr. Bill La Monte (who has inspired, co-founded and participated in several youth conservation groups) and Ms. Tanja Laaser (for going above and beyond in her conservation work for the Sister Islands Rock Iguanas). Recipient: Tanja Laaser

Recipient for the Heritage Preservation Award, Mrs. Julia Hislop, shared how humbled she was to have received this recognition from the National Trust.

"My parents took a keen interest in the upkeep of our family estate, and I felt this should be carried on for the future generations. Now my parents' great grandchildren are enjoying their heritage. I thank those who recognised and appreciate the efforts put into the restoration," she said.



► Governor Martyn Roper, Olson Anderson (Chairman of the National Trust) Jennifer Ahearn (Chief Officer at the Ministry of Sustainability and Climate Resiliency), Annick Jackman (Executive Director of the National Trust), Melanie Carmichael (Council member of the National Trust), Award recipients: Mrs. Julia Hislop and Tanja Laaser. Certificate of recognition: Mr. Justin Howe for DART

Conservationist of the Year, Tanja Laaser, said: "I feel very honoured and happy to have received this award. All the work I

was able to accomplish with the Sister Islands Rock Iguanas was only possible thanks to the support of the Little Cayman community."

The Chairman of the National Trust, Mr Olsen Anderson, shared

in his remarks how excited he was, particularly in seeing the youth advocates who were motivated to make positive changes in their community. "They understand the value of speaking up and acting now," he said.

Help for the elderly to get social media savvy

As part of Older Persons Month, the Department of Children and Family Services have been holding training sessions for elderly people so that they can learn how to use social media. One such training session took place on Monday, 25 October and attendees learnt how to upload pictures to WhatsApp, online shop, and how to sign up and use Instagram and Pinterest.

This was one of a series of free workshops held at the Older Persons Active Ageing Centre on McLendon Drive, George Town.

DCFS Director Mrs. Paulinda Mendoza-Williams gave some more information: "This October's theme of 'Digital Equity For All Ages: Connect, Create, Contribute' is geared to enriching older persons' lives by promoting access and participation in the digital world," she said. "Social media sessions make the online world less daunting. The training sessions demystify a lot of the terminology involved in accessing social media, as well as providing our seniors with the necessary skills to take part in a lot of other activities which keep them engaged and socially active."

During the Instagram familiarisation part of the training, attendees were shown how to activate the privacy setting,

use the platform to search interests and hobbies, as well as how and when to use hashtags. Seniors also found out that Instagram could be a useful tool, for example they could follow local businesses like CUC to get power outage alerts.

DCFS Social Work Manager, Mrs. Lois Kellyman said: "In view of Covid, each workshop is run as a socially-distanced learning environment, so the capacity was 12 persons."

The pandemic, she said, had had a profound impact on older persons.

"We know that this group has experienced a lot of issues related to having to spend more time than they used to at home with little company. It has also caused many of them who had once been uninterested in social media to embrace it as a way to keep in touch with family, while pursuing their interests with like-minded people across the world," she said.

For Ms Sonia Spence attending the workshops has opened up a whole world of possibilities. "The sessions are run by friendly people who have really boosted my confidence to try out social media. I've still a long way to go but they've taught me so much," she explained.

The last 'How to Use Social Media' workshop was on Friday, 29 October.



► Older persons take part in a special workshop to get them tech savvy

Cayman has a seat at COP26

Premier and Minister for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency Wayne Panton is in Glasgow, Scotland, participating in COP26, where global leaders are meeting to discuss strategies to confront climate change.

The Premier joined the United Kingdom delegation and can access the Blue Zone, the United Nations-managed space that hosts the negotiations and brings together delegations from 197 parties. Access to the Blue Zone is restricted primarily to government ministers and accredited government officials. The Zone is the venue for the World Leaders' Summit on 1 and 2 November.

Premier Panton has also been invited to attend the Commonwealth Reception at the World Leaders' Summit on 2 November, an event jointly hosted by His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales and the United Kingdom Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Boris Johnson, MP.

The Premier said Cayman's presence will give Cayman an opportunity to strengthen its relationships with global partners in the collective fight against climate change and the damage it is doing to planet Earth.

"The impact of climate change is frightening, especially for small islands states like ours. Our voices need to be heard loud and clear and I intend to add mine to those of our regional colleagues who share the same vulnerabilities and concerns," he said. "The Caribbean is highly vulnerable to sea level rise and increase in water temperature. Our rallying cry remains "1.5 to stay alive", the goal is to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels to prevent the worst of the climate change impacts to the Caribbean, including ensuring coral reef and biodiversity survival. I join with the regional community to strongly advocate

closing the emissions gap, and increasing financial support for those nations most vulnerable to climate change impacts."

Eighteen-year-old Caymanian Dejea Lyons will also be participating in COP26. Dejea was selected as a student representative for all the UK Overseas Territories UKOT and will be speaking on an 'Oceans Panel' on Nature Day at the global conference. The Ministry for Sustainability and Climate Resiliency (SCR) are currently working with her as she prepares for her upcoming participation.

Dr. Tasha Ebanks-Garcia from the Cayman Islands' Government office in London, serves as the official contact to COP26 and initially reached out to the National Trust of the Cayman Islands for their guidance and selection of youth ambassadors. Dejea Lyons and Isabella Watler were awarded the opportunity to attend the conference. Dejea was subsequently chosen to participate as a panellist.

