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**DEAD WOMAN AMONG
ILLEGAL MIGRANTS DOCKED
ON SALT CAY - PAGE 3**



**ACCUSED GUN
DISTRIBUTORS
NABBED BY POLICE -
PAGE 4**

'APALLING JURY DUTY PAY'

**SEE
PAGE 5**

● **Some Jurors say \$15 per day not worth their while**

Junior Achievement Programme Celebrates 10 Years

The Junior Achievement Company Programme celebrated 10 years in the Turks and Caicos Islands, and the milestone was marked with the unveiling of their budding businesses to the community and a critical panel of judges. The event was held at the Graceway IGA Supermarket on Providencials on Saturday, January 20. This year's participating teams were Islands Exclusive of Wesley Methodist, Sew Ready of Edward Gartland Youth Center, Tropical Treasures of Elite High, Evergreen Crystal Shells of Raymond Gardiner, Da Unity Kollection of Clement Howell, Piecin' TCI of A. Louise Garland Thomas High, and Harbour KRAFTS of Marjorie Basden High. The following are highlights of the event.



Dead Woman Among Illegal Migrants Docked On Salt Cay

Local authorities made a tragic discovery when they found the body of a woman who was among an undisclosed number of Haitian Migrants whose boat docked on the island of Salt Cay early Wednesday morning. Local authorities said the boat, which landed on the tiny island approximately 3a.m. was discovered at its south side. The police said that the Border Force took immediate action in collaboration with the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force and other law enforcement agencies.

The police said resources were mobilized to apprehend those involved and gather crucial information for ongoing investigations.

The police commend the citizens of Salt Cay on the way they displayed

community spirit during the situation.

"The community spirit displayed by the residents of South Salt Cay has been commendable. Their valuable assistance has proven instrumental in effectively managing the situation. We express our gratitude for their vigilance and commitment to the safety and security of the community," a statement from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force said.

The police said at the time distributing its statement, approximately 59 individuals were apprehended.

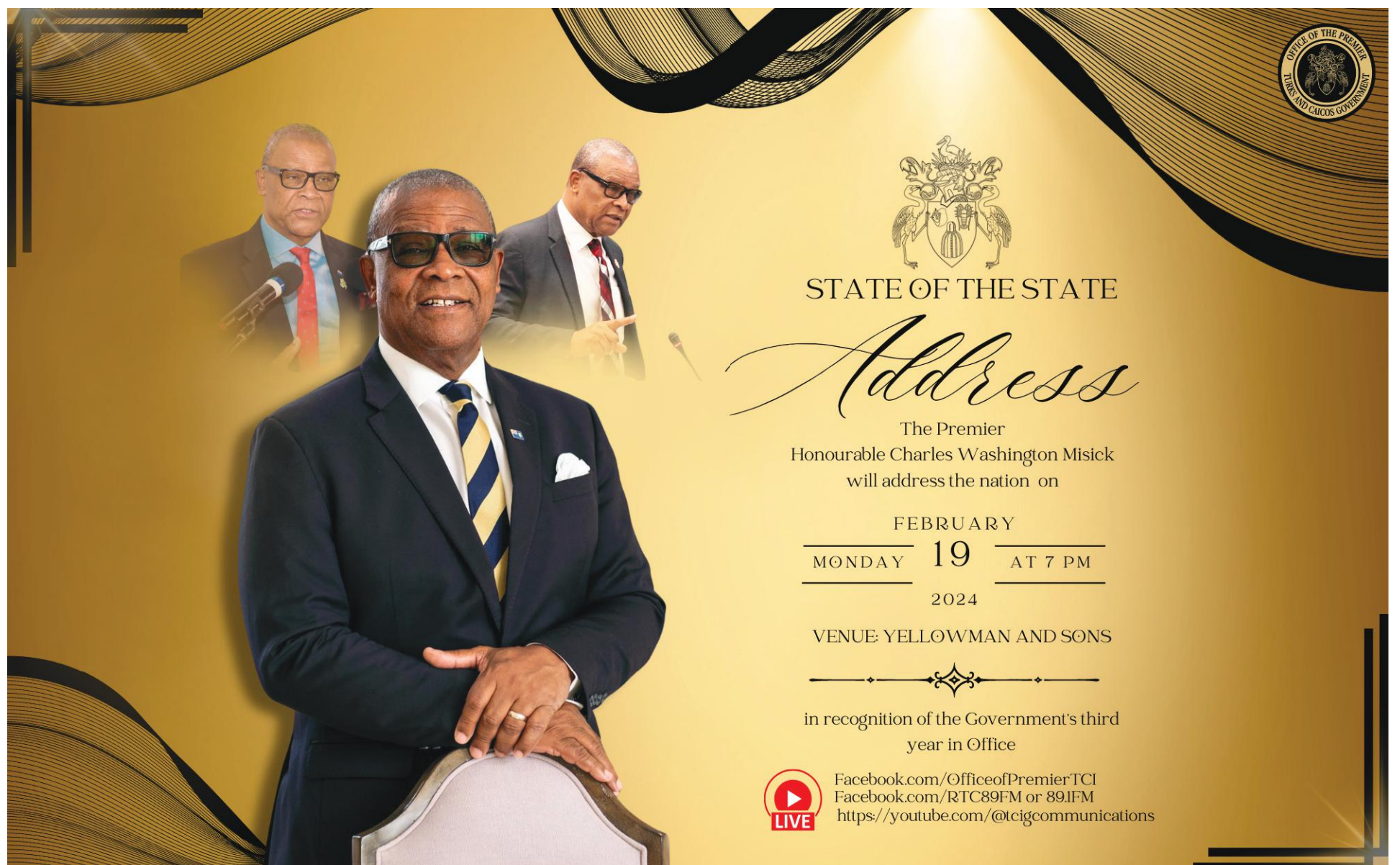
"We recognize the potential risks posed by the presence of illegal migrants and urge all residents to continue to take necessary precautions for their safety," the statement from

the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force said.

In the wake of the boat landing with illegal migrants, residents on that island have been urged to be vigilant in protecting their property.

"Residents are advised to secure their homes and belongings, exercise caution regarding unfamiliar individuals or activities, and promptly report suspicious persons, activity, or information to local authorities through the 911 emergency hotline.

"Border Force, in partnership with other agencies, will continue working tirelessly to protect the well-being of our community and maintain the security of the Turks and Caicos Islands. We stand united against any threats to our nation's borders and prosperity."




OFFICE OF THE PREMIER
TURKS AND CAICOS GOVERNMENT

STATE OF THE STATE
Address
The Premier
Honourable Charles Washington Misick
will address the nation on

FEBRUARY
MONDAY 19 AT 7 PM
2024

VENUE: YELLOWMAN AND SONS

in recognition of the Government's third
year in Office

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<https://youtube.com/@tcigcommunications>

Accused Gun Distributors Nabbed By Police



RTCIPF mugshots of James Ferguson (left), who charged with firearms distribution and possession of marijuana, and Ryan Smith who was accused of guns distribution.



Three men of Grand Turk and Providenciales addresses who are charged with gun and drug-related offences have been remanded to Her Majesty's Prison on Grand Turk until their sufficiency hearing have been heard.

The three accused gun distributors are identified as Ryan Smith 41, of Providenciales, Shakeme Seymour 43, of Grand Turk, and James Ferguson 27 of Providenciales.

The three were charged on February 5, by officers of the Serious Crimes Unit of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force. According to the police, all three were charged with conspiring to supply firearms and ammunition. Additionally, Ferguson faces an extra charge of conspiring to supply marijuana.

The accused trio appeared before the Magistrate's Court on February

6, where they were remanded in custody. They are awaiting a sufficiency hearing scheduled for April 10.

In recent weeks there have been a wave of gun crimes across Providenciales in Grand Turk. Last week, within the space of 24 hours, the police recorded two double murders, sparking Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam and Premier Hon. Washington Misick to host a joint news briefing, announcing plans to beef up security measures.

It is not clear whether or not any of the men arrested have been linked to the gun-related incidents on both islands. Additionally, the police did not say whether or not any firearms were found in the men's possession.

Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr. Rodney Adams, issued a brief statement emphasizing the commitment of

law enforcement in preventing illegal activities, particularly the trafficking of firearms. He highlighted the ongoing collaboration with international partner law agencies and the implementation of robust operations by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) to safeguard the region.

Acting Commissioner Adams urged the public to contribute to the fight against illegal activities by providing information through various channels, including calling emergency services at 911, contacting the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, or using the Crime Stoppers hotline at 1-800-8477 (TIPS). The case against the men underscores the authorities' dedication to maintaining the security and well-being of the Turks and Caicos Islands, emphasizing the importance of community involvement in ensuring public safety.

Jurors Express Dissatisfaction with Low Daily Pay, Call for Salary Review

Several jurors currently presiding over cases, some involving dangerous criminals, have voiced their dissatisfaction with the current daily pay of \$15.

These jurors, who explained that they have taken extended leaves from their jobs to fulfill their duties in the Supreme Court, are urging authorities to reconsider and increase their compensation.

They believe that Chief Justice Mabel Agymang, The TCI Bar Council and or the Attorney General Chambers could bat for their cause.

According to the jurors, the \$15 daily stipend falls significantly short of adequately compensating them for the time and effort they invest in serving on these cases. Many of them said they have been facing financial challenges due to prolonged absences from their regular employment, emphasizing the need for a more substantial compensation package.

For some time now, members of the public who have been called to serve as jurors often conjure reasons as to why they are unable to oblige. According to one juror, the paltry salary offering is one of the main reasons.

They stated that some jurors, based on the nature of some of the cases they sit on, are afraid for their safety and that of their family, and as a result, believe that they should be properly compensated.

"We are getting \$15 a day, and it has been so for years, and that is why at the Supreme Court level there is always a problem with jurors," one juror outlined.

A juror currently involved in ongoing cases, disclosed that the daily salary package for jurors has remained unchanged for many years now, and it appeared no effort was being made to rectify the package.

Speaking exclusively to NewslineTCI, the juror emphasized the need for an urgent review and adjustment of the compensation provided to those serving in the Supreme Court.

"People don't mind doing jury duty, but we have light bill to pay, water bill to pay, but after spending three weeks in the court, many of us do not get a salary from our workplace. Now, what you find is, a lot of people have been coming up with a lot of excuses as to why they cannot serve, but if you check it out, it is really the measly compensation that they are backing away from.



Attorney General Rhondalee Braitwaite-Knowles

"They had to be at court sitting all day for the jury selection, at times two or three days before they get picked. And if you do not get picked, you get no money, and so, you could be setting there for three full days, waiting to be picked, at that time, getting no salary. That is not right," the juror pointed out.

The juror added: "We don't get paid for the days when the jury selection is being done, and so, you lose three day's pay. That is not right, something must be done about that. If a young mother is called for jury duty, she would have to stay there until a three-week trial come to an end. In many cases she does not get a salary. So, I believe that that needs to be amended in the law.

"We are doing our civil duty that is required of us, but in some cases our employers do not pay us for those days that we are absent from work and are in court. That is the pain that some of us face."

To that end, the jurors are calling on the relevant authorities to conduct a thorough review of their current pay structure and consider implementing meaningful upward adjustments. They argue that a higher salary would not only recognize the importance of their role in the justice system but also help alleviate the financial burden placed on them as they fulfill their civic duty.

It remains to be seen how the authorities will respond to these calls for a salary re-



Chief Justice Mabel Agymang

view, but the concerns raised by the jurors shed light on an important aspect of the justice system – the compensation of those who play a crucial role in upholding it.

