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VOLUME 6 ISSUE 1

Jan. 05, 2024 - Jan. 12, 2024

**Blue Hills, Five Cays Lead  
Dengue Cases PG4**

**‘CLIMATE  
OF  
FEAR’**

**SEE  
PAGE 5**

**Man of cloth calls on authorities to do more about  
climate of fear**

# MASKANOO 2023

Maskanoo, which is held on December 26, along the Grace Bay Strip was attended by a throng of tourists and locals alike. The patrons were treated to a dose of rich TCI Culture in music and other cultural offerings, including the Junkanoo March.





## OPEN JOB POSITION

# SOCIAL MEDIA MANAGER

If you are a social media rockstar with a love for travel and hospitality, we invite you to apply and be part of our dynamic team!

**Job Overview:** Member of the Grace Bay Resorts Sales & Marketing team. This role will be responsible for social media content for hotel and restaurant social handles and day-to-day content management. The person in this role will be a key member of Grace Bay Resorts social media activations the development of strategic social media plans, foster social engagement, and create compelling content that resonates with target channel audiences. As our Social Media Manager, you will have the opportunity to make a significant impact on our brand presence and online reputation. This position reports to the Director of Marketing and Communications.

**Main Responsibilities:**

- Collaborate on the social media strategy for specific hotels and restaurants; manage cohesive monthly calendar.
- Develop channel-specific social media content for hotel, brand and restaurant social handles.
- Schedule and publish social media content.
- Manage internal User generated content library, source high quality content, secure permissions, and store assets.
- Engage with social media audiences on a proactive and reactive basis.
- Aggregate, analyze and report on social media metrics monthly benchmarked against annual KPIs.
- Reactively vet along with our PR agencies and proactively forge influencer collaborations that align with overall objectives and demonstrate ROI.
- Capture compelling still photos and video content onsite for social media optimization.
- Craft high-quality, visually appealing content, including posts, stories, and videos tailored to each platform and brand.
- Create and edit social media templates in Canva platform (Instagram Stories, etc.) that are compliant with individual brand guidelines.
- Execute Social Media ad campaigns to generate traffic as well as booking demand as needed plus grow audience in key feeder markets.
- Respond and engage on review sites such as Facebook, TripAdvisor, Google and the like.
- Collaborate with brand partners to generate lifestyle photography which can be mutually amplified.
- Collaborate with local photography and video partners on usage of their content for social and digital needs.

**Skills and Competencies Required**

- Minimum 4+ years' experience managing multiple professional social accounts across major social networks (Instagram, Facebook, Threads, LinkedIn, TikTok, Twitter, Pinterest, YouTube)
- A Bachelor's degree in marketing, communications, journalism, or a related field
- Polished presentation and interpersonal skills
- Exceptional writing and editing skills
- Video editing skills
- A palpable interest and passion for social media; above and beyond just digitally literate, must be truly at the forefront of trends and happenings
- Ability to work flexible hours to meet business demand
- Experience utilizing various social posting platforms, Adobe Photoshop, InDesign, and Canva preferred
- Prior hospitality experience preferred

This is a full-time position, shift varies and weekend and holiday work may be required.

Salary \$55,000.00 per annum

Bonus + Service Charge



Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes to

Ms. Joanna Fortunate, Director of Human Resources at Email: [humanresources@gracebayclub.com](mailto:humanresources@gracebayclub.com)

Deadline for submission: January 19, 2024

#38 Grace Bay Circle, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, TCKA1ZZ

# Blue Hills, Five Cays Lead Dengue Cases

Dengue is transmitted through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito, which also spreads other viruses like Zika and chikungunya.



Since the onset of the dengue outbreak in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Ministry of Health (MOH) has reported a total of 172 confirmed cases so far.

Among these cases, 90 were confirmed through testing at the Caribbean Public Health Laboratory, with the remaining cases identified locally through dengue rapid tests. The distribution of cases is concentrated with 167 on Providenciales and 5 on Grand Turk.

Out of the 90 laboratory-confirmed cases, 74 were identified as type 3 Dengue, which is associated with more severe disease, while 2 cases were type 2 Den-

gue. To date, there have been no reported deaths related to dengue, but 18 individuals were hospitalized.

The age groups primarily affected are those within the 20-59 years range, followed by the 6-19 years age group. The MOH said the most impacted communities in Providenciales are Blue Hills and Five Cays. Males account for a higher proportion of cases at 60.5% compared to females at 37.8%.