Annick Jackman, Director of the National Trust called Dejea an "inspiration" and called her selection "momentous".

Dejea is currently on an academic scholarship from the Ministry of Education, pursuing studies in Global Development and Sustainability at Bath Spa University in the UK and has an extensive track record of academic and extracurricular accomplishments, serving as Vice President of 'Protect Our Future' while at school at Cayman International School, when she honed her passion for the environment, championing various community initiatives.

"Since discovering my passion for the environment, I have been actively researching climate change and the impact that it will have on small island nations such as ours," Dejea stated. "Sadly howev-



► Dejea Lyons will be participating at COP26

er, once I became aware of these effects, I quickly came to realise that hypotheses made by scientists have started to become a reality for our islands. This includes beach erosion, coral bleaching, stronger hurricanes and more."

She said that witnessing such events fuelled her passion to help strengthen Cayman's resilience against climate change.

At COP26 she said she would be able to inform others on what the Cayman Is-

lands had been doing to alleviate the impacts of climate change on its community and would also be able to listen and learn from experts and political leaders globally about their methods of resolving this global issue.

The panel will take place on Saturday, 6 November at 11:00-11:45AM (GMT +1). The Cayman Islands Government will update the public about the availability of a live stream link access in due course.

Flu clinic open longer

The Flu Clinic located at the Cayman Islands Hospital complex has expanded its opening hours providing greater convenience and a dedicated area for the treatment of persons with flu-like symptoms. The new hours are Monday to Friday 8AM-11PM.

The dedicated Flu Clinic helps to isolate persons with flu like symptoms from the general patient population and potentially reduce opportunities for influenza/COVID transmission.

"We find that extending the hours reduces the congestion in our Accident & Emergency Unit for non-emergent cases and allows the team to appropriately triage and treat true medical emergencies," stated Deputy Chief Executive Officer Ronnie Dunn.

"Although influenza activity last year was minimal largely due to COVID-19 prevention measures such as mask wearing, predictions on what this year's flu season will look like have varied," said Medical Officer of Health, Dr Samuel Williams-Rodriguez. "This dedicated facility will allow us to better manage patient flow and an increase in cases due to COVID 19."



Dr Williams assures the public that adherence to prevention measures such as social distancing, wearing of masks and the calling of the Flu Hotline prior to going to the clinic will help to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 for patients who visit the clinic.

The Public Health Department is currently awaiting their annual supply of flu vaccines. They anticipate the arrival of vaccines before the launch of the of their flu shot campaign which is expected to run from November 2021 - March 2022.

Persons can access the Flu Clinic by parking in the Seventh Day Adventist Church Parking Lot with easy access to the clinic left of the Accident & Emergency (A&E) entrance. Signage on campus will direct patients to the clinic.

All persons with flu symptoms are advised to first contact the 24-hour Flu Hotline to speak to a health professional about their symptoms prior to visiting the clinic. Contact 1-800-534-8600, 345-947-3077 or flu@hsa.ky.

UK Accepts HSA's Digital Covid-19 Record

As of Monday 1 November, the UK will accept Cayman's digital vaccine certificates through the HSA Patient Portal. This removes the need for individuals travelling to the UK to request vaccination certification letters from Public Health. Those who have signed up for the HSA Patient Portal will be able to print out their Covid-19 Vaccination Record to use as proof of their vaccination status.

Anyone who received their Covid-19 vaccine in Cayman is encouraged to sign up for the MyHSA Patient Portal. The portal is the main platform for quick access to your digital Covid-19 vaccine record.

Governor Martyn Roper said he was very pleased that Cayman's own vaccine certification is now being accepted as proof of vaccine status by UK Authorities.

"This removes a significant burden from HSA staff at this time when they are under such pressure dealing with our cases of community transmission. It also makes going to the UK an easier process for everyone travelling from Cayman," he said.





► Open House at the Cayman Career Academy



► Cayman Career Academy's Lecturer, Hannah Taylor (right) chats with a prospective student about what the beauty school can offer her

Beauty school opens up careers

By Christopher Tobutt

It's been two and a half years since Cayman Career Academy (CCA), Cayman's first professional beauty school, opened its doors, with the aim to make top-flight, internationally-recognised CIDESCO qualifications available to Caymanians, without them ever having to go off-island. On Thursday 28 November they celebrated with an open house, so that those who are thinking about a career in the beauty and spa therapy industry could drop in and chat to the lecturers or current students about what the school can offer them.

Ashley Bodden was just coming out of the school's entrance at the Smith Road Plaza. "I think this beauty school that's just opened up seems really innovative, and something that Cayman needs, especially for those who want to venture on their creative side," she said. "I am interested in facials, manicure, pedicure and I was asking them if they were going to be exploring more in the area of doing nail art, and nail extension

and acrylics, because I am very interested in that field. From what I understand CIDESCO is the highest calibre of qualification you can get, and it's very exciting that you don't have to travel off the Island to get it. CIDESCO certification is almost like a passport to the rest of your career."