The juror pointed out that the stagnant daily pay of \$15 has failed to keep pace with the increasing cost of living and other economic factors over the years. Expressing concerns about the financial strain faced by jurors who often are compelled to take extended leaves from their regular jobs, the individual called on authorities to address this long-standing issue promptly.

A lawyer who did not want to go on record noted that the revelation raises questions about the fairness and sustainability of the current compensation structure for jurors "...As they play a crucial role in the justice system, ensuring their financial well-being becomes paramount to maintain the integrity and effectiveness of the jury system.

"An immediate adjustment in the daily salary package underscores the urgency of the matter and the need for the relevant authorities to take prompt action in addressing the concerns of jurors who dedicate their time to serve the justice system," the attorney noted.

But according one skeptical panelist, "...I am not holding my breath, because it remains to be seen how this disclosure will impact discussions surrounding juror compensation in the legal system."

Fast-tracking Armageddon?

White Evangelicals in the US, many of whom are hard-core Zionists, subscribe to a theology which unapologetically states that the State of Israel as well as Jordan; parts of Lebanon and Syria; and all of East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and Gaza is Eretz Israel.

Evangelicals claim that the land was given to Israel by the deity of the Old Testament and that no other ethnic group has any legitimate right to the so-called Holy Land. The biblical description of the land of Israel, stretching from the Nile River to the Euphrates, raises some vexing geopolitical questions that not even the most radical Zionists are willing to pursue. Dispensationalism, which is the undergirding force that drives the literalism of the futurist system of prophetic interpretation embraced by most Evangelical churches, affirms that the literal nation of Israel needed to make a big comeback in the end time scenario. According to this mode of theological thought, the present dispensation of the Church ends when the Church is raptured away and the literal nation of Israel again assumes centre stage in the divine plan.

Central to the re-emergence of Israel in the end time scenario as taught by dispensationalists is the rebirth of the nation of Israel in Palestine in 1948. Christian Zionists were beside themselves with joy when the Balfour Declaration evolved into solid support for and acceptance of the State of Israel in 1948. Christian Zionists preceded Israeli Zionists in espousing the notion of a land without a people for a people without a land. Lord Balfour, Theodor Herzl, Winston Churchill and all the other major players in the events leading up to the Nakba of 1948 cared little about the rights of the over 700,000 Palestinians who were forced from their ancestral lands to make room for European Jews.

As far as Christian Zionists were concerned the nation of Israel had to be restored as a precursor for the rebuilding of the third Jewish Temple and the long-anticipated agreement between the State of Israel and the dreaded Antichrist of the Apocalypse. According to Christian Zionists, the Antichrist would enter into a covenant with the State of Israel but break the covenant in the middle of the final prophetic week mentioned in the ninth chapter of the Old Testament book of Daniel.

For the predictions of dispensationalists, like Hal Lindsey, Tim LaHaye, John Hagee, Pat Robertson, Dave Hunt, and a host of others, to become a reality, Jews had to be restored to the land of Israel and the third Jewish Temple has to be construct-

ed on the ancient site of the Jewish Temple. Since Palestinians sounded pretty much like Philistines, dispensationalists openly stated that the new Israeli State should go Old Testament on the Palestinians and drive them out of the land using the state-of-the-art weapons furnished by the Europeans and the Americans.

The Nakba of 1948 and the settlement programme that continues today proved to be a breeze for the State of Israel. It was customary for the United Nations to condemn the land grabs of the State, but the US was always there to save the day by exercising its veto to ensure that Israel was not punished for stealing land from Palestinians or occupying land which belonged to its neighbours.

By far, the more vexing problem for Christian Zionists is the third Jewish Temple project. Much to the chagrin of Christian and Israeli Zionists, the Muslim Dome of the Rock Mosque was built on the site which many Zionists believe to be the site of the old Jewish Temple. In addition to being an architectural wonder dating back to the seventh century CE, the Al-Aqsa or Dome of the Rock Mosque also happens to be one of the holiest sites in the Muslim world.

Both Christian and Israeli Zionists advocate for the destruction of the Dome of the Rock Mosque so that the third Jewish Temple can be built on the site. It is not difficult to imagine what the response of the world's 1.8-billion Muslims would be if one of their holiest sites were destroyed by Zionists. Such destruction would be on par with the destruction of the Vatican, and it is predictable that there would be hell to pay.

The US, Israel, Christian Zionists, and the European supporters of the Zionist project are playing with fire in the Middle East. The Houthis will not be deterred by this new round of bombing by the US and the UK. Over seven years of bombing by Saudi Arabia, backed by the US, the UK, France, and several Gulf states, did little to lessen the Houthis enthusiasm for military aggression. Hezbollah is reticent to go all in like the Houthis against Israel, but Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, is on record stating that Hezbollah will not allow Israel to wipe out Gaza and its Palestinian population.

The Iranians have delivered on their promise to retaliate for the terrorist attacks that killed scores of Iranians attending a memorial service for assassinated general Qasem Soleimani and for the recent assassination of Sayyed Razi Mousavi, a top Iranian military adviser in Syria. Iran launched missiles into Syria, Iraq, and Pakistan, possibly as a warning to Is-

rael and its allies. It is totally conceivable that Iran will also ratchet up military support for both Hezbollah and the Houthis.

The president of Türkiye, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and other leaders in the Muslim world are currently engaging in games of diplomacy designed to help the Palestinians without endangering their own national security. The masses of Muslims in the Middle East and in other Muslim-majority countries will eventually lose patience with the games of diplomacy if the bloodletting in Gaza and the West Bank is not stopped. Pressure from below will force Muslim leaders to re-evaluate their stance on the Israeli aggression in Gaza and to a lesser extent in the West Bank.

Christian and Israeli Zionists are laying the foundation for the carnage that Christian Zionists call Armageddon. Convinced that they are following the script found in the

Bible, Christian Zionists are cheering Israel on as the bombs continue to drop and rivers of Palestinian blood continue to flow. Israel, notwithstanding its weak denials, is a nuclear power. Pakistan, a Muslim-majority country, is also a nuclear power. Should Israel threaten Türkiye, Iran, or any other Muslim country with a nuclear strike, it is quite possible that Pakistan's nuclear weapons could be factored into the Middle Eastern equation.

The unleashing of nuclear weapons or the widespread deployment of state-of-the-art conventional weapons in the Middle East and elsewhere will lead to all the Armageddon the world can stomach. African and Caribbean people should be aware that much of the 'madness' that we are witnessing in the Middle East finds its genesis in bad religion and in bad theology. African American Christians who are chanting four more years for the Joe Biden Administration may also want to re-evaluate their theological foundations.

Extricating ourselves from bad religion and bad theology is a necessary prerequisite for people of African ancestry if we want to be found standing on the right side of history.

Lenrod Nzulu Baraka is the founder of Afro-Caribbean Spiritual Teaching Center and the author of *The Grand Failure: How Christianity Became a Source of Evil in the World*. Send comments to rodneynimrod2@gmail.com.



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Caribbean Tourism to Remain Strong in 2024 According To Travel Advisors



Antigua ASAT - From L to R – ASTA President Zane Kirby, Antigua Tourism Minister Charles Fernandez, ASTA Chair Jackie Friedman, UVI Executive Vice President Sales and Industry Relations Gary Sadler, UVI Assoc. Director of Industry Affairs Karlene Angus-Smith

North American Travel Advisors are expressing confidence that the Caribbean stands to benefit from robust travel in 2024.

Board members of the American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA) recently met with Chapter Presidents from 50 U.S. states at the Sandals Grande Antigua Resort.

President and CEO of ASTA Zane Kirby said the one thing the travel trade has noted is that many millennials who now occupy management positions are prioritizing travel, “Millennials are the largest age group within the United States over 70 million, and one of the interesting things is that they preference travel over almost any other discretionary spend, even over things like housing.”

Kirby added that in spite of the online options, many travelers still turn to travel advisors to help manage their travel experience, and when the advisors have the opportunity to visit destinations like Antigua and other Caribbean islands, then it becomes much easier for them to promote and sell these destinations to clients, “The vast majority of them (tourists) when they are actually ready to book, they are going to go and find someone who has actual expertise

and experience. That’s the one thing internet search engines don’t have, the actual onsite experience that our members are getting here this week.”

Noting the increasing competition from other destinations all over the world, Minister of Tourism of Antigua Charles Henry Fernandez, commended Sandals Resorts for its role in helping to bring regional destinations and the travel trade closer together, thereby ensuring that the Caribbean gets the exposure it needs to allow their clients to choose here first, “The US is our most important source market, and ASTA is the group that delivers most of the people out of the US to us, so it’s very important for them to come and be here with us. Our mutual success as a tourism destination along with the success of Sandals, as the region’s premier hospitality brand would not be possible without your support. I commend Sandals for its singular role in not just creating the world’s top hotel brand, but for hosting your visit in beautiful Antigua and Barbuda.

Meantime Gary Sadler, the Executive Vice President of Sales and Industry Relations at Unique Vacations, the exclusive marketing partner for

Sandals Resorts, said the company is firmly committed to its relationship with ASTA and travel advisors, who continue to play a vital role in driving Caribbean tourism.

This is why he noted that Sandals continues to host travel advisors at all its resorts throughout the region and intends to expose them to even more destinations in the future, “Because we know that unless and until you come and see and experience and explore the destination you would never be in a position to truly accept how wonderful these islands of the Caribbean are.”

Sadler went on to thank the travel advisors for helping to ensure that the regional tourism sector remains vibrant and continues to grow, “Part of your thrust as travel advisors is to experience the region and be confident about what the region has to offer, Sandals Resorts for sure is spending a lot of resources building out and expanding throughout the Caribbean, adding new rooms and new destinations, so in the end you have more options to sell to your clients.” ASTA’s much anticipated Caribbean Showcase will take place at Sandals Royal Curacao later this year.



