THE CAYMAN REP ORTER www.caymanreporter.com

FREE

WEDNESDAY

January 4, 2017 Issue 407

Big issues ahead as elections loom

O By Ron Shillingford

Any year that holds general elections is an extremely significant one and when the Cayman Islands goes to the polls on May 24 many issues will weigh heavily on voters' minds as they sign their ballot. The fact that this is the first time that the new system of one man, one vote is introduced gives it an added significance. The Progressives under Premier Alden McLaughlin are in power and consensus is that the new voting system will favour them, but McKeeva Bush, leader

of the Opposition United Democratic Party, has huge swathes of popularity in Cayman and his decades in politics has made him some powerful allies. Employment, permanent residence, crime and Cayman main industries of the financial sector and tourism are the main issues affecting the average voter. How the election pans out depends on how well each party can convince the electorate that their way is best for the future of the Cayman Islands.

For more on the big issues in Cayman this year, turn to page 6

Irish Jog funds on offer

The popular annual St. Patrick's Day 5K Irish Jog is scheduled for Friday, March 17, with local charities being asked to send letters of request to be considered as the recipient of funds raised.

Now in its 25th year, the fun run is hosted by Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Limited, who this year are also partnering with Dart Enterprises. "We're pleased to be able to partner with Dart on our much-loved community event, and expect this year to be our best year yet," Michael McWatt, managing director of Butterfield Bank (Cayman) Limited, said in a press release. Chris Duggan, VP,

Dart Enterprises added that the Dart team are looking forward to being a part of the popular event. "The Irish Jog is a well-respected, long-standing family tradition in the community and we're very happy to be getting involved in its milestone 25th year to help raise funds for a local charity," Duggan said. Local charities are invited to send letters of request to sponsorships.cayman@butterfieldgroup.com by Friday, Jan. 6, 2017.

Representatives from Butterfield and Dart will review all of the requests and announce the recipient charity in early January 2017.

Fatal boat accident

A man was killed in a boating accident on Jan.1 in North Sound.

At around 6:15 p.m. the 911 Communications Centre dispatched Police and ambulance services to a report at the Cayman Islands Yacht Club of a male having received serious injuries from a boating incident. Two men were said to have been testing a vessel in the North Sound when a steering failure occurred, causing one of the men,

49, of West Bay, to be thrown overboard and struck by the boat. They were assisted by the crew of another vessel who brought both men to shore. The victim was transported to the George Town Hospital, but succumbed to his injuries early Monday morning.

The incident is under investigation by the Joint Marine Unit. The RCIPS extends their condolences to the family of the victim.

Camana Bay sparkles as New Year begins



Camana Bay on New Year's Eve was full of fun and fireworks. The fireworks came in two stages: the first display which had "oohs" and "aarhs" aplenty from the merrymakers who had gathered around the Christmas tree by the little island started at 7 p.m. Then a selection of local DJs kept the beats — and the anticipation — going until the big display — at midnight of course. Photo: Christopher Tobutt For more photos, turn to page 3



LOCAL

News in brief

Suspect arrested

A man, age 23 of George Town, was arrested on Dec. 29 on suspicion of attempted murder in connection with the shooting that occurred outside the Fete Night Club in the early hours of Dec. 26. He is in police custody. The shooting victim, an 18-year-old man, is in stable condition after undergoing treatment.

Patient airlifted

The RCIPS helicopter assisted on Dec. 29 with a medical transfer from Cayman Brac's Faith Hospital to Grand Cayman. The 58-year-old female patient was in need of urgent medical attention from specialists at George Town Hospital. The helicopter crew used the police helipad at the Faith Hospital, enabling them to complete the transfer from one hospital to another within an hour after the Cayman Islands **Emergency Medical Services** Unit met the helicopter at Owen Roberts International Airport to complete the transfer. The patient received the needed medical care and is currently in stable

Drugs duo charged

A man and woman arrested on possession of drugs in a police operation on Dec. 27 were charged on Dec. 29 and appeared in court. The man, 35, of West Bay, and woman, 30, of George Town, were both charged with possession with Intent to cocaine and marijuana, possession of cocaine and marijuana and money laundering. The man was also chared with conspiracy to supply cocaine.

The woman was bailed with stringent conditions and the man was remanded to custody. Both are scheduled to next appear in court on Jan. 5.

Cubans moved

The 34 Cuban migrants who landed in Cayman Brac over the holiday weekend, were transferred to Grand Cayman on Dec. 29. The Department of Immigration, with the assistance of other law enforcement agencies, also repatriated 19 migrants to Cuba on the same day. To date there are 85 Cuban migrants in Grand Cayman awaiting repatriation. They are housed at the Immigration Detention Centre or an approved facility. ©

Carnival 2017 launches

collection

Iconz Cayman launched its Cayman Carnival 2017 costume collection at Abacus in Camana Bay last week.

When the colourful creations made their appearance on the runway, they were met with an energetic and enthusiastic audience response on Dec. 28.

The theme for this year's collection is Paradise, and is split into two sections called Utopia and Shangri-La to play on the motif.

Eleven models strutted the runway to a live soca mix by Irie FM's DJ Marz. The models showcased the glittering jewels of the costumes, which also feature extensive feather work in the iridescent Paradise colours of teal, lime green, magenta and peach.

Iconz Cayman is a carnival mas band developed by sisters Rachel Smyth, Paige Smyth and Kelly Brown. The costumes are designed by veteran carnival costume designer Devika Singh, who is originally from Trinidad & Tobago and is based in New York.

The band is presented this year by local telecommunications provider C3 Pure Fibre and is also sponsored by Hurley's Media, parent company of Cayman 27, and Brown's Esso – Red Bay and Industrial Park.

In addition to the spectacular female costumes, there will also be a male



All of the Iconz Cayman models lined up in the "Paradise" themed costumes for Cayman Carnival 2017



Courtney McTaggart in a costume from the Shangri-La section

section which consists of board shorts and T-shirts in the colours relating to the female sections.

There will be limited costumes available due to the detail and intricacy of the costumes, from the beading to the feather work.

The organisers are currently working on online registration, but in the meantime revelers interested in signing up for a costume can contact caymaniconz@gmail.com.

CUC trio bow out after long service history

CUC recently celebrated 50 years of operations in Grand Cayman and bade goodbye to three long-serving employees who retired.

Kenzel Dixon, Thomas Bennett and Val Whittaker served CUC for 44, 42, and 27 years respectively and they were celebrated for their long service which started during the formative years of the company.

Each of the trio served in various positions during their career at CUC incluing lineman foreman, plant operation supervisor and heavy duty mechanic. A retirement celebration was held in their honour and they were toasted by the CUC executive and management teams as well as colleagues with whom they had worked with over the years.

President and CEO Richard Hew, said: "CUC is well known for having many long serving Caymanian employees and we are proud to be able to celebrate with these three gentlemen who have worked with CUC for



CUC retirees, from left, Val Whittaker, Kenzel Dixon and Thomas Bennett

such a long time.

"They have shared their many years of experience and knowledge and we are grateful to them for their loyalty and dedication over the years. Even though these gentlemen have retired, they will forever be a part of the CUC family. We wish them good health and a long retirement."

Tailoring, dressmaking, Alterations, upholstery & Shoe Repairs. We also make & Repair curtains, Bags, cushions, draperies & more

Turn In the lane at Button Wood Plaza Shedden Rd GT, 946 9283

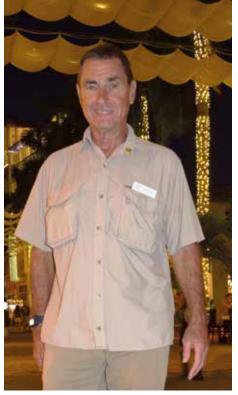
Gunmen foiled in robbery attempt

Two gunmen attempted the robbery of a money transfer vehicle in George Town on Dec. 31. Armed police responded shortly after 7:30 p.m. at the Cayman National Bank, Elgin Avenue. During a cash deposit stop at the location, two persons armed with what appeared to be handguns approached the vehicle. After their attempt was unsuccessful, the two made off on foot towards the

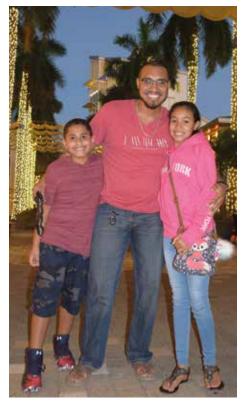
rear of the CNB parking lot towards the Smith Road direction. Both were said to be wearing red jackets and their faces covered. Searches of the area was carried out, however they were not located.