Burns Wood, who comes from both Bodden Town and Honduras, has been doing a massage course as part of the beauty therapy course, although he has already worked in the industry for 18 years. It is his calling, and he plans to go into business on his own after he gets his certificate in medical massage. "In the whole of the Caribbean that can only be done here at the Cayman Career Academy," he said.

Like many of the other CCA students, Narin Suetrong, originally from Thailand, already has considerable experience in working in the Spa industry, and is doing the CIDESCO Full Beauty Therapy Certificate. "I like what we learn from the school, because they go into great detail with theory, and far

more depth than what I learned before in my previous training," she said. "I like the Cayman Career Academy very much because CIDESCO is very well known and recognised internationally, so that everyone accepts this diploma."

Dr. Shari Smith, of the Cayman Islands Scholarship Secretariat, was paying the school a visit. "Government supports CCA's diploma and certificate programmes through our Scholarships for Caymanians programme. We will support as many as will apply, if they meet the criteria of the programme," she said.

Lecturer Hannah Taylor said: "Today we are introducing potential students to Cayman Career Academy. Ideally, they are already interested in the beauty industry. By offering CIDESCO accredited courses, it means that we are offering the highest calibre qualifications available in the industry. We use a variety of teaching techniques, and our staff have more than sixty years' experience in the beauty therapy industry between them."



► Massage student Burns Wood, who is working towards CIDESCO-accredited massage certification

Cayman in line for game changer Covid drugs

By Lindsey Turnbull

The Cayman Islands, as an Overseas Territory of the UK, is currently being considered for inclusion by the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office when it comes to the distribution of what has been termed "game changer" anti-viral drugs to help people fight Covid-19. These drugs are a simple pill that can be taken for five days at home, and which have been found to significantly reduce the chance of becoming sick should someone be exposed to Covid.

In an interview with *Caymanian Times* Publisher, Ralph Lewis, Cayman's Chief Medical Officer Dr John Lee spoke about the current drugs available in Cayman to people suffering from Covid and also these new drugs that were just around the corner for people in Cayman.

Drugs available if people got sick included Remdesivir and readily available steroids, while monoclonal antibodies were on order and should be arriving soon, Dr Lee said. However, Dr Lee said he was particularly excited about the emergence of antiviral tablets deployed in primary care that could be taken by people if they have had a known exposure and which would greatly reduce their chance of getting sick. The drugs were currently in the trial phases but their manufacturers were reporting they were effective, he said.

"The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office is considering its Overseas Territories in its advance purchase just like it did an advanced purchase for the vaccines. It's considering us in the advanced purchase for this category of drug, which will be enormously helpful in keeping people out of the hospitals, so that is

an exciting thing that we should hear more about by, I should think, Christmas," Dr Lee confirmed.

According to an article in the UK's *Guardian* newspaper, such an antiviral drug to treat coronavirus could be available within months in the UK after it was found to cut hospitalisations and deaths by half.

If approved, the antiviral drug would be the first simple pill shown to be effective against Covid-19 and would mark a major advance in the fight against the pandemic, the *Guardian* wrote. The latest drug, made by Merck, known as MSD outside the US, and Ridgeback Biotherapeutics, would be

the first that could be taken by at-risk patients at home. Merck said it would apply for emergency use authorisation for the drug in the US within the next two weeks and seek the green light for use in several other countries.



► Chief Medical Officer Dr John Lee

Working through the Covid outbreak

An interview with Dr John Lee

Talking to the Caymanian Times Publisher, Ralph Lewis, Cayman's Chief Medical Officer Dr John Lee gave some sage advice that people could follow during this current outbreak of Covid-19, which appears to be sweeping all three islands with rapid speed.

Dr Lee said he believed the current outbreak would continue to climb for a while but said he remained "relatively reassured" that the numbers of people in hospital were not high and were not needing that much support in terms of breathing.

"We must continue to go on and enjoy our lives and do the things we like to do with people that we love"

"But the vaccination clinics are still open and, I have to say to people time and time again, you know we've seen in other countries, in all of the Overseas Territories and our partner countries, that patients who end up in intensive care and the people who unfortunately die are those who are not vaccinated, so please do come forward and get your vaccination if you can and your booster dose if you are over 50," he stated.

Dr Lee said the Government had been working incredibly hard to prepare for this outbreak and things had "ramped up a good deal since September 8th". They had been meeting every day to undertake a mini operations committee chaired by the Deputy Governor, he advised.

"It is a concern when you have an infectious disease running throughout the community, but it is good that we had high vaccination rates particularly with the most vulnerable," he confirmed, adding that by far the most vulnerable are by age.

"Age 40 and above is where the serious illness and deaths start to climb and our vaccination rates in those groups are exceedingly high, yet we know that vaccines are not 100% effective, so the higher the vaccination rate the better. Having your booster is a good thing and that will serve to protect us," Dr Lee said.



► Chief Medical Officer Dr John Lee

The Delta variant was so infectious and Cayman was now unable to stop it as it was out in the community. Cayman was also at a disadvantage because the country had so little community protection, unlike other countries.

Dr Lee said that Cayman might have these Covid infection cycles for two to

three years to come and we would get more used to it

"I know it's a frightening thought for us at the minute because we have had such a calm period before this storm, but we will cycle through it. We must continue to go on and enjoy our lives and do the things we like to do with people that we love," he advised.

"But many will not need to seek advice because they will know the symptoms. It's just another virus," he said.