Promotions for the Year

★★★★★
2023



Sheba Wilson

Former Position: Group Director of Human Resources
Promoted to: Vice President of Human Resources
Grace Bay Resorts



Christopher Meredith

Former Position: Group Director of Food & Beverage
Promoted to: Vice President of Food & Beverage
Grace Bay Resorts



Ilana Ewing

Former Position: Director of Quality Assurance & Training
Promoted to: Director of Rooms
Property: **Point Grace**



Georgetta Smith-Davis

Former Position: Assistant Director of Human Resources
Promoted to: Director of Human Resources
Property: **South Bank**



Nelia Nsanta

Former Position: Assistant Director of Private Villa Collection
Promoted to: Director of Guest Experience
Private Villa Collection



Jamie Soughton

Former Position: Development Representative
Promoted to: Director of Development
Grace Bay Resorts



Akilah Garland

Former Position: HR Coordinator
Promoted to: Human Resources Manager Trainee
Property: **Point Grace**



Nevanna Bent

Former Position: HR Coordinator
Promoted to: Human Resources Manager
Property: **Grace Bay Resorts**



Guerline Herilien

Former Position: Guest Services Manager
Promoted to: Assistant Executive Housekeeper
Property: **Grace Bay Club**



Gregory Demerette

Former Position: Bar Manager
Promoted to: Food & Beverage Resort Ambassador
Property: **Grace Bay Club**



Bernardo Rahming

Former Position: Assistant Restaurant Manager
Promoted to: Food & Beverage Manager
Property: **Rock House**



Marie Predestin

Former Position: Restaurant Supervisor
Promoted to: Assistant Restaurant Manager
Property: **Rock House**



Elibeth Aracena

Former Position: Human Resources Coordinator
Promoted to: Assistant Human Resources Manager
Property: **Rock House**



Woodens Corvil

Former Position: Team Leader
Promoted to: Assistant Pool & Beach Manager
Property: **Rock House**



Emileo Williams

Former Position: Pool & Beach Supervisor
Promoted to: Assistant Pool & Beach Manager
Property: **Grace Bay Club**



Alen Francois

Former Position: Laundry Supervisor
Promoted to: Assistant Housekeeping Manager
Property: **Rock House**



Anita Christie

Former Position: Housekeeper
Promoted to: Housekeeping Supervisor
Property: **Grace Bay Club**



Doreth Ferguson-Hyde

Former Position: Housekeeper
Promoted to: Housekeeping Supervisor
Property: **Grace Bay Club**



Vinette Pennicooke

Former Position: Housekeeper
Promoted to: Housekeeping Supervisor
Property: **Grace Bay Club**



Amesha Darlington

Former Position: Housekeeper
Promoted to: Housekeeping Supervisor
Property: **Point Grace**



Chesney Rigby

Former Position: Team Leader
Promoted to: Food & Beverage Supervisor
Property: **Rock House**



Robert Siffard

Former Position: Team Leader
Promoted to: Pool & Beach Supervisor
Property: **Rock House**



Ihon Dorismond

Former Position: Pizza Cook
Promoted to: Culinary Supervisor
Property: **Rock House**



Cardy Jennings

Former Position: Laundry Attendant
Promoted to: Laundry Supervisor
Property: **Rock House**



Gregory Theodore

Former Position: Maintenance Technician
Promoted to: Lead Technician
Property: **Rock House**



Venel Napoleon

Former Position: Maintenance Technician
Promoted to: Senior Maintenance Technician
Property: **Point Grace**



Gerardo Angrand

Former Position: Server
Promoted to: Food & Beverage Team Leader
Property: **Rock House**



Jeph Alce

Former Position: Pool & Beach Attendant
Promoted to: Pool & Beach Team Leader
Property: **Rock House**



Berlandie Dormevil

Former Position: Guest Experience Agent
Promoted to: Senior Guest Experience Agent
Property: **Rock House**



Freddie Bruno
Former Position: Human Resources Coordinator
Promoted to: Training & Quality Assurance Coordinator
Property: **Grace Bay Club**



Junior Capellan
Former Position: Server
Promoted to: Human Resources Coordinator
Property: **Rock House**



Jonathan Reyes
Former Position: Assistant Server
Promoted to: Barista
Property: **Rock House**



Kiandre Fulford
Former Position: Barback
Promoted to: Bartender
Property: **Rock House**



Ronn Richardson
Former Position: Houseman
Promoted to: Resort Driver
Private Villa Collection



Filien Etienne
Former Position: Steward
Promoted to: Line Cook
Property: **Rock House**

Business Continuity Training Workshop – February 2024

The Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME) will be hosting a series of Business Continuity Trainings on the various islands of the Turks and Caicos within the month of February 2024.

It is important to remember that hazards can occur at any time and can impact the ability of an individual, business or agency from continuing operations.

The training aims to provide a clear methodology that can guide TCIG as well as small, medium, or large business operators, of actions that can be undertaken prior to the impact of any natural or man-made hazards that can aid in a reduction

of loss time and all financial implications that can be associated. Participants will also learn how to develop and/or update comprehensive business continuity and contingency plans that are consistent with industry standards and best practices.

The arranged schedule for the trainings is below:

No.	Island	Date	Location
1.	Grand Turk	19 th - 20 th February, 2024	Anglican Dillon Hall
2.	North Caicos	19 th - 20 th February, 2024	Providence Baptist Church Whitby
3.	Providenciales	22 nd - 23 rd February, 2024	The Atrium Conference Room
4.	South Caicos	22 nd - 23 rd February, 2024	South Caicos Community Centre

DDME takes the opportunity to invite Executives, Managers and Planners from within the TCIG Public Service, as well as Private Business owners who have re-

sponsibility for developing Business Continuity Plans/Disaster Recovery Plans, as well as individuals with direct oversight in managing the Continuity of Operations and Contingency Planning elements of their organization to register for this training.

The training will be facilitated by qualified and experienced Disaster Risk Management Professionals from the Region. The DDME encourages all interested individuals not to miss this opportunity as we seek to improve the resiliency of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Interested persons are encouraged to register via the link below. DDME looks forward to productive and rewarding sessions.

Seven Stars Resort Tops 2024 Chocolate Lovers Showcase



Seven Stars celebrate with their two trophies, which gave them overall winners at the 14th staging of the Salvation Army Chocolate Lovers Showcase on the lawn of the Palms Resort on Saturday, February 2, 2024. Fifth from left is Executive Chef Damion Carter. At left is Leslie Foss, Executive Board Member of the Salvation Army, while at second left is Arian Lewis also of the Salvation Army Turks and Caicos.

Seven Stars Resort copped the overall title at this year's staging of the Salvation Army's Chocolate Lovers Showcase staged at the Palms Resort in Providenciales on Saturday February 2, snaring the two categories up for grabs – Sweet and Savory.

The event, which is in its 14th year, saw many resorts and restaurants across Providenciales presenting their best chocolate-based creations, which were judged by the scores of patrons who attended the event. The winners were decided on a 'People's Choice' basis.

An elated Damion Carter, Executive Chef at Seven Stars Resort, told NewslineTCI that the 'Sweet' presentation was a Chocolate Dome, with its recipe being chocolate as its main ingredient, comprised of, among other things Banana and a boost of Vanilla.

Carter explained that for the Savory they presented a Braised Oxtail Slider, pointing out that for the slider they used a Chocolate Brioche Burger Bun.

Carter pointed out that while they were happy that Seven Stars managed to score at the top of the patrons' lists, based on their history of topping competitions, it was not an earth-shattering surprise that they took

this year's competition.

Pelican Bay Restaurant copped the second place title in the Savory Category, while Como Parrot Cay, who lost to Seven Stars by a single point was second in the Sweet division.

For her part, Leslie Foss, Executive Member of the Salvation Army TCI Board said she was elated at the excitement that the event continues to generate. She said the chefs from all the resort again, blew their creation out of the park once again.

"I thought the chefs, every single year, just keep raising the bar. It is amazing," Foss said, pointing out even though she believed that attendance number from last year had apparently dropped, the exciting was equally great.

"I thought our numbers were not as many as last year, but sometimes it appears that way because of how they set the space up better...I would not know until I actually crunch the numbers," Foss said.

She was once again blown away with the attractive prizes they were up for grabs at the auctions. The auctions included a necklace by Messika and a bracelet by John Hardy and sponsored by Royal Jewels. The most sought-after auction piece was a Privé Yacht

Charters Cruise.

"Two beautiful pieces from Royal Jewels. Whoever the purchasers were got good deals on them. The John Hardy piece was beautiful and the Messika was nice. Of course, Privé Yacht Charters is always fantastic in donating a prize for the event, and so, that seemed to be the ticket that mostly everyone wanted," Foss continued.

She pointed out that the proceeds from the event will go towards the Salvation Army's Schools Lunch Programme.

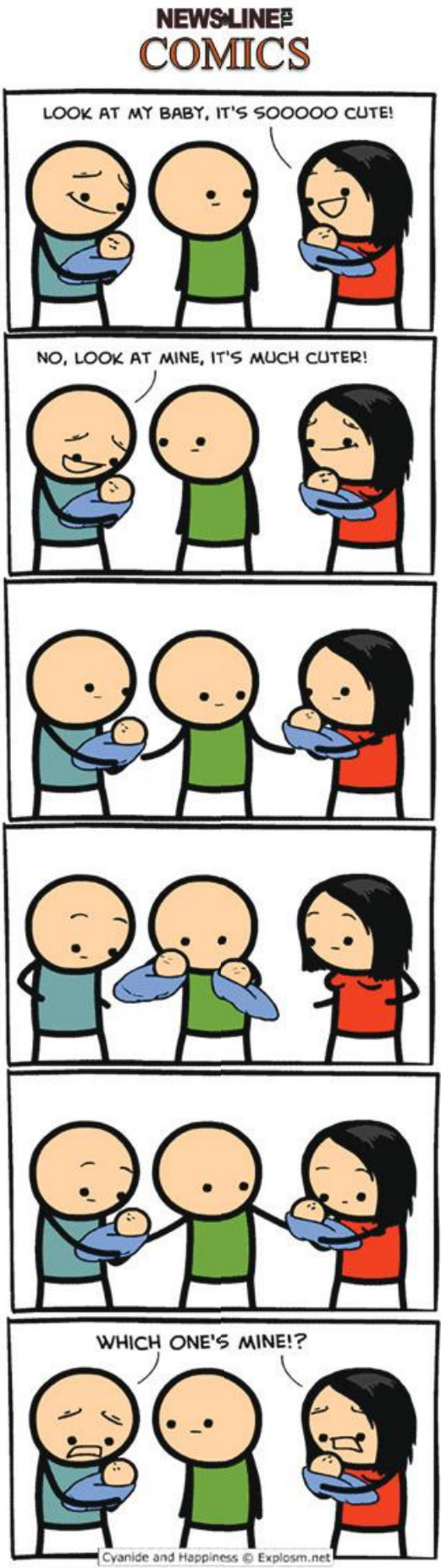
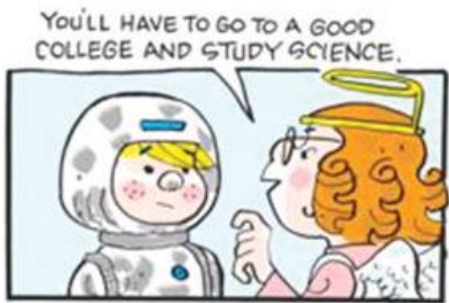
"The funds from this goes towards our Salvation Army Hot Lunch Feeding Programme that the Salvation Army run in the schools. Students in dire need (of good nutrition) are identified by the counsellors, and those are the kids we help. Obviously, the more money we raise the more kids we can help," Foss Continued.

In the meantime, Foss told NewslineTCI that she was hopeful that at least \$40,000 was raised from the event, pointing out when all the ticket sales and proceeds from the auctions are tabulated, the picture would then become clear. She said last year was the best Chocolate Lovers Showcase event so far, in terms of fundraising, pointing out that approximately \$53,000 was raised then.

Hank Ketchum's

Dennis the Menace

Miss NO-it-all



jojo the dolphin

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HERITAGE

Jojo the dolphin is a wild Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphin who freely interacts with humans. This dolphin is known, not only throughout the islands, but internationally. In 1989 JoJo was even awarded the title of National Treasure in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

JoJo is a male dolphin weighing about 880 pounds (400 kg) and approximately 10 feet (3 m).

Dean Bernal, a wildlife advocate from the United States, visited the Turks and Caicos in 1981 and settled in the islands in 1986. It was during this time he struck a friendship with the dolphin during his daily swims. Over time, the two bonded in a unique human/dolphin friendship.

This unique friendship between dolphin and man has lasted decades and prompted international attention. A movie "The Dean and JoJo Story" was released in 2012. As well, the two are featured in the 2012 IMAX presentation of "Dolphins". In addition, a book, "Dean and JoJo: The Dolphin Legacy", was released in November of 2013.

Solitary dolphins like JoJo are rare. Dolphins are highly social animals, but it's their own kind with whom they most want to associate. In fact, there are only a few dolphins in the world that seek out human companions.

