

# Wounding charge sent to Grand Court

CAROL WINKER

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A West Bay man appeared in Summary Court on Tuesday charged with wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm on Friday, Aug. 19.

The defendant, James Douglas Ebanks, 58, is also charged with wounding as an alternative.

Police issued a release indicating that the victim/complainant went to the district police station to report the matter just before noon on Saturday Aug. 20. He was given first aid and an ambulance was called to take him to hospital.

The location of the incident was the yard of a third party. Police officers found it by following a

trail of blood for more than three-quarters of a mile.

In court, defense attorney John Furniss told Magistrate Valdis Foldats that the injured man, 54, had required 12 stitches to his hand. Neither Mr. Furniss nor Crown counsel Neil Kumar gave any details of the incident that led to the charges. There was no mention of the apparent inconsistency in the dates.

No application was made for bail.

The magistrate pointed out that wounding with intent is a charge that can be dealt with only in Grand Court. He set the matter for mention in the higher court on Sept. 16.

Mr. Furniss indicated that the question of bail could be addressed in the Grand Court.

## CORRECTION

A story titled "Attempted murder charge sent to Grand Court" on page 3 of Monday's *Cayman Compass* contained an incorrect spelling of Kevin Curtis Bowen's name. The *Caymanian Compass*

strives for accuracy and is committed to correcting errors that appear in the newspaper. Those interested in contacting the paper for that purpose can send an email to editor@pinnaclemediatd.com.



Stay-Focused intern Keanu Oliver, standing, assists first-time diver, Josh Hipps, before a dive.

# Disabled divers get help from students

JAMES WHITTAKER

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Two Caymanian students spent part of their summer helping disabled teens learn to dive.

Keanu Oliver, 17, and Emily Whittaker, 15, students at Clifton Hunter High School, joined the Stay-Focused diver certification program as interns.

As well as learning to dive for the first time themselves, the pair assisted visiting teens in the program.

Ryan Chalmers, director of programs for the nonprofit organization which has certified 86 teens and young adults with physical disabilities since its inception in 2004, said the internship program was designed as a way of bringing young Caymanians into the fold.

He said, "The interns room with one of the participants and that is where they really get to learn about disabilities.

"That is something we want to bring here on island. We want to show that people with disabilities are just the same as them. All they have to do is adapt."

Keanu said learning to dive and working with disabled youngsters had been an eye opening experience.

"My buddy was in a car accident and had lost movement in his legs. He was in therapy to get him to move again. He was awesome. He had a great personality and such a cheery spirit. It was amazing."

Emily said she had been nervous to learn to dive but was inspired by the



Stay-Focused programs director Ryan Chalmers, left, with Caymanian interns Emily Whittaker and Keanu Oliver.

bravery of the disabled teens.

"It is funny because I am the one that lives on an island, but when we first went snorkeling I was really anxious. I saw the rest of the kids so excited and I thought I don't need to be scared. I can do it as well."

She said sharing a room with a girl of her age who was in a wheelchair gave her a new appreciation for the challenges disabled people face.

"I think all the disabled kids in Cayman should get involved in the

program – not only would they learn how to dive, but they would learn things they didn't know about themselves."

Keanu said his first experience of diving in Cayman was amazing. "It was my first time seeing the reef and the coral. It was beautiful, iconic."

For the disabled divers, he said, "It was like weightlessness. Under water we were all on the same level. They loved it. One of the group said it was the most difficult but gratifying experience of his life."

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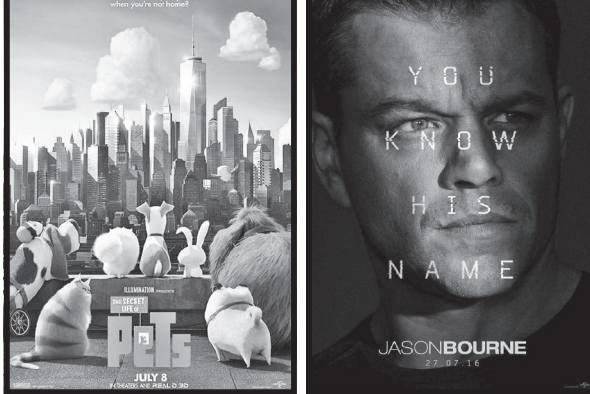
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