No cash was stolen, no shots were fired and no one was injured during the incident. The matter is under investigation by the Criminal Investigation Department.

NY ringing in the changes







Nicola, Felix and Soléya Manzanares



Guadaloupe, Luisa, Angie, Brayan, Keyled and Jose



Monia, Nicole, Chrishana and Quanlee



Monique Powell, Camille Harrison, Kimberly Conolly and Sharine Robinson

Newlands

Refreshments for ALL!



Shaun, Michelle, Eli, and Bella Tarer



Erral, Rayné and Kylie Reid



Elisabeth Bise, Sophie Leiper and Victoria Bise



Marco Gaspar and Sonia Silva



Gloria and Sherlock Farrington



VIEWP INT

The Cayman Reporter

seeks to promote social and economic development, better understanding and unity among all the people of the Cayman Islands.

The Cayman Reporter

Editor: Joanna Lewis Acting Editor: Ron Shillingford P O. Box 10663, Grand Cayman KY1 - 1006 Cayman Islands, BWI Tel: (345) 946-6060

Email:

news@caymanreporter.com sales@caymanreporter.com editor@caymanreporter.com

Web:

www.caymanreporter.com Letters to the editor and online forum policy

The Cayman Reporter invites correspondence on all issues. In the interest of openness and transparency, we will not accept correspondence that is unsigned. We request that all letters be submitted with a name for publication regardless of content, and names and contact details of the writer be supplied. We will in special circumstances protect a writer's identity only after we have established good cause for anonymity, otherwise we will not be able to publish the correspondence. Letters can be e-mailed to news@caymanreporter.com Writers may also drop their letters into

The Cayman Reporter offices at

19 Walker Rd, George Town

Sweeping it under the rug Those in our community and leadership who express surprise at

the upsurge in violent crime in the Cayman Islands in the past decade are a part of the problem, which has been as plain as the noses on their faces for some time to those of us who choose not to live in denial.

The increase in shootings, gun crimes, armed robberies and murders in the Cayman Islands in the post-Hurricane Ivan period did not come out of the clear blue sky. The causes of this crime surge have been brewing in our Islands' underbelly for the last three decades.

While all stayed relatively quiet, it remained convenient to sweep the issues in Cavman's ghetto underclass under the rug. If we didn't see it or talk about it, perhaps it did not exist. Perhaps many thought the problems would remain localised to poor neighbourhoods, where drug abuse and alcoholism became commonplace and combined with family dysfunction to create toxic environments for the breeding of gangs and criminals.

However, given Cayman's small size and surface affluence, it was a pipe dream to think that crime would not affect our entire community. With the pocket ghettos of George Town and West Bay practically a literal stone's throw from the glittering wealth in the Seven Mile Beach area, it should have been easy to see what would happen.

While crime and violence initially affected only those who lived in close proximity to one another, robberies, armed robberies, and burglaries increasingly affected the wider community and Cayman's more affluent areas and residents. It is only then that the alarm was sounded, but still - nothing has really been done to address the root causes of crime and gang activity in our Islands.

Instead, we increase mandatory minimum sentences and throw more and more money at the police, all the while local security companies are booming off the demand for security guards and alarm systems.

The Cayman Islands were far from immune from what has become known as the "crack epidemic" in the United States from the mid-80s to the mid-90s. During that time, there was a surge of crack cocaine use in major cities across the United States, which resulted in increasing crime and violence in American inner-city neighborhoods, as well as a backlash in the form of tough on crime policies. Sound familiar?

During the same time, the Caribbean was a major transshipment route for cocaine to the United States, which is widely regarded as the largest overall consumer market of narcotics in the world. Cayman, with its geographical position close to the international hub of Miami, increasingly became a part of the distribution route for cocaine from South America to the USA and Canada.

In tandem with the appearance of crack cocaine in the USA, drug traffickers using Cayman as a transshipment point began to pay their local cohorts not in cash, but in product. And voila! The appearance of crack cocaine in Cayman. And since the local contact points wanted to make money from their role in the distribution, they introduced the product into the local population - starting in their own neighbourhoods.

Undoubtedly, the local "drug kingpins" realised that it was also easier to keep their "foot soldiers" - or low level petty local dealers, compliant by feeding them quantities of the drug. It also worked with girlfriends too. Many of these local dealers were also pimps.

Looking back, those

Caymanians in the high school graduating classes of the late 80s and early 90s can look through their high school yearbooks and circle the pictures or names of those who fell prey to this local pocket of the epidemic.

Sadly, it was also around this time that the young "gang bangers" and "thugs" of present day Cayman were born. Some were born to drug-addicted mothers, who either neglected or abused them - or both. Local social services became familiar with cases of children, babies, being left on their own with no supervision and worse. Most had no father figures in their lives, with families broken down by drug abuse and alcoholism. They were not raised, but dragged up – as some of the older Caymanians would say.

Some of them became targets for pedophiles and abusers. Others were easy pickings for older criminals who formed the nucleus of the local "gang" system. If you grow up with no one to love you, you will be looking for love in all the wrong places.

Some of the children were themselves born addicted to drugs, and then due to their mothers' addictions, grew up with "attachment disorder" or other mental problems caused by abuse and neglect. Attachment disorder is a term used to describe disorders of mood, behaviour, and social relationships arising from a failure to form normal attachments to primary care giving figures in early childhood.

Due to a corresponding breakdown in Caymanian society of the traditional extended family unit, there were often no strong matriarchal or patriarchal figures within the family structure to "save" these children. Instead, they grew up in a chaotic and sometimes dangerous environment. Some of these neglected and abused children,

who are now in their late teens and early to mid-twenties, have become the criminals of today. And they are angrier and bolder than their historical counterparts (who are often their fathers, uncles, cousins) and with more fire power - as within the same time frame, the flow of illegal guns into our Islands also increased.

Our government leaders have long known what the causes of criminal behaviour in Cayman are. The famous report by criminologist Yolande C Forde that outlined pre-disposing factors to criminality in the Cayman Islands was both comprehensive and expensive. And to our knowledge, has never been acted on in a coherent and strategic way.

Instead, we had successive police commissioners and governments deny that Cayman had gangs, and seek to downplay violent crime. We mustn't scare off the tourists and rich investors, after all. Infamously, previous Commissioner of Police David Baines publicly said that there were only a handful of violent "shooters" in these Islands. Since that time, crime has only increased and murders and shootings have gone from being practically unheard of to being almost commonplace.

It is time to stop sweeping it all under the rug. It is time to address the root causes of criminality in our people. We must deal with drug abuse, child abuse, child neglect, and poverty in a holistic way. We cannot just keep throwing our young men and boys in Northward and expecting things to change. They won't. The conditions that bred them are still there.

With the General Elections coming up on May 24, we look forward to hearing candidates' strategies on combatting crime - not from the enforcement end, but from a standpoint of prevention and rehabilitation.

Living in 'post-truth' times

O By Thomas Johnson

Our English language changes all the time. Words fall out of fashion. New expressions appear in conversations and on the internet or in print. People invent words. The Oxford English Dictionary tries to keep pace with the new verbal landscape and announces a "Word of the Year", a bit like Time magazine's "Person of the Year". Guess who this person was this year? No prizes if you answered the man who will be inaugurated as the next President of the United States. This is an outcome that becomes no less mad each time I think about it. The word of this year is "post-truth". This word

is habitually paired with politics. This has become a feature of the world in which we live. It applies to an expression or a much-quoted 'fact' that is not, actually, a fact at all. But, it is considered useful. Look back at the European Brexit Referendum in the UK. An oft-quoted example is the claim made by the Vote Leave campaign that, "We send the EU £350 million a week. Let's fund our NHS instead." They had it emblazoned on the sides of a battle bus that toured the country spreading.... the lie. Well, actually, it was being economical with the truth. It ignored the fact that the EU sent back many millions in grants and subsidies every day.