Sources:

DolphinsFilm

YourVillaDelMar

VisitTCI

Youth Twitter Space Discussion Spurs Urgent Call for Increased Participation in National Activities



Antwon Walkin, Carifta Medalist was among the panelists

The youth of the Turks and Caicos Islands need to play greater participation in national events and activities. The conclusion was made during a thought-provoking Twitter Space Discussion held on Wednesday, January 24th, 2024, at 7.00 pm, among approximately 110 eager listeners, classified as some of the brightest youth young minds from the country.

Hosted by youth advocate and community activist Leo Lightbourne, the discussion explored the reasons behind the low interest of Turks Islanders in participating in cultural activities. The distinguished panel of speakers included Caricom Youth Ambassadors Shakiah Lewis and Andy Missick, local researcher Steven Ulysse, Rotaract Club of Providenciales President Tamisha Rigby, and Carifta Medalist Antwon Walkin.

Key Takeaways from the Speakers:
Antwon Walkin, Carifta Medalist: "Active participation allows youth to engage with and appreciate our cultural identity, fostering pride in our heritage. Acknowledging past shortcomings will be critical toward our future as a unified nation concerning national events. It's not necessarily about returning to the days of old but creating a heritage-filled environment inclusive of past, present and future incidents of

cultural importance."

Caricom Youth Ambassador Andy Missick: "Involvement in national events is vital for preserving our culture. Collaboration with schools and organizations, inviting young influencers, and providing incentives can encourage participation. Understanding and setting in stone our cultural identity is essential for the youth to actively contribute to the development of national events." Local Researcher Steven Ulysse: "Consulting our elders is crucial to identify and amplify the rich cultural heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Collaborations with local filmmakers and various mediums can help showcase our culture. We need to recognize and utilize the wealth of knowledge held by our elders in preserving our unique traditions."

Caricom Youth Ambassador Shakiah Lewis: "Cultural activities bring people together, fostering a sense of belonging and strengthening community bonds. Cultural events play a vital role in community cohesion, celebrating shared heritage and building connections. The richness of a community's identity is experienced through active participation in cultural festivals and celebrations."

Rotaract Club of Providenciales President Tamisha Rigby: "Understand-



The event was hosted by Leo Lightbourne

ing the roots of festivals and cultural practices is crucial. It's not just about partying; it's about learning the origins of these celebrations. We need to educate ourselves about the national dishes of each island, traditions like the Maypole, and actively participate in preserving our culture for future generations."

Key Areas Identified for Addressing Increased Participation in National Events:

1. Introducing a holistic cultural class at all school levels to teach the Turks and Caicos culture.
2. Advocating for more Cultural Educational Workshops to be held annually.
3. Incentivizing local festival organizers at the end of their festivals to promote their longevity.

The organizers are committed to translating these insights into tangible actions, fostering collaboration, and creating a brighter future for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Welcome to New Birth Agape Fellowship International, under the auspices of Apostle Cindy Jarrett, our founder, Minister, Teacher, Prophetess, Preacher & Apostle.

Apostle Jarrett is also a Legal Marriage Officer in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In this week's edition of Newsline Featured Church, we turn the spotlight on New Birth Agape Fellowship International.

The church is pastored by Cindy Jarrett, founder, Minister, Teacher, Prophetess, Preacher & Apostle. It is located at 233 Millennium Highway, Providenciales, on the left side of the road, passing the Maranatha High School.

The Ministry holds Prayer Meetings on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm & Youth Night on Fridays at 7pm, with Sunday morning service at 11am. The Ministry started in 2009 in the country's capital, Grand Turk, on the Old Airport, but later transitioned Providenciales in 2015. Its Pentecost Ministry believes in the Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

For contact, call +1 (649) 245-9807 and leave a message or email at newbirthagapefellowshipintl@gmail.com.

Should you wish to experience that church's messages, listen at 3pm on Sundays on 89.1fm or subscriber to their podcast or YouTube page [@apostlecindyjarrett](#)



LIFE LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

Looking for a worshipping house to praise God and fellowship with members of the body of Christ, here is a list of some of the available sanctuaries you can attend throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030	Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438	Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349
One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com .	Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136	Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349
Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731	Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073	Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565
Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755	New Testament Church of God, Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175	Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181
Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-2289	New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631	St. Monica's Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499
Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118	Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352	Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales
Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854	Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867	United Pentecostal Church, Brown's Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852
Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866	House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309	Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596
Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos Tel:946-3212	Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727	Editor's Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at: contact@newslinetci.com
	Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205	
	New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759	
	New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402	

Huge Support For Chocolate Lovers Showcase

The ninth annual Chocolate Lovers Showcase was held on Saturday, February 3, at the Palms Resort in Grace Bay. The event was supported by a throng of patrons, who were seen busy tasting the delicious treats prepared by the various participating resorts and restaurants. The proceeds from that event goes towards the work of the local Salvation Army. The Following are highlights of the event.







Natural Hair Care Tips

Use A Sulfate-Free Shampoo

You may find that many shampoos contain chemicals such as ammonium lauryl sulfate, ammonium laureth sulfate, or sodium lauryl sulfate. And they tend to cause dryness and breakage for your natural hair. It's recommended that you use a sulfate-free shampoo (and conditioner) weekly to add more moisture to your hair, while also being more gentler to your scalp. You can use the Jamaican Black Castor Oil shampoo with shea butter and apple cider vinegar, which strengthens and restores your kinky curls.

Use Protective Styles

Just like its name implies, protective styles help prevent your hair from breakage, shedding, or damage. Protective afro hairstyles you can use include wearing wigs, weaves, buns, bantu knots, braids, or twists. In cases where you make braids or twists, ensure that your hairstylist eases up on your edges too in order to reduce tension on your scalp.

Oiling Your Hair Frequently

Naturally, kinky hair needs an oil, lots of it. Oils should be part of your everyday natural routine. Oils play a key role in maintaining and ensuring that your natural hair stays healthy.

Trim Your Hair Regularly

One of your bad habits would probably be, allowing your hair to grow with all its split ends. Part of the natural hair journey is having to trim your split ends regularly. Split ends indicate hair damage and if left unattended to will continue splitting and damage the healthiness of your hair.

Sleep With A Satin Scarf Or Bonnet

Never go to bed without a satin scarf or bonnet on. It keeps your hair from tangling and breaking while you sleep. Also, invest in a smooth satin or silk pillowcase.



CHTA Partners with Caribbean Maritime University to Enhance Workforce Skills



Professor Andrew Spencer, President of the Caribbean Maritime University, and CHTA President Nicola Madden-Greig ink the new partnership.

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) has formalized a significant partnership with the Caribbean Maritime University (CMU) through the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MOU). This collaborative effort aims to enhance the skill levels of people working within the region's dynamic tourism sector.

Nicola Madden-Greig, OD, president of the CHTA, emphasized, at the signing of the MOU, the critical need for strategic alliances in addressing the challenges that threaten the resilience and sustainability of the region's tourism landscape. She underscored the pivotal role of organizations like the CMU in equipping tourism practitioners with the necessary tools to navigate evolving industry dynamics. Reflecting on the lessons learned during the pandemic, Madden-Greig highlighted the value of cohesive regional cooperation and stressed the growing importance of collaborative endeavors between stakeholder groups such as CHTA and CMU. While acknowledging the region's commendable recovery from the impacts of COVID-19, the CHTA president expressed concern regarding labor market constraints and the development of skills to meet the expectations of a new breed of travelers. Additionally, she underscored the need to address the challenges posed

by technological advancements, including artificial intelligence.

Madden-Greig lauded CMU for its impactful research initiatives, education and training programs, which have heightened awareness of academia, industry, governments, multilateral organizations, and the general public regarding the importance of implementing standards, training, policies, and initiatives that advance best practices within the industry.

The collaboration between CMU and CHTA will encompass a diverse range of educational, training, research and policy-related activities aimed at engaging the Caribbean tourism sector. Key focus areas will include leadership, workforce digitalization, sustainability and environmental practices, marine safety, crisis management, and sharing research findings and knowledge. As one of its first initiatives, CMU students will support the execution of CHTA's Caribbean Travel Marketplace, the region's premier travel trade show, taking place in Montego Bay, Jamaica, May 21-23, 2024.

Through collaboration, she said, the organizations look forward to stimulating more direct action by the industry and advancing policies that move the region towards achieving the World Travel & Tourism Council projection of a doubling

of GDP and creating an estimated 1.34 million jobs by 2032.

Professor Andrew Spencer, President of the Caribbean Maritime University, expressed his enthusiasm for the expanded vision embodied by the collaboration, emphasizing the university's commitment to elevating and reshaping the labor force to propel Caribbean tourism to new heights. He welcomed the MOU's potential to broaden the university's scope beyond its maritime-centered focus, primarily in areas such as management and supervisor training within the hospitality and tourism domains. Furthermore, he highlighted the university's intent to integrate considerations for water sports, marine environment sustainability, and opportunities for workforce digitalization.

Professor Spencer declared his intention to change the ethos of individuals working in tourism so that they appreciate the sector's value.

With CHTA's 500 members in 30 destinations, coupled with the university's 3,000 students and faculty equipped with technology and knowledge that can drive and transform industries, the collaboration will be a powerful game-changer for Caribbean tourism, as well as for the maritime sector, and for the overall growth and development of a region which "desperately needs it."

He anticipated that every one of the MOU's three years would yield significant strides and massive gains toward the ultimate aim of transforming the Caribbean region for greater economic development.

About the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA)

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) is the Caribbean's leading association representing the interests of national hotel and tourism associations. For more than 60 years, CHTA has been the backbone of the Caribbean hospitality industry. Working with some 1,000 hotel and allied members, and 33 National Hotel Associations, CHTA is shaping the Caribbean's future and helping members to grow their businesses. Whether helping to navigate critical issues in sales and marketing, sustainability, legislative issues, emerging technologies, climate change, data and intelligence or, looking for avenues and ideas to better market and manage businesses, CHTA is helping members on issues which matter most.

Sexual Predator Jitney Drivers Target Unsuspecting Passengers



The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) has issued a warning to the public regarding the presence of sexual predator jitney drivers.

The caution comes after two separate incidents were reported in which female victims were assaulted after accepting rides from what they believed to be jitneys, one of which involved a male driving a “small blue car” in the Blue Hills, Providenciales district.

Assistant Superintendent of Police, Grantley Williams, stated that within the past week, the RTCIPF has received two reports of assaults on female passengers who accepted rides from

seemingly harmless individuals. The assailants either diverted from the intended destination or inflicted harm on the victims who jumped out of the moving vehicle. Both cases are currently under active investigation.

To ensure the safety of the public, the RTCIPF has provided safety tips for individuals when accepting rides from strangers:

- **License Plate Check:** Before entering a vehicle, carefully examine the license plate or take a photo of it. Immediately document the plate number on your phone.
- **Vehicle Details:** Make a mental note of the vehicle’s color and make. Observe the driver

and any other passengers in the vehicle.

- **Emergency Messaging:** If you notice any deviation from the intended route, message family or friends with the vehicle’s number plate. In emergencies, call 911 and provide detailed information about the vehicle.
- **Seating Arrangement:** When the passenger is alone in the vehicle, sit in the backseat. This provides a clear view of the driver and reduces the risk of inappropriate behavior. The backseat passenger side is recommended for maximum distance from the driver.
- **Concentration on the Road:** Avoid distractions, such as playing games on your phone, and stay focused on the surroundings.
- **Phone Preparation:** Ensure your phone has enough data and is charged to at least 50%. If the driver deviates from the route, call someone so the driver is aware you are in contact with someone else.
- **Protect Personal Information:** Refrain from disclosing that you are traveling alone. If conversing with the driver, provide misleading information about meeting up with friends or a partner.