Dengue is transmitted through the bite of an infected Aedes species mosquito, which also spreads other viruses like Zika and chikungunya. The Aedes

aegypti mosquito, present in the TCI, prefers laying eggs in artificial containers with water, emphasizing the importance of eliminating potential breeding sites.

Symptoms of dengue include fever, nausea, vomiting, rash, severe headache, and body aches. Severe cases may exhibit symptoms such as abdominal pain, persistent vomiting, bleeding gums or nose, and fatigue.

Preventive measures include protecting oneself from mosquito bites through the use of clothing, mosquito nets, and repellents. Additionally, it is crucial to eliminate mosquito breeding sites by regularly checking and emptying containers that hold water, such as tires and buckets.

The Ministry of Health and Human Services says it is actively responding to the outbreak by implementing an Integrated Vector Management Plan, conducting vector control activities, and engaging in public education campaigns. Despite a reduction in reported cases due to these efforts, recent rains pose a risk of increased mosquito breeding.

The public is urged to play a vital role in preventing the further spread of dengue by covering water containers, disposing of old tires, and maintaining clean environments. Citizens are encouraged to report standing water or potential mosquito breeding sites to the Environmental Health Department.

The Ministry says it continues to offer free testing for dengue and emphasizes the importance of seeking medical attention for suspected cases. The public is reminded to avoid mosquito bites, and the Ministry is collaborating with regional and international stakeholders to enhance the response to the outbreak.

# Cheshire Hall Medical Centre Lifts Security Alert, Resumes Visitation

The Cheshire Hall Medical Centre in Providenciales has lifted the heightened security measures that were implemented in response to a reported gun-related incident on Wednesday night in Blue Hills, where one man was killed and another hospitalized.

In a release the hospital said: "We are pleased to announce that visitation to the in-patient unit at the Cheshire Hall Medical Centre has resumed as normal.

"We would like to express our gratitude for your cooperation and understanding during the temporary suspension of visitation. As always, visitation to the emergency department for serious emergencies, as well as the operation of surgical and routine outpatient clinics, X-rays, and laboratory services, will continue without interruption.

"We appreciate your patience and support as we worked to ensure the safety of our staff, patients, and their families.

"Thank you for your continued support and understanding throughout this period."



# Cannon Mark Kendall Urges Action to Address Climate of Fear in TCI



KENDALL... More consideration to the effecting of the Whistle-Blowing Legislation is an imperative.

Cannon Mark Kendall is calling on authorities to tackle the prevailing climate of fear in the Turks and Caicos Islands, during the opening of the Turks and Caicos Islands Legal year at the St. Monica's Anglican Church in Providenciales, Thursday, January 4.

In an unrestrained sermon, Cannon Kendall emphasized the need for collective efforts from the police, the public, and the wider justice system to alleviate this climate of fear.

Noting a dearth in reporting on the issue, Cannon Kendall stressed the importance of enacting Whistle-Blowing Legislation to protect potential witnesses and encourage the public to report crimes.

"More consideration to the effecting of the Whistle-Blowing Legislation is an imperative. Would-be witnesses must be protected, and the general public must see this happening, to encourage them to report, Cannon Kendall asserted, while expressing concerns about citizens avoiding jury duty due to fears of retaliation, suggesting also that attention be given to

the selection and protection of jurors.

"I believe that consideration must be given also for the selection and protection of jurors. Because of the way this country is, how we are made up, I believe that because of the family connections and other connections...yes, I know that judges may find it very difficult to put together a jury panel, and some people have legitimate excuses. But others, without any legitimate excuse will not want to serve on certain cases because of the climate of fear and the threat of retaliation if the judgement goes to wrong way in the mind of the persons charged," he further noted.

The Cannon highlighted the 2021 amendment to the Summary of Offenses Ordinance, which now includes causing fear or provocation of violence through words and other threats. He pointed out the escalating issues on social media platforms and expressed hope for successful prosecutions against those who threaten violence online.

"In 2021, the Summary of Offenses Ordinance

was amended to encompass causing fear or provocation of violence by use of words and other forms of threat. I am not on Facebook; I am not on Twitter (X) or whatever else...I am only on WhatsApp...I am a WhatsApp Turk.