Benefits of lateral flows

Lateral flow tests should be used whenever needed, for example when visiting an elderly relative or taking part in a large group activity, to ensure everyone was Covid-free. Institutions on island such as the prison, hospice, schools and also the private sector have or will soon be instilling policies where they will test twice a week while Cayman has high community spread. This would allow the country to continue to function, because if a child registered as positive via a lateral flow but the vaccinated parent registered negative, the parent would still be able to work, he advised, provided the parent agreed to daily lateral flows. In this way the workforce wouldn't be "decimated" he said.

"Cayman might have these Covid infection cycles for two to three years to come and we will get more used to it"

Dr Lee hoped that businesses would provide employees with lateral flows. Government was supplying it for civil servants. It made sense for business continuity if employers ensured that their entire workforce was not impacted by one positive result.

Positive lateral flow tests would need to be logged on a website which would send an automatic message advising Public Health. The positive person would then need to isolate for 10 days if vaccinated and 14 if not vaccinated.

When the borders open on 20 November, Dr Lee said arriving people would still need to take a PCR test within 72 hours of travel to keep the borders secure from variants, and they would still be tested, even though they did not need to quarantine.

"They will need to do a lateral flow on days 2, 6 and 10," he confirmed.

FDA gives green light to Pfizer for kids

CONTINUED FROM Page 1

The next step is for America's Centers for Disease Control and prevention (CDC) to give approval, which is expected on 2nd November, which could then kickstart vaccines in America for this young age group on Wednesday 3rd November.

If given the go-ahead by the CDC, children aged 5 to 11 will be given one third of the dose that adults have been receiving over two doses three weeks apart. Pfizer reported that this has been 90.7% effective in preventing symptomatic sickness.

The FDA regulators had to decide if the risks of a very rare side effect from the Pfizer vaccine (heart inflammation) were significant enough to stop the approval, but they decided it was so rare that the benefits of preventing children from getting seriously ill from Covid-19 far outweighed the risk of this rare side effect.

In America, 160 children aged five to 11 have died of Covid-19 and the country has one of the highest numbers of death anywhere in the world at about 740,000 deaths from the virus.

The UK has only just started to give 12- to 15-year-olds the vaccine, given in just one dose, and, as an Overseas Territory of the UK, the Cayman Islands will have to wait until the UK gives its own approval for children aged 5 to 11 before Cayman children can receive the vaccine.

On Monday last week, Moderna announced positive results from its tests on giving its vaccine to children aged 6 to 11 and said it showed "a robust neutralising antibody response after two doses of mRNA-1273 at the 50-µg dose level with a favourable safety profile."

Moderna plans to submit this data to the FDA, the European Medicines Agency and other global regulators "in the near term".

At a recent press conference, the Chief Medical Officer, Dr John Lee, said the move to vaccinate younger children was good news and it meant a lot of people would be very pleased as they could keep their children safe, as a result, however the decision as to whether children aged 5 to 11 would be vaccinated would be in the hands of the parents and their children.

Cayman assists with regional tourism audit

People working in a management capacity within Cayman's tourism industry are being asked to complete a survey for the Caribbean Tourism Organisation (CTO) which will help the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism see how it needs to develop Cayman's tourism workforce.

The Regional Human Resources Development Knowledge and Skills Audit for the Tourism Industry has been commissioned by the CTO, with funding from the Caribbean Development Bank and CTO member countries and administered by A-Z Information Jamaica Limited (A-Z). Data gathered from the audit, which is being held Caribbean-wide, will allow the DOT to make informed decisions in its mission to develop a highly skilled tourism workforce, they said.

Tourism and Transport Minister Kenneth Bryan said that a primary focus for his Ministry was to ensure that Cayman's workforce had the necessary skills for the industry.

"By working with the CTO for this audit, we will gain valuable data to identify gaps and further invest in our people. I encourage all relevant members of the industry to take the time to complete these surveys as your participation will assist the government in improving our tourism product," he said.

The audit takes the form of a series of surveys targeted at different areas of the industry. The first survey is the General Establishment Survey that forms the primary data collection portion of the project. This survey should be completed by owners, CEOs, managing directors, general managers, or HR managers in the tourism industry including those who are self-employed. This first survey is available until Monday, 1st November 2021.

The DOT is helping to facilitate this project by providing information to A-Z who will distribute the surveys directly to relevant members of the industry. Additionally, anybody interested who are in a



► Audit should help tourism get back on its feet

management level as outlined can complete the survey by visiting the DOT website. Over the course of the next four weeks, other surveys will become available for completion, the DOT stated.

DOT Director Rosa Harris said that they were dedicated to sup-

porting Cayman's tourism workforce and collaborating with regional partners to investigate opportunities for people through research. The information would be used to further inform the Department's decisions as it continued to develop national tourism

training opportunities, she advised.

For more information on the Regional Human Resources Development Knowledge and Skills Audit for the Tourism Industry and survey details, please visit skills.ourcayman.ky

Tourism Ministry and DOT sponsor hospitality courses

Two new courses are being launched by the Ministry of Tourism and Department of Tourism to provide industry-specific training for Caymanians. The Shaker International Bartenders and American Hotel and Lodging Educational Institute and the Wine and Spirits Education Trust Front of House courses are taught by Wineschool3 and are aimed at elevating the Cayman Islands tourism experience.