The RTCIPF encourages anyone with information about these incidents or any related details to contact the police through emergency services, the nearest police station, the Serious Crime Unit, or anonymously through Crime Stoppers. This advisory serves as a reminder for individuals to exercise caution and take proactive measures to enhance their safety when accepting rides from unfamiliar individuals.

Young Visionaries Shine at Junior Achievement’s Decade Milestone Showcase



On January 20th, the Graceway IGA courtyard became a vibrant hub of innovation and youthful enterprise.

Celebrating the 10-year milestone of the Junior Achievement Company Program, a fresh cohort of Turks and Caicos Junior Achievers unveiled their budding businesses to the community and a discerning panel of judges.

With the support of their Mentors and Link Teach-

ers, the Achievers presented an impressive array of offerings, from bespoke handicrafts to progressive services and custom apparel, all embodying the spirit of entrepreneurship.

The participating teams this year were Island Exclusives of Wesley Methodist, Sew Ready of Edward Gartland Youth Center, Tropical Treasures of Elite High, Evergreen Crystal Shells of Raymond Gardiner, Da Unity Kollektion of Clement Howell, Piecin’ TCI of A. Louise Garland Thomas High, and Harbour Krafts of Marjorie Basden High, each bringing unique concepts and products to the fore.

Reflecting on a decade of entrepreneurial nurturing, Almando Rigby noted, “This showcase isn’t merely an exhibition, it’s the embodiment of our Achievers’ journey through the realms of creativity, commerce, and community engagement.”

Esteemed judges Elery James, CEO of Lapels, Zaneeta Burton, Sales Executive of Rubis TCI, Alexa Cooper, VP of SMEs, Invest Turks and Caicos, and Kyle Smith, Director of Windward Development, meticulously evaluated the participants across a spectrum of critical business aspects, with an eye for innovation, sustainability, and cultural resonance.

The event marked not just the apex of weeks of preparation but also served as a testament to the enduring partnerships and sponsorships that have fueled the program’s success. Graceway Supermarkets graciously hosted the showcase, with the

continued support of the program’s dedicated corporate sponsors and the unparalleled commitment of the teachers involved.

As the Achievers and their supporters look forward to the upcoming Tradeshow at the Grand Turk Cruise Center on February 1st and the Final Presentation & Awards Ceremony on March 2nd, the community’s encouragement for these young entrepreneurs is eagerly solicited.

“On the heels of this outstanding showcase, the anticipation for this year’s Grand Turk Tradeshow is palpable,” stated Temard Butterfield, long-standing member of the JATCI Board. “As we mark a significant milestone, we do so by celebrating not only the talent but the vision of our youth, whose endeavors pay homage to the rich tapestry of our nation’s heritage.”

Junior Achievement Turks and Caicos is elated to declare the businesses of this year’s Company Program officially open for trade, inviting one and all to witness the entrepreneurial spirit of the nation’s youth at the forthcoming events.

Special and unwavering thanks is extended to the companies that have committed to sponsorship this year: The Strand, Projectech, Financial Services Commission, Grace Bay Car Rentals, Beaches Resort Villages & Spa, Windward Development, Turks and Caicos Hospital, North Caicos Chamber of Commerce, and Ministry of Planning & Infrastructure.

Do It Centre Makes Police Television Donation



From left: Constable Ricardo Thomas, Tasha Charles - Customer Experience Manager at the Do It Centre, Supt Dwight Gardiner, Acting Inspector Kevin Clarke, Ken Adams – CEO of the Do It Centre, Constable Teran Spence and Acting Sergeant Elliot Brown.

In a display of goodwill and corporate-community partnership, Mr Ken Adams generously donated a 55-inch LG UHD television to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force.

The handing-over ceremony occurred on Wednesday, January 31st, 2024, at the Do It Centre compound, Leeward Highway, Providenciales.

Attending the event were Superintendent of Divisions and Community Policing, Dwight Gardiner, Acting Inspector Kevin Clarke, and Police Constable Teran Spence.

Following the presentation, Superintendent Gardiner said: “This display of kindness from Mr Adams and his team is welcomed. Your generous donation is a vital support to our law enforcement efforts. On behalf of the Assistant Commissioner of Police, the RTCIPF expresses our heartfelt gratitude.”

The television will be utilized during officer training, briefings, and virtual sessions on Teams, Skype, and other platforms.

2024/2025 Electors’ List Released



Director of Elections
Lister Dudley Lewis

The Turks and Caicos Islanders will be given the opportunity to view the 2024/2025 Electors List from today Thursday February 1st, 2024. Supervisor of Elections Lister Dudley Lewis will post the Electors List of voters to seventy-three (73) locations across the Turks and Caicos Islands. After publication of the Electors List, Registered voters will have fourteen (14) days to scrutinize it and make any claims or objections. Electors can make claims on their own or on behalf of others, as set out in Form 3 in Schedule 1 of the Elections Ordinance similarly, objections can be made as set out in Form 4 in Schedule 1.

An Elector who is off Island for the next two (2) weeks may appoint an agent to act on his/her behalf as set out in Form 5 in Schedule 1. The Agent must produce a sworn affidavit that he/she are acting on the Claimant’s behalf. Claims and Objections can be submitted to the Elections Office on Pond Street Grand Turk, Providenciales Elections Office Butterfield Square and District Commissioner’s Officers or by e-mail to electionsdept@gov.tc The Electors List will be available for viewing in the ten (10) Electoral Districts and elections Web page from today <https://gov.tc/elections/>

Thursday 1st February, 2024.		
All Forms can be obtained from the Elections Office Grand Turk, Providenciales Elections Office and District Commissioner’s Officers.		
The Electors List can be viewed at the following locations:		
ED 1 – Grand Turk North		ED
2 – Grand Turk South & Salt Cay		
Fulford’s Gas Station		IGA
Supermarket		
Sunny Food Store (West Road)		Do-
it-Centre		
Durham’s Home Centre		Sun-
ny Foods		
John Missick Bar (West Road)		Grand
Turk Library		
Shop Rite Grocery Store		Grand
Turk International Airport		
Things Galore Store (Over Back)		DC’s
Office Salt Cay		
A&H Hair Supply (Over Back)		Com-
munity Centre (Salt Cay)		
Fishermen Paradise (Over Back)		Grand
Turk Liquors		
Poop Deck Restaurant (Pond Street)		Grace
Bay Pharmacy (Church Folly)		
ED 3 – South Caicos		ED 4 –
Middle and North Caicos		
Airport Terminal		Dist.
Commissioner’s Office Conch Bar		
District Commissioner’s Office		Com-
munity Centre, Bambarra		
Seaview Marina		Gov-
ernment Clinic, Lorimers		
Super value Supermarket		Dist.
Commissioner’s Office Bottle Creek		
G & H Enterprise		Kev-
in’s Enterprise		
Government Treasury		Digi-
cel Store Bottle Creek		
Community Centre Kew		
Community Centre Whitby		
Community Centre		

NEWSLINE
& Chill

Christmas Word Scramble

- 1. leves
- 2. ithlsg
- 3. eymrr
- 4. eerdirne
- 5. satna
- 6. lihsge
- 7. iksnctog
- 8. etre
- 9. wenitr
- 10. thwaer

1. elves 2. lights 3. merry 4. reindeer 5. Santa 6. sleigh 7. stocking 8. tree 9. win-ter 10. wreath

Brain Teaser

A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?

Answer: The river was frozen

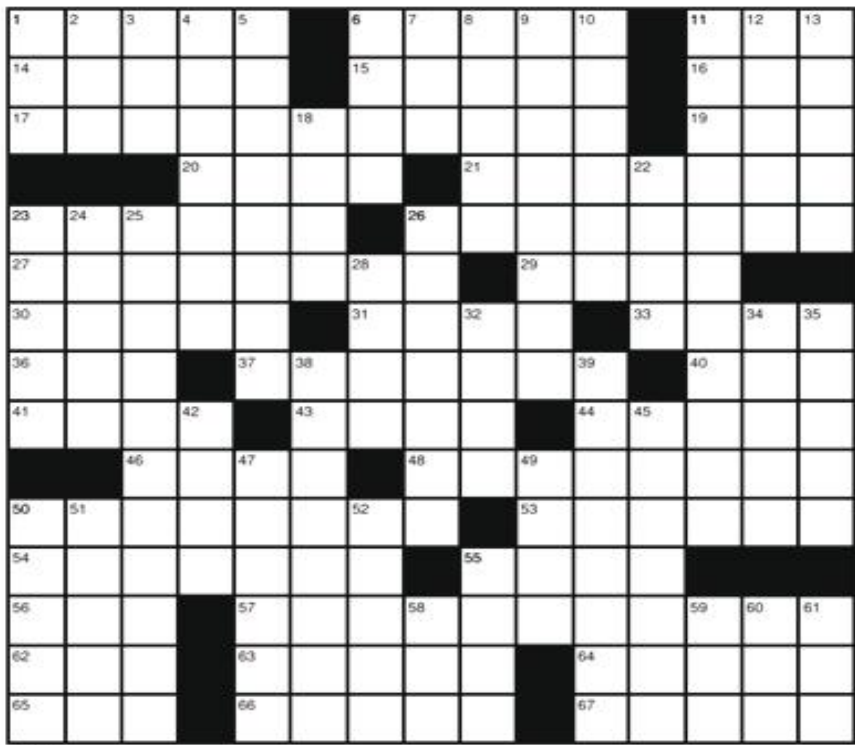
Building Up Business

- ACROSS
- 1. A mission to remember
 - 6. Church of Eng. descendant
 - 11. Pigskin org. for 2 seasons
 - 14. Popular fungus
 - 15. Scout rider
 - 16. Take off
 - 17. Furnishings business that might leave you cowed?
 - 19. Hostelry
 - 20. "The Lost Boys" actor Corey (1971-2010)
 - 21. Souvenir from a tropical vacation
 - 23. Winter Olympian Baiul
 - 26. In a safe manner
 - 27. Weight
 - 29. ____ II (razor brand)
 - 30. Indian princess
 - 31. Ending for silver or pewter
 - 33. Dash device
 - 36. OPEC member with the motto "By the people and for the people"
 - 37. Many poets
 - 40. Doo-wop syllable
 - 41. Part of an equitable division
 - 43. Children's author Blyton
 - 44. Subject of a piratical address
 - 46. "Oh, woe!"
 - 48. Inaccurately designated
 - 50. Ignition specialist
 - 53. Back on board
 - 54. Is beaten by
 - 55. Online qualifier
 - 56. Sound of delight

- 57. All-night diner that makes you feel right at home?
 - 62. Buckeyes' sch.
 - 63. Online commerce
 - 64. Altogether
 - 65. Kind of cat or chance
 - 66. They are nothing in music
 - 67. Mid-April concerns
- DOWN
- 1. Feedback generator
 - 2. Canterbury can
 - 3. Verb before "thou"
 - 4. Natural gas, mostly
 - 5. Shrub on a southern roadside
 - 6. Dict. info
 - 7. Rented mail dest.
 - 8. Foolish
 - 9. Less lenient
 - 10. Be of like mind

This puzzle was created using CrossFire (http://beekeeperlabs.com/crossfire)

Robert Stockton



- 11. Hamburger business that gives you the royal treatment?
- 12. With 47 down, Regis Philbin catch-phrase
- 13. Comic Bruce
- 18. Platinum record certifier
- 22. Proof word
- 23. Talk show host who notable endorsed Barack
- 24. Noted eucalyptus eater
- 25. Eyewear business fit for a castaway?
- 26. Beachfront fog
- 28. English actress Nell
- 32. Perform a second time
- 34. Vivacity
- 35. Composer of "The Seasons" oratorio

- 38. Risk being lost?
- 39. Platinum record, e.g.
- 42. Ice in a very large drink
- 45. Home of Horseshoe Curve since 1854
- 47. See 12 down
- 49. Arrived
- 50. Distant
- 51. Apollo 14 astronaut Stuart
- 52. Family room furniture
- 55. Afflictions
- 58. Honda sub-compact
- 59. Pittsburgh based steel giant, formerly
- 60. Noted T-Rex in the Chicago Field Museum
- 61. Dash lengths

- Alexander Mitchell
- Arthur Watson
- John Strong
- Christopher Turner
- Michael Bradley
- Martin Bourke
- John Kelly
- Mervyn Jones
- Jim Poston
- Mahala Wynns
- Richard Tauwhare
- Gordon Wetherell
- Ric Todd
- Peter Beckingham
- John Freeman
- Nigel Dakin

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

of the
JOKE WEEK

A man went into a seafood restaurant and asked for a lobster tail. The waitress smiled sweetly and said, "Once upon a time there was this handsome lobster..."