"But I get information from time to time on what's happening on the whole gambit of social media. And the way I see social media heating up in the Turks and Caicos Islands, I am hopeful that we will start to see successful prosecutions and convictions in this vein, for those who provoke and scandalize others, to the extent that they threaten them with violence," he said.

Addressing the principle that "justice delayed is justice denied," Cannon Kendall recounted inmates' complaints about prolonged legal processes during visits to the prison. He urged against a repeat of having only two functional judges, emphasizing the commendable increase in judicial resources over the last two years.

"In visiting the prison in the past, in particular the inmates who were on remand invariably complained about their cases taking interminable time to be progressed," he revealed.

Advocating for the integration of technology in trials and court procedures, Cannon Kendall praised the establishment of family mediation frameworks and mediation centres as measures that have eased court caseloads.

He cautioned against repeated postponements and lengthy court cases, pointing out the imbalance between crime occurrences and convictions.

"Never again must the Turks and Caicos Islands, at any time, have only two functional judges in the Turks and Caicos...never again. I was away when this was happening, and I believe this was unexpected because of a resignation. But never again. And I must say over the last two years we have seen an increase of the number on the bench...and this, May Lady, is commendable," he said to Chief Justice Mabel Agymang.

He also expressed concern about nepotism, cronyism, and island insularity affecting the legal system, noting that the determination of right and wrong oftentimes were being influenced by the perpetrator's origin.

Cannon Kendall criticized the lack of representation for the powerless, citing instances where defence attorneys exploit legal technicalities to secure the freedom of defendants. He pointed out the malleability of the law to confound prosecutions and highlighted deficiencies in prosecutorial preparation.

"And I say to you in the legal fraternity, and in particular to you on the bench and magistrates, that as a lay person, and as a representative of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, for those who may not have a voice, and even those who are in prison and on remand, court dates are not to be postponed over and over, and court cases dragged out by the whims and fancies and machinations of council.

"Even worse, are the incidence of attorneys taking payments but not pursuing the matter for which their clients pay...just giving them a good runaround," he bemoaned.

# Embracing New Horizons: A Year of Possibilities for the Turks and Caicos Islands

As we stand at the threshold of 2024, gazing into the vast expanse of the months ahead, we find ourselves infused with hope and anticipation for the Turks and Caicos Islands. The dawn of a new year not only marks the passage of time but also symbolizes a fresh canvas upon which we can paint the aspirations and dreams of our community.

The year 2024 unfolds like an unwritten story, and it is up to us, the resilient people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, to script a narrative of growth, unity, and prosperity. As we bid farewell to the challenges of the past, let us carry forward the lessons learned, drawing strength from our collective experiences.

One cannot help but marvel at the wealth of possibilities that this new year brings. From the crystal-clear waters that surround our islands to the vibrant culture that permeates our communities, we are blessed with a tapestry of natural beauty and human diversity. Our unique blend of tradition and modernity positions us at the crossroads of

potential, offering opportunities for innovation and sustainable development. This year, let us channel our energies into fostering stronger bonds within our community. Together, we can build bridges that connect hearts and minds, transcending differences and working towards common goals. Whether it be in the bustling markets of Providenciales or the serene landscapes of North Caicos, let unity be our guiding principle.

In the realm of economic possibilities, 2024 invites us to explore new avenues for growth and prosperity. The Turks and Caicos Islands have long been a beacon for tourism, and this year, we have the chance to enhance our offerings, showcasing the splendor of our shores to an even broader audience. By investing in sustainable tourism practices, we not only protect our natural treasures but also ensure a thriving industry for generations to come.

Moreover, let us not forget the importance of education and innovation in shaping the future of our islands. As we enter this new year, let us redouble our

efforts to provide quality education to our youth, empowering them with the knowledge and skills needed to navigate an ever-evolving world. Embracing innovation and technology will be crucial in positioning the Turks and Caicos Islands as a hub of progress.

In the spirit of hope and optimism, let us make a collective commitment to environmental stewardship. Our pristine beaches, rich marine life, and lush landscapes are not only a source of pride but also a responsibility. By adopting sustainable practices and embracing eco-friendly initiatives, we can ensure that the beauty of the Turks and Caicos Islands remains untouched for generations.

As we embark on this journey through 2024, let us carry with us the spirit of resilience that defines us as a community. Together, we can turn challenges into opportunities, setbacks into comebacks, and dreams into realities. May this new year be a testament to the indomitable spirit of the Turks and Caicos Islands, a year where we unlock the full potential of our paradise home.