As part of the DOT National Tourism Training Programme, 41 Caymanians will be offered the exclusive opportunity to attend these courses in partnership with Wineschool3. These accredited courses will be free of charge and offered to qualifying Caymanians who either wish to launch a career or develop their skills in the drinks and hospitality industry.

The Shaker International Bartenders course includes practical skills and the theoretical knowledge required for professional bartending either in bars, restaurants and hotels. The syllabus includes five modules which covers the mechanics of bartending, customer service, beer, wine and champagne service and cocktail mixology.

Participants, who will be provided with bar tending kits to

complete the course, must be over the legal age for drinking alcohol (18 years old) and meet the qualifying criteria to be considered. Students will be required to attend at least 80% of the sessions and pass the WSET exams to obtain international certificates, which is a recognised qualification in the Cayman Islands.

The bartending training will be open to 16 Caymanians (proof of citizenship required) and will begin on 8 November for 12 days, running from Monday to Saturday 9am to 5pm (off Sunday).

The Front of House training course focuses on training students to offer an outstanding dining experience with the highest level of professionalism. The course is designed to facilitate 'work ready' hospitality employees who can build a career in the service industry while enhancing Cayman's Tourism product.

The syllabus includes a variety of topics to ensure that individuals possess a broad scope of skills needed for the fast-paced hospitality industry. This includes meeting and greeting guests, restaurant server training, service sequence, kitchen safety guidelines, sanitation regulations, up-selling and more.

The Front of House Server Training will be open for 25 Caymanians (proof of citizenship required) and will run for five consecutive days from 22 November, 9am to 5pm.

Course and registration details

For full course details and syllabus of both the Shaker International Bartenders and Front of House courses are taught by Wineschool3 visit www.wineschool.ourcayman.ky Interested participants must complete the online application form at www.wineschool.ourcayman.ky

The registration deadline for both courses is Thursday 3 November 2021 5pm, following which a screening process will take place to select the successful candidates.

The Minister for Tourism, Kenneth Bryan, said: "As we continue working towards reopening our borders and inviting visitors back to our island, it is imperative that we also continue to upskill our employees in the tourism sector. Job opportunities will be opening up for Caymanians who wish to work in hospitality and having this type of accredited certification will be an added advantage. I en-



► Bartending courses are available

courage persons who are interested in enhancing their skills or joining the industry to register for these courses so that we can

have more Caymanians directly engaged with delivering exceptional tourism experiences for our visitors."



► Leader of the Opposition, Roy McTaggart, gets his vaccination booster jab



► George Town MP Barbara Conolly gets her vaccination booster jab

Opposition get their boosters

By Christopher Tobutt

Leader of the Opposition, Roy McTaggart rolled up his sleeve for his vaccination booster shot at the Lions Centre on Thursday 28 October. The H.S.A has made the booster shots available, free of charge, to anyone who is over the age of 50, or considered vulnerable due to some other medical reason. There should be a 6-month gap between the second vaccination (leading to ‘fully vaccinated status,’) and the booster shot.

“I think it’s important that everyone becomes fully vaccinated as quickly as we can do so. Vaccinations are the only real way we can protect the country and protect our people from the debilitating effects of the virus, and I think it just behooves everyone to take their vaccinations and make sure they’re protected,” Mr. McTaggart said. “One of the things I am doing here this morning and I hope people will appreciate is we are leading by example, in coming together here in order to show Cayman that we are not only pro-vaccine, and pro-booster-shots, but taking it ourselves.”

George Town MPs Barbara Conolly, David Wight, and Alden McLaughlin were there too, filling in the forms on the cards which are issued to everyone who takes the booster jab. Whatever differences the Government and the Opposition might have, they are all singing off the same page when it comes to being pro-vaccination as the only real way forward for the country.

“I’m here today to take my booster jab,” said Ms. Conolly, “The importance of the

booster is to protect us, and to keep us safe, and I would encourage more and more of my constituents as well as the people of the Cayman Islands as a whole to come out and take the booster. At the end of the day it’s to keep us all safe, and to keep this virus from spreading.”

Mr. Wight had a good, real-life example to tell about the vaccine’s effectiveness: “My brother and his wife went to visit her family in Virginia, and he was there, with them in the same house for a week. The grandparents started to feel ill, and they went and took a Covid test, and it turned out that they had Covid. But my brother had no symptoms, because he had taken the vaccination, but all the others who were feeling ill hadn’t had the vaccination.”

Opposition Leader Mr. McTaggart said he hadn’t got a problem with the Government’s plans to open up the country on 20 November, saying: “We have told the Government and told the country that we have to reopen, but we have to do so in as safe a manner as possible. And the safest

way to do that is to make sure people are vaccinated. I think it’s important that all the services that we rely on, whether its

education, health, or other services such as police, everybody is ready for us to reopen,” he added.



► Members of the Opposition after their booster-jab. Left to right, Alden McLaughlin, Barbara Conolly, H.S.A Registered Nurse who administered the shots, David Wight, and Leader of the Opposition Mr. Roy McTaggart.