SUDOKU

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

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

Foods you should eat to fight inflammation



You might be surprised to learn that diet plays an important role in chronic inflammation as digestive bacteria release chemicals that may spur or suppress inflammation. The types of bacteria that populate our gut and their chemical byproducts vary according to the foods we eat.

Some foods encourage the growth of bacteria that stimulate inflammation, while others promote the growth of bacteria that help suppress it.

We typically think of inflammation as a result of an injury or disease, but diet also plays an important role in chronic inflammation.

This is in part because the foods we eat influence the types of bacteria that populate our

gut and their chemical byproducts. While some foods encourage the growth of bacteria that stimulate inflammation, others promote the growth of bacteria that help suppress it. That is why it is important to know which foods have anti-inflammatory properties and which can cause inflammation.

Here are some of the foods and beverages that have been linked to less inflammation and reduced risk for chronic diseases.

FOODS THAT FIGHT INFLAMMATION

Fruits and vegetables: Most fruits and brightly coloured vegetables naturally contain high levels of antioxidants and polyphenols. Polyphenols are potentially protective compounds found in plants. Studies have shown that polyphenols have multiple anti-inflammatory properties and may improve the function of cells that line blood vessels. Foods high in polyphenols include onions, turmeric, red grapes, cherries, and plums, as well as dark green leafy vegetables such as spinach, kale, and collard greens.

Nuts and Seeds: Studies have found that consuming nuts and seeds is associated with reduced markers of inflammation and a lower risk of cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

Some oils and fatty fish: Olive oil, flaxseed oil, and fatty fish such as salmon, sardines, and mackerel offer healthy doses of omega-3 fatty acids, which have long been shown to reduce

inflammation.

Coffee, cocoa and green tea: The polyphenols in coffee and the flavanols in cocoa are thought to have anti-inflammatory properties. Green tea is also rich in both polyphenols and antioxidants.

FOODS THAT CAN FUEL INFLAMMATION

The foods that contribute to inflammation are the same ones generally considered bad for other aspects of health. These include:

- Sugary sodas
- Refined carbohydrates (like white bread and pasta)
- Red meat and processed meats
- Processed foods: Certain components or ingredients used in processed foods such as the emulsifiers added to ice cream, may have effects on inflammation.
- Such foods are also likely to contribute to weight gain, which is itself a risk factor for inflammation.

To practise anti-inflammatory eating, it is best to focus on an overall healthy diet rather than singling out individual good and bad foods. In general, a healthy diet means one that emphasises fruits, vegetables, nuts, whole grains, fish, and healthy oils, and limits food loaded with simple sugars like soda and candy, beverages that contain high-fructose corn syrup like juice drinks and sports drinks, and refined carbohydrates.

Sirtuins – slowing down the ageing process



Sirtuins are a family of seven proteins that play an essential role in our health, from DNA maintenance to mitochondrial biogenesis and cellular energy production.

In relation to protein, there are one of four main biological macromolecules, including lipids, carbohydrates, and nucleic acids. There are an estimated 80,000 to 400,000 types of proteins in the human body. More than 2,700 of these are a particular type of protein called enzymes, which catalyse chemical reactions to carry out important biological tasks, from digestion to replicating DNA.

Seven of these enzymes are sirtuins, SIRT1-SIRT7. They play such a critical role in health, from metabolism to gene expression, that researchers have described them as guardians of the genome and even the ‘magnificent seven.’ Sounds important and a little dramatic, right? Let us take a closer look at the role of sirtuins in your body to see why scientists are so inter-

ested.

According to Dr Orlando Thomas, medical doctor and functional medicine practitioner at Thomas Medical and Shockwave Centre, sirtuins are really quite miraculous in the work they perform to manage the many processes in our cells that are involved in ageing and the diseases associated with the ageing processes.

METABOLIC SENSORS

The scientific definition of sirtuins is NAD⁺-dependent histone deacetylases, a mouthful! What does it mean to be NAD⁺-dependent? Sirtuins can only function in the presence of NAD⁺. In fact, they consume one molecule of NAD⁺ each time they do their work of deacetylation.

“The relationship to NAD⁺ is important: NAD⁺ stands for nicotinamide adenine dinucleotide, a coenzyme found in all living cells that’s essential for cellular metabolism, mitochondrial function, and hundreds of other biological processes. The concentration of NAD⁺ is determined by the nutritional state of the cell and by other factors, like age; NAD⁺ levels decline with age,” Dr Thomas said.

“So, in their relationship with NAD⁺, sirtuins act as metabolic sensors, able to understand the metabolic state of the cell and act accordingly to help keep things in balance,” Dr Thomas added. Deacetylation is how they do it. Sirtuins remove acetyl groups from other proteins – mainly histones, but also non-histone proteins, and in doing so they regulate gene transcription and protein activity.

“Sirtuins sense the metabolic state of the cell and then regulate gene expression or protein

activity in response. Sirtuins are thought to do this mainly in response to stress of various kinds: genotoxic, metabolic, and even ageing. One challenge is that NAD⁺ levels and, consequently, sirtuin function actually decline with age, making it more difficult to respond to various stressors over time,” Dr Thomas said.

AGE-RELATED DISEASES

Studies have linked sirtuins to being able to help to repair DNA damage, as it is believed that they protect telomeres, the caps at the end of chromosomes within our DNA. They help to provide vital cellular energy, as they create new mitochondria, the power plant of our cell. Sirtuins also enhance the link between the nucleus and mitochondria so that the mitochondria functions more effectively.

Sirtuins go to work removing old, decaying parts of our cells, making everything ready for new growth.

Functional foods and nutraceuticals hold great promise for health and longevity promotion and prevention of age-related diseases. Certain foods have natural plant compounds which may be able to increase the level of the sirtuin proteins. Many of them are associated with the foods eaten in Japan and the Mediterranean diet.

These include kale, red wine, onions, soy, parsley, extra virgin olive oil, dark chocolate, turmeric, blueberries and coffee. Studies have linked ingredients such as fisetin, quercetin, resveratrol, pterostilbene to enhancing sirtuin activity. These can be found in capsule form to enable easy consumption.

Jay-Z Takes the Grammys to Task in Awards Speech



Jay-Z, 54, is seen with his 12-year-old daughter Blue Ivy on stage at the Grammy Awards

Jay-Z used his acceptance speech at the Grammy Awards to condemn the academy for failing to give his wife Beyoncé the best album award, despite her 32 wins in other categories.

The Brooklyn-born rapper was honored with the Dr. Dre Global Impact Award for his contribution to the music industry.

With his 12-year-old daughter Blue Ivy standing on stage beside him, and wife Beyoncé looking on from their table in the audience, dressed in just-off-the-catwalk Louis Vuitton by Pharrell Williams, Jay-Z spoke about the importance of dreams, drive and ambition.

He said that there were more important things in life than winning Grammys, noting they were subjective - and pointing out his superstar wife had never won best album.

'I don't want to embarrass this young lady, but she has more Grammys than everyone and never won Album of the Year,' Jay-Z said. 'So even by your own metrics, that doesn't work. Think about that. The most Grammys; never won Album of the Year. That doesn't work.'

The camera cut to Beyoncé, looking slightly apprehensive in the audience.

Jay-Z has been nominated for 88 competitive Grammy Awards, winning 24 of them. Six of his nominations have been for Album of the Year. Beyoncé has also been nominated for 88 competitive Grammy Awards, winning 32 of them.

Like her husband, Beyoncé has been nominated six times for Album of the Year, but never won. In 2015, when Beyoncé lost out on Album of the Year to Beck, Kanye West pretended to storm the stage in protest.

The moment drew parallels to West's actions in 2009, when he famously interrupted Swift as she accepted the Best Female Video award at the MTV Video Music Awards, telling her: 'Yo, Taylor, I'm really happy for you. ... but Beyoncé

had one of the best videos of all time.'

West in 2015 mimed storming the stage again, protesting that her album 'Beyoncé' lost out to Beck's 'Morning Phase.'

Recording Academy voters choose who wins Album of the Year, and in 2015 the voter base was split between Pharrell, Ed Sheeran and Sam Smith. Beck's support was united, leading to Beck's win.

Beck said after the show: 'Absolutely I thought she was going to win. You can't please everybody.'

'I still love him and think he's genius. I aspire to what he does. How many great records has he put out in the last five years, right?'

West, a protégée of Jay-Z's, insisted in interviews in 2015 that Beyoncé had been robbed.

'All I know is if the Grammys want real artists to keep coming back, they need to stop playing with us. We ain't gonna play with them no more,' he said.

'Beck needs to respect artistry and he should have given his award to Beyoncé, and at this point, we tired of it.'

Jay-Z on Sunday said the awards were subjective - but nice to win.

At the start of his speech, he joked that his Grammy Awards used to be used as sippy cups for Blue Ivy - but now 'she has her own Grammys,' he said.

She won her first Grammy aged 9, with a writing credit for Brown Skin Girl, which won in 2021 for her mother.

Jay-Z continued: 'How far we've come from Will Smith and Jazzy Jeff winning their first Grammy in '89 and boycotting because it wasn't televised.'

'And then they went to the hotel and watched the Grammys. I didn't even understand. It wasn't a great boycott.'



Beyoncé listens as her husband delivers his acceptance speech

He said that he then did a similar thing.

'But then '98, I took a page out of their book. I was nominated for Best Rap Album, and DMX had dropped two albums that year. They both were number one — shout out to DMX — and he wasn't nominated at all.

'So I boycotted and I watched the Grammys. 'I'm just saying, we want y'all to get it right. We love y'all. We love y'all. We love y'all. We want y'all to get it right. At least get it close to right.'

He then launched into his critique of the awards, and his condemnation of the failure to recognize his wife.

'Obviously it's subjective because it's music and it's opinion-based,' he said.

Last year, she became the most awarded artist in Grammy Awards history - but with only one win in a Big Four category.

'So even by your own metrics, that doesn't work,' Jay-Z said.

'Some of you are gonna go home tonight and feel like you've been robbed. Some of you may get robbed. Some of you don't belong in the category. When I get nervous, I tell the truth.'