Here's to a year of endless possibilities, growth, and unity in the Turks and Caicos Islands!



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

# Premier Touts Economic Success in New Year's Message



Looking ahead to 2024, the premier said government plans to accelerate the delivery of promises outlined in the Citizen's Contract, with a focus on housing, the environment, community renewal, credit union operationalization, agriculture, fisheries, MSMEs linked to tourism, and infrastructure improvements.

In his New Year's message, the Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands expressed gratitude to the citizens and highlighted the island's economic success.

Quoting Psalm 100:5, he drew inspiration from

faith and acknowledged the responsibility entrusted to him by the people.

The Premier stated that amidst challenges and opportunities, 2023 had seen significant achievements. The key points of success included a robust economy, a thriving tourist industry outperforming competitors, heightened investor interest, and a deep pipeline of development projects. Notably, efforts to involve more locals in the tourism sector were underscored, with targeted concessions facilitating their entry.

In a commitment to social development, the government focused on justice principles, with interventions in education, healthcare, social assistance, housing, childcare, and aid for the elderly. He pointed out that to address the impact of inflation, the government removed duties on food staples, reduced CPF, increased the minimum wage, and provided support for families in need.

Emphasizing the promise to restore "service" to "public service," the Premier outlined strides made in improving working conditions and remuneration for public servants. Special attention was given to uplifting the pension of those employed before 1992 and launching a financial assistance program for seniors.

Acknowledging the concerns of those yet to benefit fully from the economy, the Premier as-

sured the government's dedication to meeting their needs. A comprehensive account of the government's stewardship will be delivered in the State of the State Address in February 2024. The Premier listed numerous accomplishments over the past year, including the establishment of the Informal Settlements Unit, the Grand Turk Enhancement and Sustainability Agency, and progress on constitutional amendments. Priority projects such as the South Dock Port Development and digitization of police records were highlighted.

Looking ahead to 2024, the premier said government plans to accelerate the delivery of promises outlined in the Citizen's Contract, with a focus on housing, the environment, community renewal, credit union operationalization, agriculture, fisheries, MSMEs linked to tourism, and infrastructure improvements.

Expressing concern over a recent uptick in violent crimes, the Premier emphasized continued support for the police force, encouraging partnerships with public safety personnel and calling on residents to be vigilant.

The Premier urged citizens to seize economic opportunities, encouraging entrepreneurial spirit, risk-taking, and continuous improvement. He reiterated the commitment to transformational leadership, pledging transparency, accountability, and decisions for the greater good.

# Governor reflects on 2023



Governor Her Excellency  
Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam

In her Year's Message, Governor for the Turks and Caicos Islands Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam reflects on the just concluded year, while expressing hope for the new year. The following is the governor's message:

As the New Year rises on the horizon, it pro-

vides a moment to reflect on all that has passed in 2023.

The Coronation of His Majesty King Charles III in May was a historic and momentous occasion. It was an honour to witness the ceremony, ahead of taking up post as the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands in June.

It certainly has been a full six months, which has included district tours across each of our islands; three UK Ministerial visits; Cabinet, National Security and stakeholder meetings; and organisational events recognising and nurturing the diverse talents, charitable focus and achievements of key sectors of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

During the course of 2023, the unprecedented realities of irregular migration and transnational crime have kept a keen focus on national security - intensifying law enforcement measures; investment in multi-agency operations; and strengthening regional and international partnerships to build strategic and tactical support. The committed efforts of our law enforcement officers and marines, to the defence and security of our islands, continues to be a source of national pride.

For the public service, 2023 has been a year

of building. Despite the challenges of our external environment, the public service has continued to drive delivery of critical services and strengthen key protections. Over the last six months, I have met a range of dedicated public officers working to make a difference, enable innovation and provide confidence in the delivery of public sector duties and accountability.

This year also saw members of the Government and Opposition engage in ground breaking and productive talks with the United Kingdom Government on constitutional reform, reflecting a bipartisan effort, to drive forward a more modern constitutional governance of the Turks and Caicos Islands. As we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights, we also recognised the active impact and incredible discretionary efforts of organisations and individuals from across the Turks and Caicos Islands who assist the vulnerable, promote dignity and provide inspiration for hope. Whilst 2023 has presented its challenges, it has been a year of achievement and opportunity. I look forward to a new year of strengthened partnerships as we strive together in growth and excellence. Happy New Year!