The actual truth, the real facts were made available to the public but were dismissed by the Vote Leave side as Project Fear.

On the other side of the Atlantic the presidential campaign had its own share of post-truth moments. Social media has become the battleground. On these sites anything, absolutely anything goes. There are no rules; you make them up as you go along. So, someone will claim that the Pope endorses Trump's candidature and the posting goes viral. Complete falsehood, of course, but, as I noted earlier, effective even if it is not true. Ill-founded rumours about Hillary's health were just as effective, so The Donald

commented: "Something's going on, but I hope she gets well." Yes, something was going on, but it was nothing to do with his opponent's health but it was another example of post-truth getting further airplay.

We have lived through a year that everyone finds difficult to sum up. It has certainly been 12 months of surprise after surprise. However, some folk must be happy the way things turned out; like the 52% who turned out to vote leave in the EU referendum. Republicans should be happy; they have taken back control, of two Houses of cCongress and the White House. But what of truth and how have the facts fared? Truly, it has been a sad year for both.

I will leave the last words to someone from the pages of history.... he knew the value of Posttruth politics sixty years before the word was invented Full marks if you can tell who said them: -

"If you tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, people will eventually come to believe it. The lie can be maintained only for such time as the State can shield the people from the political, economic and/or military consequences of the lie.... the truth is the greatest enemy of the State."

Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's propagandist, wrote these chilling words. 💿

WWW.CAYMANREPORTER.COM **TELEPHONE 345-946-6060**

COMMENTARY ______ Wednesday 4 January, 2017 Issue 407 THE CAYMAN REPORTER PAGE 5

Premier McLaughlin is upbeat for 2017

(For an unedited version of Premier Alden McLaughlin's New Year speech, please visit caymanreporter.com)

As we clear away the torn wrapping paper, take down the decorations and swear to go on a diet after the indulgences of the Christmas season, the start of the New Year provides an opportunity for reflection.

It is a time to count our blessings, to thank God for his favour and to spare a thought and a good deed for those less fortunate than ourselves.

It is time for resolutions and to look forward to new opportunities and new beginnings. 2016 has been an eventful year and there is much upon which to reflect.

It was an Olympic year and we were all proud to see our delegates and athletes flying the Cayman flag on the world stage.

It was also a year in which as Premier I had the opportunity on the world stage at the Anti-Corruption Summit in London to defend the position and the record of the Cayman Islands regarding international cooperation with respect to tax matters and our robust anti-corruption regime.

It was a year during which we were successful in having the U.K. better understand and agree on our approach to the exchange of beneficial ownership information in relation to Cayman Islands corporate entities. And in so doing continued our leadership in this critical area.

It was a year in which Cayman's Minister of Finance was recognized internationally. This well-deserved award was both a reflection of the minister's hard work and an acknowledgement that the government's policies with respect to both government finances and the economy are succeeding.

It was a year when more Caymanians were employed at any time since 2007.

It was a year when the Cayman Islands government regained control of our budget and a year where the Cayman economy continued to improve, with growth exceeding projections.

It was an historic year regarding the passage of significant pieces of legislation.

The National Minimum Wage Law and a law permitting the use of medical marijuana are two examples of such legislation. New legislation providing consumer protection was also passed to help ensure that key industry sectors, including the petroleum sector, are not only competitive in services and quality but also in pricing.

And this year also saw the signing of the renegotiated Dart/ NRA Agreement. We now have a much improved agreement that truly benefits Cayman and the Dart corporation has committed to increased levels of development, including the widening of the Esterly Tibbetts Highway, which is currently underway.

And as the year was winding down Government, with the support of the community, rallied to purchase the property adjacent to Smith's Barcadere to ensure that this precious piece of heritage beach can be enjoyed by Caymanians, residents and visitors in perpetuity.

Our economy continues to improve with growing private sector confidence reflected by increased investment in Cayman.

This Government has provided the stewardship that has encouraged that economic growth. The stability we have brought has helped renew confidence in businesses to invest and grow, a confidence that has been bolstered by restoring Government finances, creating surpluses, greatly reducing debt and reducing taxes where practical.

Indeed, over our last three budgets we have generated net surpluses totalling almost \$400 million to be used to repay debt incurred by previous governments and to have something for a rainy day. We were also able to share the fruits of our labour with Caymanians through tax reductions and correcting inequalities in civil servants' salaries to the tune of \$30 million a year. Effectively, this represents a \$30 million annual economic stimulus.

In other words, we have been good and responsible custodians of the public purse and the economy.

A growing economy has helped to ensure that hundreds of Caymanians have found jobs. Unemployment amongst Caymanians has fallen from a high of 10.5 percent in 2012 to 5.6 percent in early 2016. This is the lowest Caymanian unemployment has been since 2007. And so, compared to 2012, in 2016 there are over 1,000 more Caymanians employed in a growing economy. As the economy improves further in 2017 there will be more possibilities for other Caymanians seeking employment opportunities.



Premier Alden McLaughlin

Financial services is doing well and tourism continues to grow with numbers not seen for a decade or more. These are some of the success stories of the past three-and-a-half years that are helping improve the lives of Caymanians. But you can add to these:

- the introduction of a national minimum wage;
- the increase in the retirement age to 65 for the private and public sectors;
- resolving pay inequities in the civil service;
- commencing and progressing the long-awaited airport expansion;
- proceeding with plans for a cruise dock and larger port facility;

- developing and proceeding with the implementation of a national solid waste management plan;
- and at last plans are under way for a much needed mental health facility.

All of this is being done without any new debt or new taxes, which are strangling so many of our Caribbean neighbours. Proof indeed that this is a Government that cares and we are a country and a people that can get things done.

On behalf of Government, I wish each of you and your families God's richest blessings and a very happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year.

Gick. Choose Laughter

oby Faye Lippitt

When you are a family of eight – and six of them happen to be under the age of eight – a vacation becomes less "where will we go this year?" and more "so honey, define vacation".

When our youngest was a year old, that vacation definition became, over the years, family camp on Quadra Island, off the coast of Vancouver Island. It was definitely fun for us all, however from where we lived in Alberta, it was a 17 hour drive from our home so we usually tried to make the trip in two days. This particular year Greg flew home to get back to work, but it was the summer and the kids weren't ready to end the vacation. A good friend unexpectedly offered us her vacant home in British Columbia's lovely Okanagan and my niece very kindly agreed to travel with the gang, so it was decided that we'd pause there on our way home. Incredibly, the only stipulation of our free residency was that we did not let the cat out.

One cannot vacation in the Okanagan without visiting their lakes, so one very hot day we packed up the kids and went to the wonderfully clear and warm Kalamalka Lake for a picnic and a swim. After spreading out numerous towels, blankets, sand digging tools, life jackets, inflatable toys,

food and beverages, we noticed that the baby was in dire need of a diaper change. Unfortunately, I had left the diaper bag behind. She was quite happy to be bare and carefree, but we thought it prudent to fetch something, just in case. This was, after all, a public beach. Telling a noticeably nervous niece that I would be back in a flash, I jumped in our very hot old blue ford van and drove back to our residence.

I opened the door and let myself in very carefully, in case the cat should be lurking nearby, ready to bolt. Kicking off my sandals, I headed for the basement, where the diaper bag was. The power was out for some reason, and I had to grope around in the dark. Unfortunately, the cat was hiding down there, and as I cautiously felt my way around a corner, I trod upon it. We both jumped and screeched. I ran into a wall, the kitty ran upstairs. Following to be sure it was not terminally injured, I cornered it in a second floor bedroom. As I lunged to grab it, we both discovered that the window where it was cowering was open. It slipped through.

With only one thought in mind, and that was the single stipulation regarding our free residency in this home, I sized up the window and decided if pussy jumped out, there must be something to jump on. I

crawled through, hot on its trail. And its trail was indeed very hot.