► Former Premier, Alden McLaughlin gets his booster jab



► David and Ethan with their nanny



► (L-r) Shawn Seymour, Amy and Christian



► Justin and his amazing pumpkin outfit

Kids enjoy spooky time at Pedro St. James

By Christopher Tobutt

Dms put on a big Spookfest for little kids at Pedro St. James Castle, on Saturday 30 October. There were all kinds of fancy dress costumes, from the really spooky ones to some that were just funny or just great, like a great big pumpkin outfit which Justin's dad had made for him. Then there were a pair of Harry Potters, too, pottering about and trying all the different fun stalls, along with plenty of witches and quite a few ghosts, too. What was really great was that the kids got a treat whether or not they actually won anything, and pretty soon, their 'trick or treat,' buckets were filling right up.

"It's fantastic, its well-coordinated, and my little one has had the most fun, which is always the most important aspect of the day," said Zane, one of the dads. There were some refreshment and cake stalls too, and Jazzy Cakes' owner Elizabeth Larsen was selling all kinds of spooky-themed cakes, including spider's web cookies and pumpkin flavored brownies.

Dms' General Sales Manager, Michael Keese said: "Today's our annual Spookfest, our Halloween event for families. It's free to the public and we've partnered with Pedro St James this year. It's a little unique this year, making sure that the Covid restrictions are met, but every is having a lot of fun, and the turnout has been really good, despite the rain."



► Rosie and her dad with the big hammer



► Zane, Cher and little Kai



► Noa who was a little witch for the day



► Jaiden Ebanks was a ghost pirate



► Scarlet and her dad, Carlos were pirates for the day



► Alex and Dylan, two Harry Potters

Booster programme continues for persons 50 and over

The Covid-19 vaccination clinic will continue to administer booster shots to persons age 50 and over, the clinically vulnerable and healthcare workers. The third dose of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine must be administered at least six months after the second dose. Persons eligible to receive their booster should bring along their vaccination card or digital certificate showing proof of their second dose and a government issued photo ID.

Doses 1 and 2 are still available to persons age 12 and over at any Covid-19 vaccine clinic.

For the safety of staff and patients, persons who are experi-

encing flu-like symptoms are asked to wait until they are feeling well to be vaccinated.

If you are home bound and unable to attend one of the vaccination clinics, please contact the Flu Hotline 947-3077, 1-800-534-8600, flu@hsa.ky or your local HSA District Health Centre and arrangements will be made with a Public Health nurse to provide your vaccine in the comfort of your home.

AstraZeneca

Persons interested in receiving the AstraZeneca vaccine are asked to contact the Flu Hotline by phone (1-800-534-8600 or

947-3077) or by email at flu@hsa.ky.

General vaccine info

- Vaccines are available to persons 12 years and older
- Parental consent required for children 12-17 years old
- When receiving your second or third dose, you MUST also bring along your vaccination card or present your digital vaccination certificate reflecting your previous doses
- Third dose must be administered at least six (6) months after your second dose
- The date on your vaccination card for the second dose



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is the earliest that is recommended

- All persons must present photo identification showing date of birth
- Facemask required – Please bring your own.
- Do NOT laminate your vaccination card

After receiving a vaccine persons can sign up for the MyHSA Patient Portal which provides access to your digital Covid vaccine certificate. For more information on the Portal or to sign up online, please visit <https://www.hsa.ky/our-services/patient-portal-info>

COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule – NOV 2021

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR OWN FACE MASK



The COVID-19 vaccine is available to ALL persons 12 years and over
 First and second doses are currently available to all persons.
 Boosters are being administered in phases (see below)

| Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|--|---|--|--|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
| 1st & 2nd Dose available to all persons 12 years and older | | | | | |
| Boosters (3rd Dose) available to healthcare workers, 50+ years old and clinically extremely vulnerable (see criteria below)* | | | | | |
| NO CLINIC | LIONS CENTRE 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm | LIONS CENTRE 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm | NORTH SIDE DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRE 5pm - 8pm | CAMANA BAY** NEW LOCATION 9am – 12:30pm 2 – 5pm (Canella Court, 2nd Floor, adjacent observation tower) | CAMANA BAY** NEW LOCATION 9am – 12:30pm 2 – 5pm (Canella Court, 2nd Floor, adjacent observation tower) |
| 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 1st & 2nd Dose available to all persons 12 years and older | | | | | |
| Boosters (3rd Dose) available to healthcare workers, 50+ years old & clinically extremely vulnerable (see criteria below)* | | | | | |
| SAVANNAH/NEWLANDS COMMUNITY OFFICE 4-7pm | LIONS CENTRE 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm | LIONS CENTRE 11am – 3pm 4:30 – 7pm | BODDEN TOWN DISTRICT HEALTH CENTRE 5pm – 8pm | CAMANA BAY** NEW LOCATION 9am – 12:30pm 2 – 5pm (Canella Court, 2nd Floor, adjacent observation tower) | CAMANA BAY** NEW LOCATION 9am – 12:30pm 2 – 5pm (Canella Court, 2nd Floor, adjacent observation tower) |



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CARIBBEAN BRIEFS

Jamaica scoops region's awards again

Jamaica continued its dominance at the annual World Travel Awards, taking the Caribbean's Leading Destination and Caribbean's Leading Cruise Destination trophies at this year's staging in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

Jamaica also won the Caribbean's Leading Adventure Tourism Destination and Caribbean's Leading Nature Destination categories.