# RINGING IN THE NEW YEAR AT ALMI CHURCH:

While many were ringing in the New Year at parties and other social events across Providenciales, scores of individuals flocked the Abundant Life Ministries

International Church to say goodbye to 2013 and welcome 2024. At the stroke of midnight there was an altar call, to which most of the worshippers complied. The

top photo shows pastor for the church, Bishop Dr. Coleta Williams III, minister to the crowd, while in bottom photos shows parishioners worshipping at the altar.



# Governor Hosts Media Breakfast to Strengthen Ties



Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams has the attention of members of the Media and Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam during the media breakfast hosted by the governor's office.

In a move to enhance collaboration between the local media and the Governor and Deputy

Governor's Office, Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, Governor for the Turks and Caicos

Islands, hosted a media breakfast on December 13 at her office.

The event witnessed the presence of Governor Selvaratnam, Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams, and key staff members from both offices, emphasizing the commitment to fostering a closer relationship with the media. One of the focal points of the meeting was the discussion on the significance of national security and investment for the Turks and Caicos Islands. Governor Selvaratnam and Deputy Governor Williams addressed the media, shedding light on the strategic importance of these aspects for the well-being and prosperity of the Islands.

The gathering served as a platform for open dialogue, allowing members of the media to engage with high-ranking officials, gaining insights into the government's priorities and vision for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The media breakfast not only provided an opportunity for the exchange of ideas but also exemplified a proactive approach by the Governor and Deputy Governor's Office to strengthen communication channels with the local press. As the Turks and Caicos Islands navigate the challenges and opportunities ahead, this initiative underscores the commitment to transparency and cooperation between the government and the media.

# Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa Hosts Annual Media Dinner



Members of the media and their guests sharing in a festive evening at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa on December 13.

Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa, On December 13, rolled out the red carpet for local media professionals during its highly-anticipated Annual Media Dinner.

The exquisite event provided an exclusive opportunity for media representatives to not only savor a delectable meal but also engage in meaningful conversations with the resort's Public Relations Team and top-level management.

The evening was graced by the presence of General Manager James McAnally and Head of Public

Relations, Orville Morgan, who warmly welcomed the guests and shared insights into the resort's latest developments and future plans. The relaxed and convivial atmosphere allowed media practitioners and their guests to establish connections with key figures in the management team, fostering a sense of camaraderie and understanding.

As the night unfolded, attendees were not only treated to a culinary feast but also received tokens of appreciation from the resort's management. These gestures underscored the resort's gratitude



for the ongoing partnership with the local media, recognizing the crucial role they play in sharing the resort's stories and updates with the community. The Annual Media Dinner served as a platform for the exchange of ideas, fostering stronger relationships between Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa and the local media. Such events showcase the resort's commitment to important collaboration between the hospitality industry and the media in promoting the TCI as a premier tourist destination.

# North Caicos Stars Junkanoo boy Band to Travel to Nassau for Workshop and Rush



Cynclair Musgrove, former District Commissioner for North Caicos will be the chaperone for the boys. She along with band members are pictured with Pastor Evan Williams of Mount Moriah Baptist Church.



The North Caicos Stars Band getting ready to perform at a formal event on North Caicos.



The North Caicos Star Junkanoo Band about to perform at an event on that island.

The North Caicos Stars, a band of junkanoo students from North Caicos will be attending a workshop and parade in Nassau, The Bahamas to learn all aspects of Junkanoo Music, which also include how to fashion Junkanoo costumes.

Cynclair Musgrove, former District Commissioner for North Caicos is managing the students, and who will also make the trip said all the students attend the Raymond Gardiner High School on that island. The average age of the band is 14 years old.

One of the members, JNeyo Altidor, who described playing with the seven-member band to be a passion for all of them, told NewslineTCI that from the workshop in The Bahamas, they hope to gain more experience at playing additional instruments, learn to create more tunes thereby increasing in popularity and recognition, to the point of playing overseas. "We plan to take it worldwide. We want to play over the world. The feedback that we are getting from the community is that we are a very good band, and they think that we can go places. It has reached a point where people want to pay us to play at their events," Altidor said.

Lorenz Handfield, another of the band members,

echoed Altidor's sentiments that the community has fallen in love with the band, and has thrown its weight behind them, inviting them to functions, and always lending their encouragements.

Lorenz told NewslineTCI that not only does the North Caicos Stars want to be a force to be reckoned with on the Junkanoo music scene, but who would like to place North Caicos on the tourism map.