He added: 'But outside of that, we got to keep showing up — and forget the greatness for a second, just in life.'

'As my daughter sits and stares at me nervous as I am, you got to keep showing up. Just keep showing up to get the Grammys.'

'You got to keep showing up until they give you all those accolades you feel you deserve. Until they call you champion, until they call you a genius, until they call you the greatest of all time.'

Some people on social media applauded Jay-Z's speech, while others laughed at the expected reaction of the Grammys organizers.

TCI Hospital Concludes 2ND Annual Medical Conference

Themed “Emerging Trends in Clinical Oncology”



Dr. Dawn Perry-Ewing, Chief of Medical Services and the visionary leader behind the Annual Medical Conference



From left: Jamaica's Minister of Health Chris Tufton, CEO for TCI Hospital Dr. Denise Braitwaite-Tennant and the TCI Minister of Health Hon. Shaun Malcolm

Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital Concludes Second Annual Medical Conference Under The Theme “Emerging Trends in Clinical Oncology”

InterHealth Canada- The Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital successfully completed its second Annual Medical Conference, held under the theme “Emerging Trends in Clinical Oncology.”

The two-day event held at the Palms Resort in Providenciales on January 26th and 27th, 2024, gathered regional healthcare policymakers, professionals, experts, and participants, both in person and virtually, to exchange knowledge and advancements in the field of oncology.

The in-person sessions achieved full attendance, providing an engaging experience for all participants. The virtual sessions welcomed nearly 200 participants each day, demonstrating a high level of interest and dedication to advancing the understanding and treatment of oncological conditions.

The conference facilitated knowledge dissemination, innovation, and collaborative synergy within the field of oncology. Participation, discussions, and presentations reflected a commitment to advancing oncological research, diagnosis, and patient care.

Expert speakers and researchers in the persons of Dr. Taraleen Malcom, PAHO

Advisor for NCDs and Mental Health for Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, delivered the keynote address entitled “Establishing Effective National Cancer Screening and Prevention Programs In Small Island Developing States (SIDS)”.

This keynote address was followed by a panel discussion, “Developing National Cancer Prevention Programs in SIDS Through Policy and Education: The Way Forward,” featuring Dr. Mauricio Maza - PAHO Regional Advisor For Cancer, Dr. Heather Armstrong – CARPHA, Head of Chronic Disease and Injury Department, Ms. Daisilyn Chin- Acting Chief Epidemiologist, Ministry of Health, Turks and Caicos Islands, Dr. Taraleen Malcom and Dr. Dingle Spence.

Other distinguished presenters included:

- Professor Joseph Plummer, Consultant General and Colorectal Surgeon of The University Hospital of The West Indies, who presented the topic “The Modern Management of Rectal Cancer: Miles Operation to Organ Sparing Surgery”;
- Dr. Dingle Spence, Consultant Visiting Oncologist- InterHealth Canada-TCI Hospital, delivered a passionate and inspiring lecture on “Palliative Care and Pain Management.
- Dr. Sheray Ward Chin, Consultant Oncologist- InterHealth Canada-TCI Hospital, presented the topic “Genetic Test-

ing For Hereditary Cancer Risk :Cost versus Benefit. The Regional Perspective ».

- Dr. Darren Halliday, Consultant Gynecologic Oncologist at Princess Margaret Hospital, Bahamas who addressed “Cervical Cancer Screening: Past, Present, Future”.

- Dr. Ian Bambury, Consultant Gynaecologic Oncologist- University Hospital of the West Indies, spoke to “Managing Ovarian Masses: Taking a Closer Look.

- Dr. Jason Copeland, Consultant General Surgeon and Breast Surgical Oncologist at Kingston Public Hospital-Jamaica, presented “De-escalating Surgeries in Breast Cancer Treatment - Oncoplastic Breast Conservation Therapy: What Patients and Physicians Need to Know”.

- Dr. Roy McGregor, Consultant Visiting Urologist InterHealth Canada-TCI Hospital, presented the topic “A Physician’s Guide to Prostate Cancer: Emerging Trends in Management”.

Dr. Dawn Perry-Ewing, Chief of Medical Services and the visionary leader behind the Annual Medical Conference, voiced elation at the event’s success, explained, “The overwhelming success of our second Annual Medical Conference, centred on the theme of ‘Emerging Trends in Oncology,’ encapsulates the unwavering dedication of our healthcare community to fostering innovation, knowledge dissemination, and transformative strides in cancer care. We are even more encouraged to continue our battle against this group of diseases after experiencing the passion for resource sharing from all stakeholders who gathered with us this weekend”.

Also bringing remarks were the Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Shaun D. Malcolm and Chief Executive Officer for InterHealth Canada – Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital, Dr. Denise Braithwaite-Tennant.

InterHealth Canada- The Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital extends heartfelt gratitude to the participants, speakers, the Ministry of Health and Human Services, organizers, and all stakeholders who contributed to the unparalleled success of the second Annual Medical Conference, thereby igniting new horizons of knowledge, collaboration, and compassionate excellence in oncological care.

Protests erupt across Haiti as demonstrators demand prime minister's resignation



Protests shut down major cities in Haiti today as demonstrators clashed with police and demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Ariel Henry.

A protester jumps burning tires during a protest against Haitian Prime Minister Ariel Henry in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, today. - AP photo

Banks, schools and government agencies closed in Haiti's northern and southern regions while protesters blocked main routes with blazing tires and paralyzed public transportation, according to local media reports.

In Hinche, a city in Haiti's central region, protesters celebrated the arrival of heavily armed state environmental agents and their commander, Joseph Jean Baptiste, who demanded that Henry resign.

"I want Ariel to stand in front of my bullets, so they go through him," the commander said as someone filmed him while the crowd cheered.

"We're the ones who have the support of the population," he said.

The agents, who belong to the Security Brigade for Protected Areas, have come under government scrutiny following recent clashes with police in northern Haiti. Smaller demonstrations took place in the capital of Port-au-Prince, where dozens of protesters gathered in front of Henry's office before police fired tear gas, dispersing the crowd. Among the protesters was

presidential candidate and former Prime Minister Claude Joseph, who was seen in a video wiping his face as supporters yelled, "We are not stopping!"

At least three days of protests culminating on Wednesday are expected across Haiti, with February 7 considered the supposed deadline for Henry to resign.

The date is significant in Haiti: February 7, 1986 marked the day that former dictator Jean-Claude Duvalier fled for France, and February 7, 1991 marked the day that Jean-Bertrand Aristide, Haiti's first democratically-elected president, was sworn in.

UWI School of Medicine on cards for Guyana

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (CMC) — Discussions are underway to bring The University of the West Indies' (UWI) School of Medicine to Guyana, President Irfaan Ali announced on Sunday. The school will be located in East Berbice-Corentyne, in region six.

Ali made the disclosure while addressing the commissioning ceremony of the Pathology Lab at Georgetown Public Hospital Corporation, three weeks after the groundbreaking for the New Amsterdam Hospital which he said would

have a building to facilitate classes.

"When we launched the New Amsterdam Hospital, we said that in that facility we negotiated a building for teaching services, and that message went out regionally and globally. Today, I'm pleased to inform you that The University of the West Indies School of Medicine has now approached us to be part of his vision in bringing their campus to Guyana and negotiations and discussions would have commenced," President Ali said.

"Importantly, in the negotiations, we are now working on ensuring that the rates are the same as local students in Trinidad and Tobago, so there will be equity and quality matched together."

Acknowledging that the University of Guyana has its own school of medicine, Ali remarked that "competition is a part of life and a necessity in improving quality".

There is no timeline yet for the opening of The UWI School of Medicine in Guyana.

King Charles III is being treated for cancer and will temporarily halt his public duties



Britain's King Charles III has been diagnosed with a form of cancer and has begun treatment, Buckingham Palace said Monday. (Feb. 5)

LONDON (AP) — Britain's King Charles III has been diagnosed with cancer and has begun treatment, Buckingham Palace said Monday. Less than 18 months into his reign, the 75-year-old monarch will suspend public engagements but will continue with state business, and won't be handing over his constitutional roles as head of state.

The palace didn't disclose what form of cancer the king has, but said it's not related to his recent treatment for a benign prostate condition.

The palace said "a separate issue of concern was noted" during Charles' treatment for an enlarged prostate last month, when he spent three nights in a London hospital.

"Diagnostic tests have identified a form of cancer," it said in a statement.

"His Majesty has today commenced a schedule of regular treatments, during which time he has been advised by doctors to postpone public-facing duties," the palace said. "Throughout this period, His Majesty will continue to undertake State business and official paperwork as usual."

The king is being treated as an outpatient, the palace said.

It said Charles, who has generally enjoyed good health, "remains wholly positive about his treatment and looks forward to returning to full public duty as soon as possible."

The palace added that the king "has chosen to share his diagnosis to prevent speculation and in the hope it may assist public understanding for all those around the world who are affected by cancer."

Charles became king in September 2022 when his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, died at the age of 96 after 70 years on the throne.

News of the king's diagnosis comes as his daughter-in-law Kate, Princess of Wales, recovers from abdominal surgery that saw her hospitalized for about two weeks.

Kate is still taking a break from royal duties as she recovers. Her husband, Prince William, who is heir to the throne, also took time off to help look after the couple's three children, but is due to preside over an investiture ceremony at Windsor Castle and a charity dinner on Wednesday.

Charles took the throne intending to preside over a slimmed-down monarchy with fewer senior royals carrying out ceremonial public duties. But with Charles and Kate both temporarily sidelined, Prince Harry self-exiled to California and Prince Andrew largely banished from view because of his friendship with sex offender Jeffrey Epstein, the royal "Firm" risks becoming severely overstretched.

The king personally called both William and Harry — as well as his siblings Princess Anne, Prince Andrew and Prince Edward — to share news of his health.

Harry, who quit royal duties in 2020, has spoken to his father about the diagnosis and "will be traveling to U.K. to see His Majesty in the coming days," said the office of Harry and his wife, Meghan.

U.K. political leaders sent messages of support. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak tweeted: "Wishing His Majesty a full and speedy recovery. I have no doubt he'll be back to full strength in no time and I know the whole country will be wishing him well."

U.S. President Joe Biden, traveling in Las Vegas on Monday, said he had just learned about Charles's diagnosis and said he hopes to speak with him, "God willing."

"I'm concerned about him," Biden told reporters.

The president later posted on X, formerly known as Twitter: "Navigating a cancer diagnosis, treatment, and survivorship takes hope and absolute courage. Jill and I join the people of the United Kingdom in praying that His Majesty experiences a swift and full recovery."

Charles departed from royal tradition with his openness about his prostate condition. For centuries Britain's royal family remained tight-lipped about health matters.

When U.K. monarchs had real power, news of illness was withheld for fear it might weaken their authority. The habit of secrecy lingered after royals became constitutional figureheads.

The British public wasn't told that Charles' grandfather, King George VI, had lung cancer before his death in February 1952 at the age of 56, and some historians have claimed that the king himself wasn't told he was terminally ill.

In the final years of Elizabeth's life, the public was told only that the queen was suffering from "mobility issues." The cause of her death was listed on the death certificate simply as "old age."

Pat Price, founder of the Catch Up With Cancer campaign, said millions shared the "collective concern" for the king's health.

"The king's openness about his battle with cancer is a powerful reminder that one in two of us may face cancer at some point in our lives," Price said.