► Jamaica's Sandals South Coast won an award

The Jamaica Tourist Board was named Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board, while several hotels and attractions emerged big winners. Dunn's River Falls won Caribbean's Leading Adventure Tourist Attraction; Eclipse at Half Moon received the Caribbean's Leading New Hotel; Sandals Resorts International was again voted Caribbean's Leading Hotel Brand, with winners among its Jamaican portfolio including Sandals South Coast taking the Caribbean's Leading Hon-

ymoon Resort award. There were numerous other awards for Jamaican villas, airports, hotel residences, tour operators, entertainment venues and luxury resorts.

Tourism Minister Edmund Bartlett said: "Jamaica is truly honoured to be recognised in this way by the esteemed World Travel Awards group. Indeed, these accolades are a testament to the confidence the global travel industry has in Jamaica and all we have to offer."

European volcano dust affects Grenada

Parts of Grenada are being affected by volcanic ash from the Cumbre Vieja volcano in the Canary Islands, 5,000 miles away in Europe. It began erupting on 19 September.

The Meteorological Office at the Maurice Bishop International Airport confirmed that the hazy conditions that the island has been experiencing for the past few days are due to a combination of Saharan dust and volcanic ash.

The National Disaster Management Agency (NaDMA) encouraged motorists and marine users to be cautious because of reduced visibility.

The Ministry of Health advised people with respiratory challenges such as asthma and other allergies "to wear a mask, avoid outdoor contact, if possible, ensure you have an adequate supply of medication and to be in contact with your medical physician, in the event such intervention is needed".



► Grenada's main airport is being affected by volcanic ash

Scientists said that initially, the plumes of sulphur dioxide from the volcano travelled east from the Canary Islands to northern Africa and southern Europe. However, because of a change in wind direction in early October, the plume is now flowing across the Atlantic and over the Caribbean.

Grenada was also affected by ash plumes from the La Soufriere volcano in St Vincent and the Grenadines when it erupted in December 2020.

Mottley: give Barbados climate change help

Barbados is battling climate change and feels it is on the "front line," said Prime Minister Mia Mottley. Like many Caribbean islands, Barbados is threatened by rising sea levels and extreme weather events like hurricanes that are increasing in intensity and frequency.

Emerging countries like Barbados need financial assistance to adapt to and mitigate against climate change, Mottley insisted.

Twelve years ago, developed nations pledged \$100 billion a year towards helping them do it by 2020, but that target was not met. Mottley is among world leaders at the climate change conference (COP26) in Scotland arguing that sufficient measures are not being made. It's not just

a question of countries sharing responsibilities, she said, but of ensuring their very existence. "This issue is about life and death for us. It is an issue about the stability of a nation."

Mottley has made tackling the country's spiralling debt a priority, and she negotiated a debt restructuring for Barbados shortly after taking office in 2018 that included "natural-disaster clauses" to allow a break in interest repayments in the aftermath of extreme weather events. But the combined impact of those disasters and the Covid-19 pandemic has taken a heavy toll economically on the island. "You are effectively talking about the potential loss of a decade," Mottley said.



► Mia Mottley was outspoken at COP26

Trinidad-JA popular flights resume

The Trinidad-based Caribbean Airlines will soon resume direct flights to Jamaica following the lifting of the travel restrictions that had been imposed between the two islands because of the coronavirus pandemic.

CAL said that the service will resume from 1 December and that the flights are timed to facilitate same-day onward connections to Nassau, Bahamas and other destinations.

According to CAL, the flights will operate on Wednesday and Friday mornings, with return flights from Kingston to Port of Spain on Wednesday and Friday evenings.

The airline also announced that flights from Kingston to Nassau will be on Wednesday mornings and the return that evening.



► Caribbean Airlines flies from Port of Spain to Kingston soon

CAL also announced that its services between Port of Spain and Jamaica to Saint Maarten will resume on 11 December.

The airline urged passengers to use its website to verify entry requirements and other important travel information for any destination, as well as make appointments for Covid-19 tests.

Dominican pupils get more digital

Dominica's Ministry of Education has started the distribution of electronic devices to school pupils island wide.

This is a direct response to the challenges faced this school year, as a spike in Covid-19 cases meant more online lessons. This decision was taken in a bid to keep staff and students safe without a major disruption in the academic year.

During the distribution of devices in the Grand Bay Constituency, Prime Minister Roosevelt Skerit encouraged pupils to make the most of this opportunity for their education.

So far 55 students at the Tete Morne Primary, 122 at the Grand Bay Primary, 80 students at the Roseau Primary, 180 from the Goodwill Primary and 167 from the Atkinson, Salybia, Sineku and Concord Primary schools have received their new devices.



► Dominican pupils are grateful for their tablets

Education minister Octavia Alfred explained that the distribution of devices planned for prior to the beginning of the school year, but had to be delayed due to the pandemic. Alfred said that over 3,000 devices have been sourced and will be distributed to students around the island.