"For a long time, we have been trying to establish North Caicos as a tourism spot, because when tourists come to the Turks and Caicos they only focus on Provo. And so, that is why we put 'North Caicos Stars' on our band's name because we want to be specific to people where we come from," Lorenz said.

He noted that despite spending a great deal of time on Providenciales, North Caicos is where his heart is.

"It was a little band that used to perform in Primary School at the Adalaide Oemler, and then our PE teacher and Ms Musgrove decided that we should form a band," Lorenz pointed out. He said that the workshop should provide them the knowledge

to learn to play other instruments and create their own tunes.

He said the band had played at several high-profile events, including the 50th anniversary of the Raymond Gardiner High School...the concert featuring an oversea artiste, and the anniversary dinner. In the meantime, Musgrove said the sponsorships to make the Bahamas travel a reality, has been very encouraging from the community.

"We have people who have signed on immediately. We have the Premier's Office, the MP (Hon. Arlington Musgrove), as well as our government. Everybody is pledging their full support, because they see the benefit for something like this," Musgrove said. She added: "And these are young men who have already possessed leadership qualities. It is amazing watching them practice...they do not have any adult supervision, but they work as a team. They are learning on to tune their instruments until they sound right...they have been doing it from Primary School."

Musgrove pointed out that Mrs Janet Walkin Principal RGHS, who she described as a silent giant, played a pivotal role in the establishing of the band, among other things, making sure to facilitate their training and growth. She also pointed out that the support from the parents and guardian has been invaluable, noting that they have thrown their full weight behind the students and their musical development.

Musgrove told NewslineTCI that at one point the band, which was scheduled to render a performance at a particular event on that island, was forced to be the main band for the day, after the original band did not show up. She said that they caught everyone by surprise with their professionalism.

# Trina Adams Is Experience Turks and Caicos' CMO



ADAMS...I am thrilled to embark on this exciting journey with the dynamic team at Experience Turks and Caicos.

Experience Turks and Caicos welcomes Trina Adams as Chief Marketing Officer effective January 2nd, 2024.

Ms. Adams comes to Experience Turks and Caicos with over 15 years of experience in marketing and management. She recently held the role of Acting Chief Executive Officer of Invest Turks and Caicos Agency and held the position of Vice

President, Marketing and Promotions at the agency for seven years. Before that, she held the position of Head of Marketing for Digicel and Digicel Play.

Ms. Adams holds a Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Nova Southeastern University in the United States and a Bachelor of Commerce Degree in Entrepreneurial Management from Royal Roads University in Canada.

In her new position as Chief Marketing Officer, Ms. Adams will be responsible for leading the Experience Turks and Caicos' marketing department to develop and implement marketing strategies to promote the Turks and Caicos Islands as a premiere luxury/lifestyle multi-island tourism destination.

In welcoming Ms. Adams to the Experience Turks and Caicos team, Ms. Brown, Change Manager and Interim CEO of Experience Turks and Caicos, said her appointment aligns with the key mandates of the organisation.

"One of our key priorities at Experience Turks and Caicos is to increase visitation and spend across all of our islands. In her new role, Ms. Adams will aim to increase brand awareness among our stayover demographic with an average Household Income of US\$200,000 for current source markets in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom as well as increase

brand awareness of our multi-island destination through unique selling points to increase spend and longer stay for overnight visitors," she said.

"I look forward to working closely with Ms. Adams to converting key feeder markets into non-stop gateways in our source markets to increase stayover and identifying emerging source markets for stay-over visitors. It is also critical to identify luxury cruise lines as an opportunity to visit Grand Turk to increase spend on island through tours and other activities," she added.

Ms. Adams described her appointment as an honour and privilege.

"I would like to thank God for this incredible opportunity. I am thrilled to embark on this exciting journey with the dynamic team at Experience Turks and Caicos. My passion for the progress and growth of the Turks and Caicos Islands is deeply rooted, and the prospect of contributing to the success of Experience Turks and Caicos is both an honour and a privilege. "I am eager to build on the momentum of the brand's transformation and play a pivotal role in shaping its future. I am beyond excited to get started. As I step into this role, I see great potential ahead for Experience Turks and Caicos, and I am committed to driving its continued success," she said.