The window gave way to the flat tar and sand roofed carport which, when trod upon bare-footed, was agony. At least for me. The cat did not seem to mind at all, for it was sitting at the edge of the roof, calmly cleaning its coat. Cursing audibly, I began hopping toward it, but paused mid-step when the neighbor next door came out and walked toward her car. Thinking that a stranger standing upon the neighbor's roof beside an open window might look a bit suspicious, I remained motionless, save for the lifting and shifting of my feet, which along with the rest of my body, were beginning to turn a bright pink. Flamingo-like, I waited up there, one eye on the cat, one eye on the woman, willing her not to look up; willing her even more vehemently to get in her car and leave.

After fussing endlessly with her keys, the woman finally climbed in her car. As she did so, the cat stretched languidly, then to my horror, leaped over the edge of the roof. When the car was gone, I hobbled to the carport edge, and looked over.

The cat, it appeared, had not suicided itself, but had hopped down upon the roof of my Ford, and thence to the ground below. Thinking that anywhere was better than the burning tar, I too lowered

myself to the van's roof, only to discover two things: hot metal is hotter than hot tar, and infinitely more flexible than a roof top.

The ground was not more flexible, but was definitely cooler, which compensated for the thud that was felt throughout my body upon contact. I found the cat cowering behind a very prickly rosebush, and after tangling my hair and shirt on the bush, I was finally able to nab it.

Feline firmly tucked under my arm, I marched to the front door, only to find that I had inadvertently locked it behind me when I had first entered.

Retracing my steps was a very painful process, particularly climbing up on the van roof with a very nervous feline in my arms. The cat hissed at me and - such was my mood - I hissed right back. This seemed to subdue it somewhat, at least until I was able to stuff it back in the window. It bolted out of sight, and I never did see it again

for the duration of our stay.

The children, and particularly their cousin were very happy to see me when I returned to the beach. The latter lifted a wailing baby and advised me that she thought the wee one was possibly not feeling well. This the baby confirmed with one word: "gick!"

And gick she did, all over my tattered shirt.

The children all cried when we



Faye Lippitt

told them that it was time to leave. After picking up various towels, blankets, sand digging tools, life jackets, inflatable toys, food and beverages – and the diaper bag – we climbed into our very hot van. They then cried even harder because the smell of "gick" on their mom's shirt was more than anyone could bear

We left early the next day. The kids weren't that keen on returning to dull old summer on the farm, but dull can be pretty attractive when it comes to a vacation with the pack.

Readers Write

The kids received Christmas gifts this year of many small character figures. One of them was named General Grievous. Charlie's Uncle Warren picked up the figure and asked his nephew what the figure's name was.

Charlie replied, "That's Genital Grievous".

After a lengthy pause, and stroking his chin thoughtfully his uncle said, "Well, I suppose that can happen."

Big issues ahead as election looms

OBy Ron Shillingford

The Cayman Islands head for the polls on May 24 when only about half its residents will be eligible to vote, such is the make up of its population where expats are a huge demographic. Here's a guide to some of the big issues set to dominate Cayman's political arena during the coming months.

Immigration

The issue of permanent residence status always weighs heavily on the minds of the indigenous population. At least hostility towards expats may well be waning as recent employment figures attest. Even in his New Year's speech an abridged version is printed in today's paper - Premier Alden McLaughlin mentioned how much more Caymanians have found work recently and their increased percentage in the workforce. Moan as they might, Caymanians are definitely better off in the job market than previously and the trend looks set to increase.

Whether the Progressives (PPM) under Premier McLaughlin can hang onto power is up for debate. And there will be plenty of that in the next few months. The United Democratic Party under veteran leader McKeeva Bush are seeking to regain power. Mr. Bush has remained a powerful adversary in the four years since he lost the premiership and if the Progressives have not convinced the electorate that their lives have significantly improved and the future is rosier under them then Mr. Bush may well find himself in charge again.

These elections will be particularly interesting because Cayman used to have a complicated system of multiple member constituencies which allowed people to vote several times for a fixed number of MPs. However, that has been scrapped in favour of a simple system which gives each person only one vote. This election will be the first contested under this system.

The Progressives are seen as having an advantage under the one man, one vote system, but the issue of the huge backlog of granting permanent residence applications is a major factor over whether Mr. McLaughlin remains premier. Around 800 people are languishing on the PR waiting list, many for well over a year. Some, who have been here for many years but never got round to submitting applications in the belief that their long-term residency meant they were assured of avoiding expensive and extensive red tape, are now worried. Hard-working, law-abiding citizens who happen to have been born elsewhere deserve to be told where their future lies. Living in limbo indefinitely is a stressful situation. It affects all kinds of major decisions including buying a property in Cayman, career paths and even whether to have children and bring them up here.



Immigration and permanent residence issues will be on the agenda



A new cruise ship dock is always an issue in Cayman

Although crime is a relatively small problem in Cayman, this is one issue that continues to worry residents as they go about their daily lives. Drug crime, burglaries and robberies are unfortunately elements of all societies and the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service does its best to tackle these problems. But the police are seen by many in the general public as being ineffective in curbing gun and serious crime incidents.

Indeed, there were two shootings on Boxing Day, in West Bay and George Town. Apparently gang related. Greater measures need to be taken to stop these incidents. Communities are suffering from the violence and bereaved families feel that they need better support from the police and government. The general public's fear of being a victim of serious crime increases too.

Education

Education is another hot topic in Cayman. Consensus is that successive governments have allowed too many students to pass through Cayman's public schools system without holding teacher's



The Cayman Turtle Centre is going through changes

accountable for poor performances.

Children from expat families are not allowed to attend government schools which means that their parents must pay for expensive, albeit superior private education, leaving many of the Caymanians at government schools lagging behind from inadequate teaching. Parents, quite rightly so, want improved standards and will press for that even more so around election time.

Other issues

Other issues sure to be on the agenda this year include speeding up the slow restructuring of the civil service to improve its efficiency and to make it more cost-effective, an overall revamp of operations at the Cayman Turtle Centre and how to maximise Cayman's vital financial industry as well as whether building a berthing

Kids sparkled at Christmas camp

O By Lindsey Turnbull

Youngsters across the Cayman Islands were kept busy over their Christmas holidays, participating in the Y Christmas Day Camp run by the Young Men's Christian Association of the Cayman Islands.

Not only did the Y Camp offer a fun-packed programme of activities to keep children aged 5-12 engaged, it also helped them grow as individuals and become productive members of society.

Vanessa Hansen, community relations director with the YMCA of the Cayman Islands, explained why the camp ran. "The YMCA of the Cayman Islands launched its Y Day Camp in 2014 in response to the results of a community needs assessment survey," she said. "The survey results showed that parents were in need of an affordable day camp programme for their children during the summer and school breaks."

Not only did children benefit from the camp, teenagers also got the chance to participate.

"The camp is complemented by the Y Teen Leaders programme, which gives 13-17 year-olds the opportunity to build leadership skills as counsellors-in-training," Ms. Hansen said.

During the Christmas break. between 50 and 60 children participated daily. As an added flexibility for busy families, camp organisers offered weekly and daily rates so the numbers were slightly different each day.

Ms. Hansen said that the Y Camp's over-arching goals were to inspire youth, build character and strengthen the community.

"Our campers participate in a variety of activities throughout the day, including arts and crafts, swimming, sports, camp songs, obstacle courses, and team building," she said. "We love keeping kids active and having fun, but in everything we do we are building character by integrating the core values of honesty, caring, respect, responsibility, and faith into every

One clever way that the organisers are able to instill such values is via the camp necklace. "Our campers start their time at camp with a necklace, and earn beads for displaying these values throughout each day," Ms. Hansen said.

Campers also enjoyed participating in several holiday-themed activities, such as ornament making and reindeer testing, whereby they had their noses painted and undertook a variety of activities to see what their best skills were and then got appointed with their "reindeer job." Representatives from



Benjamin Cooke (left) and Shane O'Reilly having fun at Y **Christmas Camp**



Young ladies making friends at Y Christmas Camp



Oliver Ratchford displays his camp necklace

LIFE (Literacy is For Everyone) were also in attendance, reading Christmas classics to different groups. In the first week of camp, the children went on a field trip to Camana Bay where they had a Christmas themed scavenger hunt.