Gardiner makes successful return with world-leading effort to win 300m at South Carolina Invitational



Steven Gardiner

Reigning Olympic 400m champion Steven Gardiner made a successful return to the track at the South Carolina Invitational at the University

of South Carolina on Friday. The Bahamian produced a world-leading 31.78 to win the men's 300m ahead of American Mat-

thew Boling (32.58) and British World Championship silver medallist Matthew Hudson-Smith (33.82). The 28-year-old's time was also the second fastest ever indoors, only trailing his 31.56 done at the same venue in 2022. Gardiner, who also took gold at the World Championships in Doha in 2019, was on his way to another undefeated season in the 400m before pulling up with an injury in the semi-finals at the World Championships in Budapest last August. In the women's equivalent in South Carolina, Jamaican Charokee Young ran 37.38 for second behind American Quanera Hayes who won in an excellent 36.36. Tierra Robinson-Jones was third in 38.44. Two-time Jamaican national 200m champion Andrew Hudson ran 6.74 to take top spot in the men's 60m ahead of Miles Stephens (6.89) and Doniven Jackson (6.92). In the field, Guyanese Limestone College senior Lloyd McCurdy jumped 14.50m to win the men's triple jump ahead of Wingate's Dequan Thompson (14.44m) and Limestone's Trevon Jenkins (14.18m).

2026 World Cup final will be played in New Jersey



This is an aerial view showing MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., June 20, 2014. The 2026 World Cup final will be at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, N.J., on July 19. FIFA made the announcement Sunday, February 4, 2024, at a Miami television studio, allocating the opener of the 39-day tournament to Mexico City's Estadio Azteca on June 11.

The 2026 World Cup final will be played at MetLife Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey on July 19.

FIFA made the announcement Sunday at a Miami television studio, allocating the opener of the 39-day tournament to Mexico City's Estadio

Azteca on June 11. Semifinals will be played on July 14 at AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas, and the following day at Mercedes Benz Stadium in Atlanta. Quarterfinals will be at Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, on July 9, at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, California, the following day, and at Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri, and Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida, on July 11. The third-place game will be at Hard Rock on July 18. The US team will train in suburban Atlanta ahead of the tournament and at SoFi on June 12, the Americans play seven days later at Seattle's Lumen Field and finish the group stage at SoFi on June 25. Seventy-eight of 104 matches of the first World Cup spread over three nations will be played in the United States. AT&T, which had hopes to present the final, will host a tournament-high nine matches. There will be eight each at MetLife, SoFi and Mercedes Benz; seven apiece at Hard Rock, Gillette Stadium in Foxborough, Massachusetts, and NRG Stadium in Houston; and six apiece at Lumen, Lincoln Financial Field in Philadelphia, Arrowhead Stadium in Kansas City, Missouri, and Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, California. FIFA officials did not publicly explain their site-decision process.

Shamar Joseph among nominees for ICC Men's Player of the Month for January



Shamar Joseph after the Australia series.

West Indies pacer Shamar Joseph was featured as the International Cricket Council (ICC) revealed the shortlists of nominees for the ICC Men's and Women's Player of the Month awards for January 2024.

The ICC Men's Player of the Month shortlist includes the architects of two memorable Test victories away from home, plus a prolific pacer who celebrated another significant milestone in the longest format.

The orchestrator for what was perhaps one of the most dramatic Test victories in recent memory, Joseph's month will be long remembered for his bowling efforts in the second innings of

the second Test v Australia in Brisbane.

Defending a modest target of 216 for victory, Joseph unleashed a remarkable spell of fast bowling, taking seven for 68 to cue wild celebrations. This, in addition to taking the wicket of Steve Smith with his first ball in international cricket in a five-wicket-haul in Adelaide, saw him named Player of the Series and nominated for ICC Men's Player of the Month for the very first time.

Joseph will be vying for the award against Australian quick Josh Hazlewood and English batsman Ollie Pope.

The Australian pacer joined an elite club in January after taking his 250th wicket in the longest format. Hazlewood played three Tests during the month, starting in fine fashion with four wickets in the second innings of their third matchup against Pakistan, to bowl the tourists out cheaply and contribute to an eight-wicket win in Sydney.

The 33-year-old followed up by taking nine wickets in the first Test against West Indies and five in the second Test in Brisbane, clocking up 19 wickets at a sensational average of 11.63.

Facing a 190-run deficit in the first India v England Test in Hyderabad, Pope came to the crease at 45 for one. The 26-year-old then dug

in and produced a batting masterclass to overturn the deficit, and set a challenging total which India fell short of.

A blend of innovative stroke play and resilient defence characterised Pope's innings in which he scored 196 in 278 balls, including 21 boundaries. The innings propelled England to a score of 420 before they bowled India out to secure a record-breaking victory.

The nominees for the Women's award are Australia's Alyssa Healy and Beth Mooney as well as Ireland's Amy Hunter.

The three nominees for either category are shortlisted based on performances from the first to the last day of each calendar month.

The shortlist is then voted on by the independent ICC Voting Academy* and fans around the world. The ICC Voting Academy comprises prominent members of the cricket fraternity including well-known journalists, former players, broadcasters and members of the ICC Hall of Fame.

The Voting Academy submit their votes by email and hold a 90 per cent share of the vote.

Fans registered with the ICC can vote via the ICC website, accounting for the remaining 10 per cent. Winners are announced every second Monday of the month on ICC's digital channels.

Mixed Relays coming to Champs

JAMAICA Athletics Administration Association (JAAA) President Garth Gayle says incorporating the mixed relays into the school calendar will provide athletes and coaches with a better understanding of the event and inspire them to strive for international gold medals.

The mixed relay entails teams of four athletes each — two women and two men — racing against each other. The new 4x400m relay race format was first trialled at the 2017 World Athletics Relays in Nassau, The Bahamas but it was not until the 2019 World Championships in Doha, Qatar, the event really began to grow in popularity.

In that final, all but one team chose a man-woman-man-woman order, with the exception of Poland which chose man-man-woman-woman. In March 2022 the rule was changed so that every team must now use the man-woman-man-woman order.

Gayle said that the mixed relay will now be a permanent feature among the events at the ISSA/GraceKennedy Boys' and Girls' Athletics Championships (Champs).

"It [mixed relay] will also be held at the SW Isaac-Henry Invitational meet on February 17, but it will also become a feature at the Boys' and Girls' Champs onwards," Gayle told the

Jamaica Observer.

"World Athletics has brought this event into the track and field programme and, naturally, Jamaicans won't want to be left out.

"If you watch what has been happening internationally at the World Championships, we have never treated this event with the proper respect it needs and so by having it on the school calendar it will allow our athletes to understand more about the event; and I'm



sure our coaches will spur us on to put out formidable teams internationally and to also now be challenging for gold medals in this event."

Gayle says that this move is also to grow the sport in the country as JAAA wants to have a reputation for fostering new events within the track and field series.

"Yes, for sure, and we embrace it as an affiliate of World Athletics here in Jamaica," Gayle said. "Jamaica has also been known to be a fertile ground for new

events within the track and field series of events and so we're happy that we are continuing this step.

"I'm expecting that, naturally, the Olympics later [will feature the event] and also, well, at [the Carifta Games], starting from Carifta, which is another junior international regional event. And knowing that our athletes will be doing well and be taking the gold in Grenada in that event, it will continue on to our seniors into the Olympic Games."



Tanesia Gardiner Snares Gold At Jamaican Meet

Clement Howell are Back-to-Back Basketball Champs



Clement Howell High Celebrate their championship victory

In a stunning display of dominance, Clement Howell High School (CHHS) has secured their back-to-back victory in the TCISS Inter-High Boys Basketball Championships after trouncing previously undefeated HJ Robinson High School Stallions in the final on Saturday, February 2 at the Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex.

The four-month-long season, commencing in November, featured 13 schools divided into Groups A and B. The Semi-final matchups showcased CHHS Eagles facing off against British West Indies Collegiate (BWIC) Spartans, resulting in a commanding 94-54 victory for the Eagles.

HJ Robinson High School (HJRHS) Stallions triumphed over Wesley Methodist School with a scoreline of 62-46 in Semi-final 2.

The highly anticipated clash between the undefeated Stallions and CHHS in the Championship game ended in a resounding 103-62 victory for the Eagles, solidifying their undisputed reign in TCISS Inter-High Boys Basketball.

The third-place playoff game between Wesley Methodist (WM) Stingrays and BWIC Spartans added an extra layer of excitement, going into double overtime before BWIC emerged victorious with an 82-80 score.

Individual achievements were recognized through various awards for the 2023/24 season. Emrike Daceus of CHHS secured both the Most Steals and Most Assists awards, while Dumsele Poteinsky of WM claimed Most Rebounds and Most Blocks. Allison Almonte from another participating school, EHS, received the Most Points accolade.

The Player of the Conference awards went to Samuel Harvey of BWIC for Pool A and

Dumsele Poteinsky of Wesley Methodist for Pool B. However, the spotlight shone brightly on Dashawn Lightbourne of CHHS, who was named the Championship MVP.

Looking ahead, the Turks and Caicos Islands School Sports (TCISS) has a packed schedule, including Inter-High Track and Field Development Meets in February and the TCISS Inter-High School Track and Field Championships from February 29 to March 2, 2024.

As teams gear up for future challenges, all eyes are on Clement Howell High School, anticipating whether they can maintain their formidable status or if a new contender will emerge to dethrone the reigning champions.



TCIF IMPARTS FOOTBALL FUNDAMENTALS TO ENID CAPRON PRIMARY: A total of 56 Grade 5 students learned more about the general rules of football and football attire, thanks to the assistance of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association. The students also got to discuss a few organizational roles that make that make football possible. The tour was led by our Technical Director, Mr. Dane Ritchie, who is seen in -photo making a presentation of football gear to one of students.

Several TCI Athletes PB at Meets in Jamaica



Roneisha Johnson, who now attends the Excelsior High School in Jamaica, competed at the Central Hurdles, Relays & Field Events Meet



Love Joseph, who attends the Clement Howell High School, was third in the 1500m at the Youngster Goldsmith Track Meet in Kingston, Jamaica

Tanesia Gardiner of the Turks and Caicos Islands wins gold in the 1500m in the Grace Kennedy STETHS Invitational track meet in St. Elizabeth, Jamaica on January 27, 2024.

Now attending the Edwin Allen High School in that neighboring country, Gardiner clocked at time of 5:07.70 seconds to take the event ahead of a talented field.

Gardiner also competed in the 3000m Steeple Chase at the Central High Hurdles, Relay & Field Events Meet in Jamaica on January 20, 2024, placing

fifth in a personal best at a time of 7:46.40 seconds.

Love Joseph, who attends the Clement Howell High School, was third in the 1500m at the Youngster Goldsmith Track Meet in Kingston, Jamaica on Saturday, February 3. He ran a personal best of 4:23.74 seconds.

Another promising Turks and Caicos Islands athlete Roneisha Johnson, who now attends the Excelsior High School also in Jamaica, also competed at the Central Hurdles, Relays & Field Events Meet 2024, placing first in Class

2 400m B Finals, running a personal best of 59.67.

Rayvon Black, former Ona Glinton Primary School student, and who was named champion boy of the TCI Inter-Primary Track and Field Meet, now competing for Denbigh High in Jamaica won the Class 3 400m D Final at that event running a personal best of 52.92 seconds.

Rayvon Walkin placed 7th in Heat 3 of the Men's 110m Hurdles with a time of 15:51 seconds. He placed 17th in the Men's Long Jump.