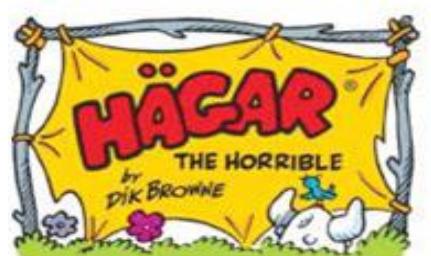
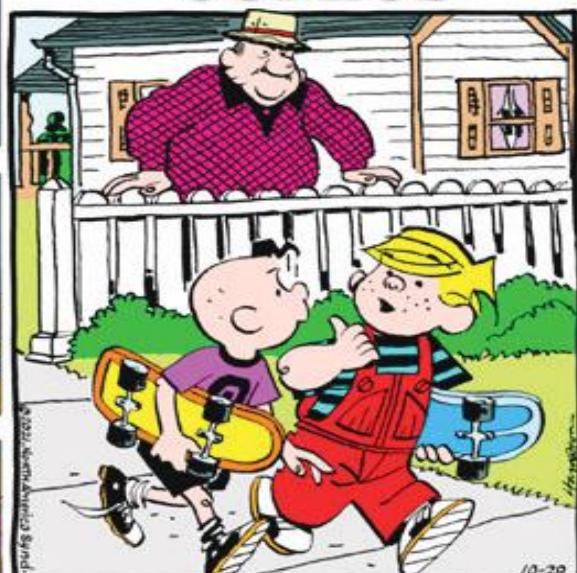
## GOAT NUISANCE ON PROVO ROADS:

A number of motorists along the Leeward Highway in the community of Blue Hills are sometimes forced to navigate between goats while traversing those stretch of roadways. The animals can be often seen aimlessly milling along those roadways, forcing motorists, in most instances to stop for several minutes until they crossed the roadway. At times those goats sometimes jump into oncoming traffic, creation anxious moments for motorists. This goat in photo was rescued by a motorist after seen injured along the side of the road in Blue Hills. The citizen notified the TCSPCA about the injured animals, who she said was on their way at the time. She said it appeared the goat was attacked by dogs.



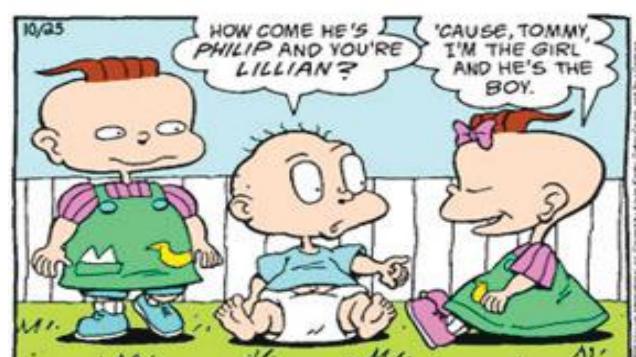
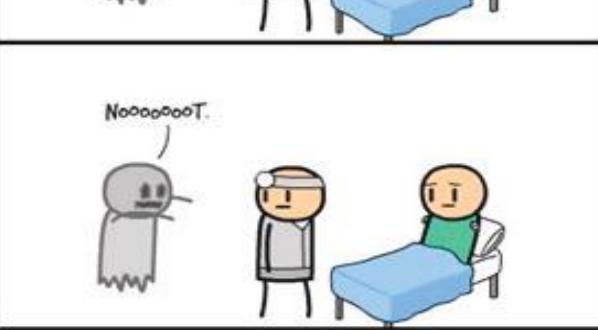


NEWSLINE  
COMICS



An accident like yours is tough, but things will get easier.

At first, however, you may experience some phantom pains.





Turks & Caicos

## NATIONAL MUSEUM



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The Turks and Caicos Islands National Museum located in Guinep House on Front Street in Grand Turk is the National Museum of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Established in the 1980s and opened in 1991, the museum is publicly funded as a nonprofit trust. It exhibits prehistoric Lukayan culture and records the history of the islands of the colonial era and the slave trade, all related to the sea. An Arboretum is in adjacent to the museum. Guinep House one of the oldest stone structures in the island. The house, built prior to 1885, was named after the large Guinep tree in the front yard. It was built in local limestone by a former shipwright. The structural material of the building also came from local shipwrecks, including a ship's mast, which is one of the building's main supports. The building which was earlier a lodge for some of the divers was donated to the museum in 1990.