The Y Christmas Break Camp started on Dec. 19 and wrapped up on Dec. 30. The next Y Day camp will be in February during the next school break.

Movies not to miss this year

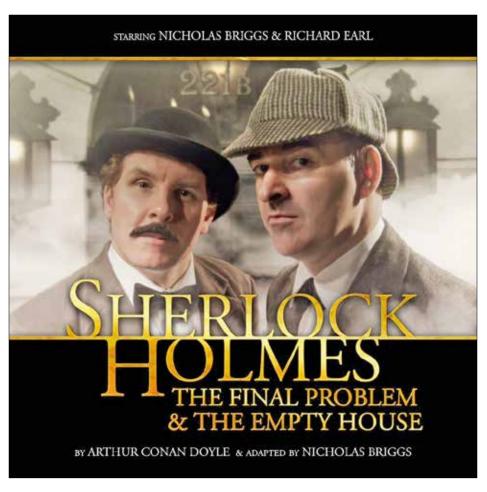
O By Ron Shillingford

There are a slew of excellent movies to see in Camana Bay in the coming weeks; a mix of sequels of perennial favourities and great new gems. Cayman residents are fortunate to live relatively close to Hollywood because they are treated to the latest blockbusters soon after their premieres. The rest of the world has to wait in line, sometimes months, to enjoy their latest cinematic favourities. Here are a few that might draw interest in the near future.



Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales

Johnny Depp returns as Captain Jack Sparrow with Geoffrey Rush back on board as Barbossa, Orlando Bloom resurfacing as Will Turner, and a terrifying new adversary, Captain Salazar, played by Javier Bardem, in the mix. Thrust into an all-new adventure, a down-on-his-luck Captain Jack Sparrow finds the winds of ill-fortune blowing even more strongly when deadly ghost pirates led by his old nemesis, the terrifying Captain Salazar (Bardem), escape from the Devil's Triangle, determined to kill every pirate at sea...including him. Captain Jack's only hope of survival lies in seeking out the legendary Trident of Poseidon, a powerful artefact that bestows upon its possessor total control over the seas.



Sherlock: The Final Problem

Emmy Award-winning actors Benedict Cumberbatch and Martin Freeman return to cinemas as Sherlock Holmes and Dr. John Watson in this feature length special that caps off the highly-anticipated season. The Adventure of the Final Problem has no case for Sherlock Holmes to solve, and no client for the detective to help, so instead the story opens with Holmes visiting his old friend Dr. Watson.

Previously, Holmes had visited Watson when he had a case to share with his friend, but this time it is not an enthusiastic Holmes that visits the doctor, but rather an anxious and injured detective.

Holmes tells Watson of events that have unfurled since they last met. Successful outcomes in many important cases had been a great boon to the detective's bank balance, and Holmes was even contemplating retirement.

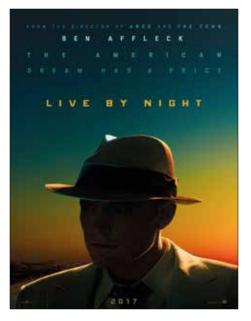
Holmes though, felt he could not retire whilst Professor Moriarty was still active. The name of Professor Moriarty though means nothing to Dr Watson, but Holmes explains that the professor is "the Napoleon of Crime", a criminal genius at the very heart of huge criminal web.

The usual cloak and dagger stuff ensues. Well worth a watch.



Patriots Day

The film is based on accounts from the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, which killed three and injured 264 others, and the ensuing search for the two Tsarnaev brothers who perpetrated the attack. Members of the Cayman running fraternity were there and thankfully none were injured. In the aftermath of the attack, Police Sergeant Tommy Saunders (Mark Wahlberg) joins courageous survivors, first responders and investigators in a race against the clock to hunt down the bombers before they strike again. Weaving together the stories of Special Agent Richard DesLauriers (Kevin Bacon), Police Commissioner Ed Davis (John Goodman), Sergeant Jeffrey Pugliese (J.K. Simmons) and nurse Carol Saunders (Michelle Monaghan) this visceral and unflinching chronicle captures the suspense of one of the most sophisticated manhunts in law enforcement history and celebrates the strength of the people of Boston.



Live by Night

Live by Night is set in the roaring 20s, when Prohibition hasn't stopped the flow of booze in an underground network of gangster-run speakeasies. The opportunity to gain power and money is there for any man with enough ambition and nerve, and Joe Coughlin, the son of the Boston Police Superintendent, long ago turned his back on his strict upbringing for the spoils of being an outlaw. But even among criminals there are rules, and Joe breaks a big one: crossing a powerful mob boss by stealing his money and his moll. The fiery affair ends in tragedy, setting Joe on a path of revenge, ambition, romance and betrayal that propels him out of Boston and up the ladder of Tampa's steamy rum-running underworld. Ben Affleck acts and directs this film.



Beauty and the Beast

An adaptation of the classic fairy-tale about a monstrous prince and a young woman who fall in love. It is the fantastic journey of Belle, a bright, beautiful and independent young woman who is taken prisoner by a beast in his castle. Despite her fears, she befriends the castle's enchanted staff and learns to look beyond the Beast's hideous exterior and realize the kind heart and soul of the true Prince. Cast includes Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Kevin Kline, Luke Evans and Emma Thompson.



A Dog's Purpose

The story of one devoted dog who finds the meaning of his own existence through the lives of the humans he teaches to laugh and love. It is a surprising story of one devoted dog (voiced by Josh Gad) who finds the meaning of his own existence through the lives of the humans he teaches to laugh and love. A lovely family film told from the dog's perspective. Dennis Quaid is amongst the cast. \bigcirc

PAGE 8

Get off island and explore the region

Island fever can strike at any time. It is just as likely to afflict new arrivals as lifelong residents. The good news is, it's both preventable and easily cured. All one need do is hop on a flight to somewhere new. Where will you escape to in 2017?

O By Natasha Were



Jamaica's Blue Mountains provide spectacular vistas for visitors

Go hiking in Jamaica's Blue Mountains

When the heat and humidity in Cayman reach hard-to-tolerate levels, particularly during the summer months, Jamaica's Blue Mountains offer an enticing escape. Rising to 7,000 feet above sea level the air is cool, fresh and misty, and the forested slopes are crisscrossed by hiking trails, rushing rivers and secret waterfalls. The tranquillity of the mountains makes it an easy place to simply chill, but if you want a challenge, why not hike up Blue Mountain Peak? Ideally, you want to reach the summit at sunrise when the skies are clearest; if you're lucky you'll be rewarded with 360 degree views of the island and may even glimpse Cuba on the horizon. It means setting out in the middle of the night so a caffeine injection may be needed to get you going, but as this is also where some of the world's finest coffee is grown, that shouldn't be a problem. Stay:



A luxurious stay at Strawberry Hill is recommended

Strawberry Hill (www.strawberryhillhotel. com) Splurge on one of the romantic hill-top cottages at Strawberry Hill, take walks through the grounds and cosy up by a log fire in the bar on cool evenings.



Cuba has some magnificent architecture, especially in Havana

Find Hemingway's favourite haunts in Havana, Cuba

Change is in the air in Cuba, so if you haven't visited this neighbouring island yet, it's wise to go soon. Havana is bursting at the seams with elegant buildings, grand boulevards, churches, forts, museums and theatres. But if you find the idea of traipsing from one civic building to the next a wearying idea, try something different; follow in Ernest Hemingway's footsteps, visiting some of the author's favourite haunts. In Old Havana he would often be found enjoying a snack at the Bodeguita del Medio and drinking daiquiris at El Floridita. You can also visit room 511 at Ambos Mundos hotel, the room where he wrote much of For Whom the Bell Tolls and which is now set up as a mini-museum. On the outskirts of the city visitors can peep through the windows of his former home, Finca La Vigia, where he wrote the Old Man and the Sea, and visit the village of Cojimar, where the story is set.

Stay: Casa Pedro Maria (www.



The Cubans are proud that Ernest Hemingway enjoyed living there

boutiquehotelsincuba.com) This cheery family-run hotel, located over the road from the Museo de la Revolucion, has just four rooms but guests also have use of the internal courtyard, living area and roof terrace.