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

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

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Answer to previous puzzle

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

Difficulty Level ★ 3/30

Difficulty Level ★★

3/31

CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

- 1 With no markup
- 7 Play group
- 11 State division
- 12 "Lonely Boy" singer
- 13 Tooth-brush target
- 14 River of Hades
- 15 Tennis star Andre
- 17 Ginger cookie
- 20 Annoyed state
- 23 Wallet bill
- 24 Dragging on the shore
- 26 Mob pariah
- 27 Stephen of "The Crying Game"
- 28 Lend a hand
- 29 Electric company, e.g.
- 31 King of France
- 32 Brimless hat
- 33 Unit of force
- 34 Hesitant
- 37 Rugged rock
- 39 Inferior
- 43 Fast runner

DOWN

- 44 Tempt
- 45 Printer's supplies
- 46 Took a breather
- 1 Do something
- 2 Grind — halt
- 3 Nasty dog
- 4 Like bar beer
- 5 Doe's mate
- 6 Model Banks
- 7 "Othello" character
- 8 Expert in old objects
- 9 Sun setting
- 10 Price addition
- 16 Aerosol output
- 17 Walk with pride
- 18 "Keen!"
- 19 Subatomic particle
- 21 Labor group
- 22 Jockey Arcaro
- 24 Spring sign
- 25 Attain
- 30 Fencing moves
- 33 Owed amounts
- 35 Manual reader
- 36 Celtic letter
- 37 Greek X
- 38 Campaigned
- 40 Peach part
- 41 Poker card
- 42 Wine choice

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

Yesterday's answer

Word Search

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

- Ally
- Angel
- Associate
- Backer
- Buddy
- Chum
- Collaborator
- Colleague
- Comrade
- Confere
- Crony
- Friend
- Helper
- Mate
- Partner
- Patron
- Second
- Sidekick
- Supporter

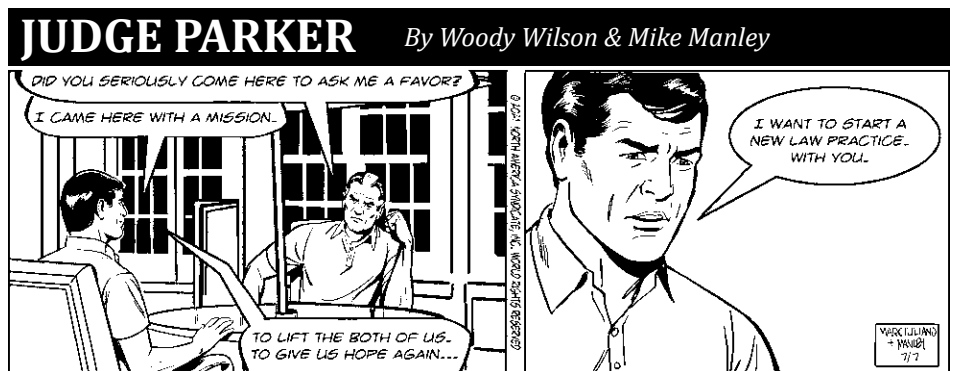
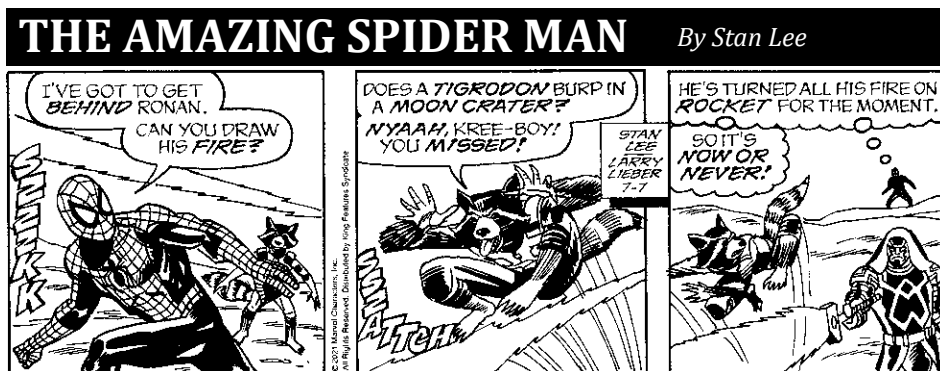
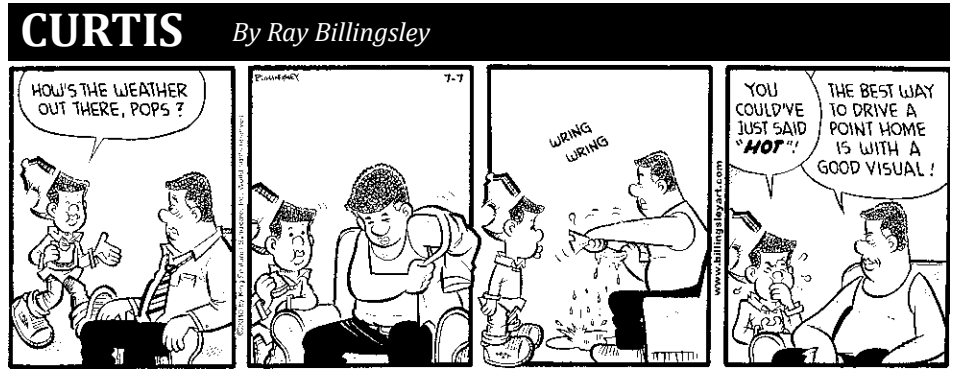
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions – forward, back, up, down and diagonally.

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

7-7



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