Florida's manatee is a huge attraction

Tour the wilder side of Florida

If you've had your fill of theme parks in Orlando, shopping malls in Miami and people-watching in South Beach, then consider heading west to experience a wilder side of the Sunshine State. Roughly equidistant from Tampa and Miami airports, Fort Myers is within easy reach of gentle surf-swept shores, meandering rivers and wetlands that harbour all manner of wildlife. Waverunner tours make it possible to get close to wild dolphins frolicking in the Gulf waters, and alligators can be spotted in the wetlands. But perhaps Florida's most endearing creature

is the manatee. To encounter these gentle, slow-moving marine mammals in their natural habitat, head out to Manatee Park on the banks of Orange River. Each year between December and February, when the sea is at its coolest, the manatees head upstream in search of warmer waters, and volunteer naturalists at the park can provide valuable insights into their life cycles and behaviour. Stay: Manatee Bay Inn (www.manateebayinn. com) offers six bright, island-style self-catering apartments arranged around a small pool, within walking distance of shops, restaurants and live music venues.

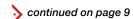


Whale sharks can be observed in April

Assist with whale shark research in Utila, Honduras

With its easy going, laid back vibe and a barrier reef on its doorstep, most visitors to this Bay Island go for the marine adventures. Unlimited shore dives interspersed with snoozes in hammocks are the norm here, but if you think you've see it all underwater, go in spring time, when whale sharks - the largest fish in the ocean – make their most frequent appearances. For a unique chance to dive with and learn all about these

little-understood creatures, Deep Blue Utila offers a lucky few the chance to join a research week throughout the month of April. Each day involves three dives during which you will look for, photograph and record whale shark sightings, with talks by visiting experts in the evenings. Stay: Deep Blue Resort (www.deepblueutila.com) has ten airy rooms with hardwood floors, set back from a private beach. Accessible only by boat and with no TVs, it's a true hideaway.



Jamaica's tourism looks healthy

Health tourism in Jamaica is poised for expansion as the Government takes steps to engage the diaspora as the first market in the sector.

"We see opportunity for the health tourism industry taking off, having done research along with our international partners?" Diane Edwards, President of Jamaica Promotions Corporation, said. Ms. Edwards said the country is developing a competitive advantage over other Caribbean countries, as focus is placed on diagnostic and dental services. "We see opportunity for the health tourism industry taking off, having done research along with our international partners," she said. Ms. Edwards said JAMPRO have held meetings between local medical professionals and their counterparts in Atlanta and Washington in the United States. This, she indicated, is critical to forming relationships that will lead to expansion of the sector, particularly through word of mouth and recommendations. "What was really amazing is that people in the diaspora did not realise how much is going on, even in the private healthcare market here," she added. "They didn't realise the level of sophistication on our local medical scene, and so we have seen them now coming together and forming joint ventures between local doctors and their counterparts overseas." She said the health tourism scene is further boosted by the introduction of new medical procedures, such as stem cell treatment and plastic surgery, locally. "We are doing a number of really interesting procedures (from which) the diaspora can benefit, and also tourists."

Jamaica's overall tourism figures point to a record-setting year which indicate that 2017 will see an increase in numbers. Edmund Bartlett, Jamaica's Minister of Tourism, said that there were 2.2 million stopover arrivals and 1.7 million passengers which generated \$2.7 billion in revenues.

This is a gradual increase from the 2015 figures of 2.1 million stopover visitors and 1.5 million cruise arrivals. The U.S. is Jamaica's primary source market which grew by 4.6 percent in 2016.

The growth in cruise ship arrivals was highlighted by Mr. Bartlett citing a total of six cruise ships on one day, Dec. 14, in the ports of Falmouth, Montego Bay, Ocho Rios and Kingston, which has only happened once before in the past four years. "Kingston as a cruise port is getting a great response," Bartlett said. "The port and the city have great potential, and we hope to see more ships calling there."

Jamaica's saw a boost in the accommodation sector too in 2016. The on-island room count this winter season totaled more than 26,000 rooms, a 15 percent increase on the previous year. Mr. Bartlett hinted that new brands will be announced in the first quarter of 2017, which will add 10,000



Jamaica's wellness spas attract many overseas visitors

new rooms in the next few years. He added that this year the focus will be on the health and wellness sector as well as shopping, culinary tourism and the meetings and convention sectors as well as all leisure tourism. A new tourist attraction is planned as preliminary work for resuscitating Jamaica's rail network is set to begin in the coming months,

with the first phase set to connect the 75 mile distance between Montego Bay in the north with Appleton on the island's southwest coast.

Mr. Bartlett added that Jamaica would focus on new markets such as China, Argentina, Brazil, Eastern Europe and India who are arriving through the U.S., Canada and London.



The SXSW musical festival in March is extremely popular

continued from page 8

Groove on down in Austin, Texas

Once you touch down in Dallas, it's just three hours on the Greyhound to Austin – easily one of the hippest, most vibrant and creative cities in the U.S. Austin touts itself as the live music capital of the world and with good reason; in addition to hosting the SXSW music festival in March and the Austin City Limits festival in October, the city's 200-plus concert venues mean you can find live music of almost any genre on any night of the year. Add to that a city-centre lake, miles of running and cycling trails, a three-acre outdoor pool and countless quirky galleries and eateries and you'll be planning your return before you've even begun.

Stay: Hotel San Jose (www.sanjosehotel.com) With 40 rooms set around a garden courtyard, Scandinavian-style interiors and innovative amenities - including the loan of typewriters and Polaroid cameras - this downtown hotel is internationally acclaimed.

Events calendar

January

Paul Stanley concert

Friday, 6: KISS rock legend and frontman, Paul Stanley, performs with his 10-piece band "Soul Station" at an exclusive night of fine art and entertainment at The Mill Cayman to help raise funds for the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands. Tickets are limited. Contact, events@themill.ky.

Boxing Island Rumble with Manny Pacquiao

Saturday, 7: Multiple world champion Pacquiao will be involved in a boxing exhibition as part of a nine-fight card at Camana Bay's Festival Green. Pacquiao is a boxing legend and also a politician in his Philippines homeland. Cayman's Filipino community will be out in force to see their hero.

Cayman Cookout

Thursday, 12 – Sunday, 15: One of Cayman's most celebrated food and wine festivals, Cayman Cookout, returns to Cayman bringing with it

a roster of world-famous chefs, exclusive events, decadent tastings, andmouthwatering demonstrations. Join celebrated chefs Eric Ripert, Jose Andres, and Anthony Bourdain at The Ritz-Carlton, Grand Cayman, for three gastronomic days. Visit caymansilands.ky for event details and tickets.

TRIO Kitesurfing competition

Thursday, 21 – Monday, 25: Some of the world's best kitesurfers will be competing at Barkers in West Bay. The competition is scheduled to take place on Saturday Jan. 23 and Sunday Jan. 24 - wind dependent. Friday Jan. 22 and Monday Jan. 25 are the contingency days. Registration will take place on Thursday Jan. 21.

Taste of Cayman

Saturday, 28: Head to Camana Bay's Festival Green for one of Cayman's largest and most popular family-friendly events, the Cayman Islands Tourism Association's Taste of Cayman Food & Drink Festival. A celebration of Cayman's diverse

and delicious food and drink offerings, sample dishes from some of Cayman's most popular restaurants while enjoying entertainment throughout the night. Visit tasteofcayman.org for full details.

Mercuryman triathlon

Sunday, 22: The Generali Worldwide Mercuryman, Cayman's only half iron distance triathlon, celebrates its 5th anniversary, a significant milestone that reflects the triathlon's popularity with both Cayman residents and international pro triathletes. For the first time, Mercuryman is staging an international distance event, a half iron distance duathlon and a children's event at the Reef Resort in East End.

Heroes Day

Monday, 23: Public Holiday National Heroes Day

Nationwide Stride Against Cancer

Saturday 28 – Sunday 29: This is the Cancer Society's biggest annual fundraiserr. Cost is \$25 for early

entrants registering before Jan. 18, and then \$30. If you register before Jan 18, your name is registered for the prize drawing to win twoCayman Airways tickets. There are run/walks inLittle Cayman, Seven Mile Beach, North Side and Cayman Brac that weekend.

February

Cayman Arts Festival

Thursday, 9 – Saturday,11: The popular bi-annual Cayman Arts Festival returns bringing with a slew of world-class performers, including the Juilliard Jazz Ensemble, which will perform at a host of venues across Cayman. Visit caymanarts-festival.com for more details.

Cayman Alternative Investment Summit

Wednesday, 15-17: Now in its fourth year, the Cayman Alternative Investment Summit brings together leading thinkers and decision makers from different segments of the global alternatives industry. The Summit has quickly grown to

become one of the most influential discussion forums within the alternative investment industry.

CDS 'Not Now Darling'

Thursday, 23 – Saturday, March 11: The Cayman Drama Society kickstart's their 2017 theatre season with comedy "Not Now Darling," a typically mad-cap British farce by playwright Ray Cooney. Playing at the Prospect Playhouse, Red Bay. Visit cds.ky for production times and tickets.

Cayman Hospice Care Flag Day Friday, 24 – Saturday, 25:

Cayman Hospice Care will once again be blanketing the island for their Flag Day. Volunteers will be located at dozens for Cayman's key locations, asking the general public to give generously. The Flag Day is Cayman Hospice Care's largest fundraiser, helping the charity to offer palliative end of life care for free to anyone in the Cayman Islands. To volunteer, or for more details, visit caymanhospicecare.ky

Do you have an event you wish to be listed? Email details at news@caymanreporter.com.

Bridgeman set for London art debut

O By Lindsey Turnbull

David Bridgeman is one of Cayman's most popular artists, having shown at a variety of exhibitions over several decades as a solo artist - most recently at the National Gallery of the Cayman Islands in 2014 - as part of a duo of exhibiting artists and in group shows. His long career is now moving in an exciting new direction, when he shows in London for the first time at the Saunders Fine Art Gallery, located in Charlotte Street off Oxford Street in Central London, at the end of March this year.

Specialist

Established in 2005, Saunders Fine Art is run by husband and wife team Tanya and Guy Saunders specialising in modern mid-century British and European painting. A small studio gallery, Saunders Fine Art carries artworks regularly to a number of select specialist art fairs in the London region. The exhibition will also include a selection from their gallery alongside David's work, showcasing their collection. The exhibition, which will open to the public on Mar. 29, runs until Apr. 1, 2017 and will also include an invitation-only event on Mar. 28.

The couple's relationship with David extends back some years through Tanya, who was born and brought up in Cayman before moving to the U.K. Over the years Guy and Tanya have followed David's progress and have this year decided to take a number of pieces on consignment. This has now developed into the joint London exhibition. In addition to the works that Saunders Fine Art possess, David is full of exciting new ideas that he hopes will result in some interesting artwork that might be considered for the show.

"I'm not really creating artwork specifically for the show," he said. "I'm just working on projects that interest me and hopefully those ideas will develop into something that can be considered."

David's method of working is to find inspiration in objects and continually craft those ideas through sculpture, drawings, sketches and paintings until he finds an end to his artistic journey. He is an intuitive and thoughtful artist who uses his broad imagination to work through concepts and ideas.

His current inspiration is an old flight manual that was owned by his father, who as a young man studied to become a mechanic with the Royal Air Force after the Second World War.

Inspired

"Last September I decided to bring over my dad's old RAF training manual because I was fascinated with the bold engineering drawings," he explained. "I ended up photocopying pages and making collages from the drawings. This then inspired me to make my own flying machine out of balsa wood. Making things helps to feed other ideas and from this I have been photographing, sketching and painting."

His work has translated onto a huge collage piece that consists of a charcoal drawing and gouache on brown paper.

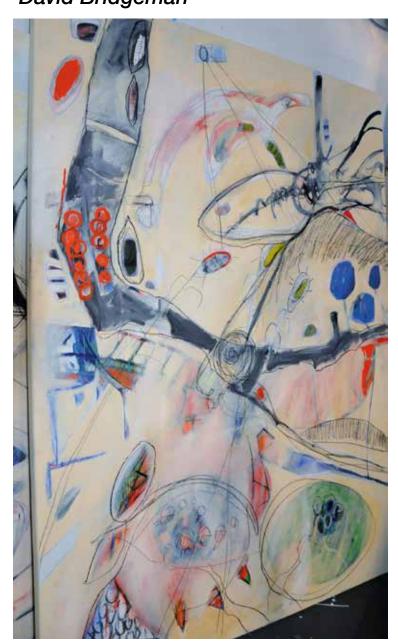
Exploration

"For this piece, I restricted



David Bridgeman was inspired to make his own flying machine

"I hope the film will help to round out my exhibition and also open me up to the event-goers and explain a bit more about who I am as an artist." David Bridgeman



David has a definitive style



Bold trees make a statement



Charcoal sketches



The RAF flying manual

myself to only using colours that featured in the RAF manual," he said. "I have used this piece to explore the movement of the flying machine as it passes overhead."

The result is a big, bold mural-like exploration into the magic of flying. The piece also incorporates a simplified, paired down version of an image for which David's work is particularly renowned – that of the trees of his youth growing up in rural Oxfordshire. Oil paintings on canvas, sketches in charcoal and gouache and charcoal paintings have also abounded as a result of the inspiration.

"I've been working on the tree motif for some time now," he said. "They have been incorporated into another idea I'm currently working on, for the National Gallery's up and coming maritime exhibition. I'm painting parts of an old dredger used in Cayman years ago and the colours I'm using are taken from an old "silent monitor" used in a cotton mill in Lanarkshire back in the 19th century. The silent monitor was a little wooden rectangular prism used to show the quality of a worker's output. White would signify good work, black bad, etc. I have been fascinated by these colours and colour-coding methods as well as being consistently fascinated by

the trees of my youth, which I felt were my own silent monitors as a child, watching over me. It has been quite an epiphany for me, making the connection between the two."

As a result, the dredger parts have been painted with the bright primary colours of the silent monitor and bold, stark images of trees have also been worked into the artwork. As an artist interested in all forms of artistic expression, David has also been working with local film makers to create a short threeminute film of his preparations for the London exhibition.

"I hope the film will help to round out my exhibition and also open me up to the event-goers and explain a bit more about who I am as an artist," he said.

As well as the exhibition, David will also take part in a talk about his work, hold a children's art class and will seek to make contact with other galleries in London, who may be interested in his work. "It's all a bit surreal right now," he said. "I can't quite believe that I will be exhibiting in London in just a few months. It's very exciting."

Guy Saunders will be flying into Cayman early this month to meet with David and go through his latest pieces to establish what will be finally exhibited at the show.

Larner is grooming kids for greatness

O By Ron Shillingford

Youngsters aspiring to become champion middle distance runners used to have limited outlets for their talent in Cayman since Jerry Harper retired from coaching, but through Derek Larner's help in recent years the latest generation of millennials now have realistic ambitions of becoming world class competitors.

Larner, the veteran runner and coach, helped form the 345 Athletic Club last May. The Englishman had been informally coaching youngsters for years already so it was no surprise that the club was formed at the request of the kids and parents.

He said: "I had been asked about doing so for a couple of years, but things moved forward when we took a bunch of young distance runners to compete at the BayTaf Classic athletics meet in Tampa in May, so immediately after we had a meeting to officially form 345 Athletic Club." The youngsters decided on the name and choose club colours and are involved in the club's decisions.

Unlike most track clubs that generally meet at a specific spot each week, 345AC has no official venue as yet and meet at different locations to train. As the membership develops the idea is to have various training sessions around Cayman most days of the week. Right now, the young athletes train Tuesdays and Thursdays at 4pm and meet at Truman Bodden Sports Complex. They also train Saturdays at 8am at various locations. The adult runners train Tuesdays at 6am from First Assembly of God Church, and Thursday mornings at 6am at Leguinea Circle.

The club has attracted many of Cayman's notable distance runners including Marius Acker, Conrad Proud, Aaron Walker, Tom Gammage, Tobias Muchene, Oddy Grullon, Lisa Kehoe, Gill Comins, Ali King, Marco Miranda, Ronan O'Keeffe and Kym Bailey. Amongst the celebrated MDR kids are Dominic Dyer, Victor Magalhaes, Tiffany Cole, Kiara McLaughlin, Marlena Williams, William Edwards, Sherlock Brooks, Molly Kehoe, Levi Superville and Juan Pablo Valerio with many more emerging.

But the club is not just about the already well established athletes, it is also attracting many recreational runners; those who run occasionally to either maintain some fitness or to get into shape.

The adults have individual goals such as competing in marathons overseas and the youngsters at CARIFTA and the Island Games. The club also aims to move into other athletic disciplines such as the throws, jumps and sprints. "Perhaps someone reading this article who used to compete might wish to assist the next batch of athletes by becoming a volunteer coach with the club," said Larner.

After the Christmas break the first race he will help organize with Race Caribbean and Phil Riposo is the Cayman Islands Cross Country 3.5 mile run at North Sound Golf Club on Jan. 8 with most distance runners expected in the third staging of the event.

This event is the only race in Cayman that runs across grass for the majority of the way. "The schools purport to have cross country races but when you ask them to describe the route, it is basically a road race with no traditional country running at all. Perhaps we could one day attract the schools to use this race as an inter-school cross country championship each year," said Larner adding that running on the fairways is unique in Cayman and a unique experience for those who normally compete in 5ks on the roads.

"We really appreciate the generosity of the golf club and its management for allowing Race Caribbean to put on this event each year," said Larner.

He leads by example and is still competing himself in senior and vets races. "My story is that I was a good club runner in the late 70s at school level with Blackburn Harriers and



Derek Larner (531) competes in a masters race



345AC athletes take a well deserved break

the 80s with Aldershot Farnham & District and the British Army's Parachute Regiment. When I left the military in 1990 my running took a back-seat because of starting a different career path and after a few years my running was non-existent."

When he arrived in Grand Cayman in 2004, he weighed around 215 pounds and became a once a week jogger with the Hash House Harriers. During a trip to Barbados in August 2009 Larner met their Hash runners who challenged him to get fit for the Disney Marathon in January 2010. He lost 30 pounds within a month and completed the marathon in 3 hours 18 mins and 20 seconds. "My love for the sport of athletics was back and I have been training hard ever since."

In February 2010 Larner asked Cayman's head track and field coach Kenrick Williams if he needed someone to coach distance runners and he has been doing so ever since, with many youngsters doing exceptionally well on track and road races.

Larner has had a fantastic 2016 as a senior/masters athlete, winning two golds and a silver medal at the USA TF Masters in Grand Rapids in July and at the Florida Senior Games this month. "But winning seven medals at the inaugural Americas Masters Games in Vancouver in August may be an achievement I can never repeat."



Larner, back second left, with 345AC athletes at the recent Cayman Marathon

Seven races over five days included gold medals in the 800 meters, the 5,000m, the 4 x 800m relay and the 3,000m steeplechase, a silver in the 1500m and the half-marathon, and a bronze in the 10k road race.

As a coach he dearly wishes to help Caymanian youngsters achieve their

dreams and qualify for major competitions such as the world championships, the Olympic Games and the Commonwealth Games. "These young athletes have already achieved at the lower levels such as the Island Games and CARIFTA but they want to move to the elite level as they become adults."

CURTIS

By Ray Billingsley









THE AMAZING SPIDER MAN

By Stan Lee







JUDGE PARKER

By Woody Wilson & Mike Manley





RAILROAD LINGO

IYVTQOLIGDBYWTR PMKIFDSBYNWUSQO MK I FDEGRUNT DBZA GAWGIIWERXWDUSSQ R O Y M N L T N E A E L H G J HEMR GAFDEVGCCUA Y I M G E L O H K C A L B N W J V U M R N D T O T C W S B G QJPNIAALKBWIGOH

Friday's unlisted clue: FLUSH

F E C B E L Z E Y W O V R A U

S R Q D P N G M B L C F J T R

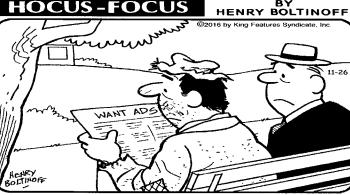
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Saturday's unlisted clue hint: A Vagabond on the Railroad

Deadhead Grunt Ashcat Dinger Gunboat Beanery Rag-waver Black hole Wigwag Frog Jimmies Cow cage Glimmer Juggler

©2016 King Features, Inc.

11/26

HOCUS-FOCUS



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: I. Newspaper is smaller. 2. Window is smaller. 3. Elbow patch is missing. 4. Back of bench is higher. 5. Nose is different. 6. Line is added to sidewalk.

CROSSWORD By THOMAS JOSEPH

ACROSS

tion

5 Caprices

12 Canvas

13 Take on

14 Cherish 15 Come in

first 16 Mouse-

spotting cry

18 Garden visitor

19 Latitude

21 Brewing

need 22 Bactrian's

counterpart

24 Stopwatch button

25 Perseus' wife

29 Burro

sound 30 Salad

veggie 32 Feedbag

33 Highish card

34 Masseur's place

35 Spring up 37 Resign

39 Ominous bird

40 Intent look 41 Spirited horse

42 Pub 1 Commopints

DOWN

10 Takes on 1 Knitted wrap holder 2 Cleaned

> up 3 Laundry

> > worker 4 Workout unit

5 Watered down

6 Suffered from

7 Weather map line

8 Just 9 Winter

weather

26 Local 11 Traveling resident trunk 27 Bleak

NEATO BEDS A N S CROWE ALITO KAREN SLEDS Yesterday's answer

ESS

R|R|S P|A|R

S|L|A|B| S|U|G|A|R

UNFIT

LAMOTTA

17 Ugly 28 Have high building 20 Loqua-

CARGO

|E|N|D|

29 Sows' cious mates 21 Beat at **31** Can't

the board stand

23 Calls for 33 Watch 25 Turkish over peak

36 Take in

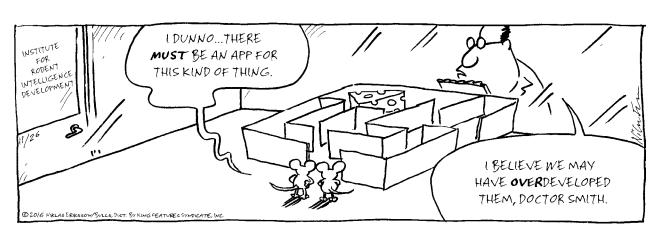
38 Seventh

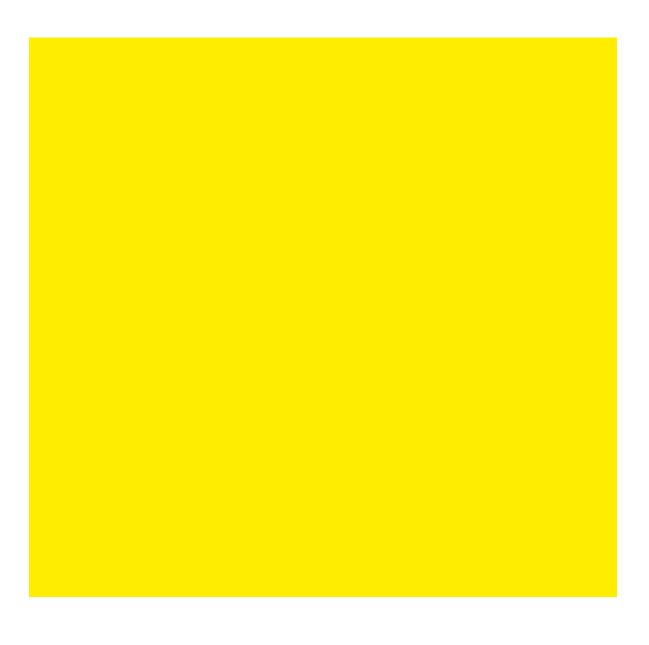
hopes

Greek letter

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

Have fun AYMAN REPORTER







DON'T BE LEFT IN THE DARK

GET THE APP

Your Community. Stay Informed.



DOWNLOAD FREE