# RTCPF announces Jingle Jam Competition Winners

The winners of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force. (Fourth from left) Tyerah James, who placed second; and third place Dianna Charles (eighth from left). They are pictured with members of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, including Acting Commissioner Rodney Adams (seventh from left), Superintendent of Divisions and Community Policing Dwight Gardiner (right), Sgt. Huntley Forbes Jr. (left) of the Community Policing Unit, as well as Mr. Drexler Smith (third from left) sponsors Khashy Sheibani (fifth from left). Pictured at second left and second right are family members of the participants.



The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force's Community Policing Unit proudly announces the winners of the Christmas Jingle Competition held under the theme "Stop the Violence."

High school students showcased their creativity and commitment to promoting peace in the community by composing one-minute anti-violence video clips set to the beat of popular Christmas songs. During the award ceremony on December 28, 2023, at Police Headquarters, Airport Road, Providenciales, the acting Commissioner of Police, Mr. Rodney Adams, expressed his admiration for all participating students. He commended the winners for their exceptional creativ-

ity and dedication to fostering positive change.

"I commend each winner for their creativity and commitment to promoting peace in our community. Your talents have made a meaningful impact, and I encourage you to continue using your voices for positive change," stated Mr. Adams.

The winners of the Christmas Jingle Competition are as follows:

- 1st Place - Song: Nathanael Marcellin (Prize: PS5 Game Console)
- 2nd Place - Poem: Tyerah James (Prize: XBOX X Game Console)
- 3rd Place - Poem: Dianna Charles (Prize: Tablet)

first place Nathanael Marcellin (fifth from left); and Nathanael Marcellin collects his first-place prize from Acting Commissioner of Police Rodney Adams



The award ceremony was attended by Superintendent of Divisions and Community Policing Dwight Gardiner, Sgt. Huntley Forbes Jr. of the Community Policing Unit, as well as sponsors Khashy Sheibani and Mr. Drexler Smith. Family members of the winners were also present to celebrate the students' achievements. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force congratulates all participants and extends appreciation to the winners for using their talents to advocate for a more peaceful community. The success of the Christmas Jingle Competition highlights the positive impact that creative initiatives can have on addressing societal issues.

# Life Line

# FEATURED CHURCH

For this edition of LIFELINE FEATURED CHURCH, we are highlighting End Time Harvest New Testament Church Of God located on the Pelican Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales (Opposite Nell's Gift Shop).

The pastors are Kemuel and wife Jolanda Gardiner. The church has numerous opportunities to worship. On Sunday at 9am they have their 'Worship and Warfare Encounter'; On Wednesday at 7pm, they have their 'Fire Hour Corporate Prayer Meeting' and at 8pm, 'Deeper Bible Study'; On Saturday at 5am, the church hosts 'Gatekeepers Corporate Prayer Meeting'.



**END TIME HARVEST  
NEW TESTAMENT CHURCH OF GOD**

## 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

**One Nation Empowerment Center**  
Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance  
Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay,  
Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194.  
Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.

**Touch of Love Ministries International**  
Center  
Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales  
Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731

**Abundant Life Ministries International**  
P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward  
Highway, Providenciales  
Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755

**Anglican Church Rectory** Grant  
Turk,  
Front Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-2289

**Bethany Baptist Church,**  
Blue Hills, Providenciales  
Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118

**Church of God of Prophecy,**  
Lower Bight, Providenciales  
Tel: 941-8854

**Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk**  
Tel:946-1866

**Calvary Baptist Church,**  
South Caicos  
Tel:946-3212

**Church of God of Prophecy,**  
Providenciales Tel:941-3438

**Roman Catholic Church,**  
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

**Faith Tabernacle Church of God,**  
Providenciales, Tel:946-4073

**New Testament Church of God,**  
Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175

**New Testament Church of God,**  
South Caicos Tel:946-3631

**Methodist Church,**  
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

**Healing Waters Ministries,**  
Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867

**House of Prayer Church of God,**  
Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309

**Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses,**  
Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727

**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

**Paradise Baptist Church,**  
Five Cays, Providenciales  
Tel:941-4349

**Revival Faith Center,**  
North Backsalina, Grand Turk  
Tel:946-2349

**Salem Baptist Church,**  
Mission Folly, Grand Turk  
Tel:946-2565

**Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries**  
International,  
Discovery Bay Providenciales  
Tel: 946-5181

**St. Monica's Anglican Church**  
P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales  
Tel: 946-4046  
Fax:946-4046;941-8499

**Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh**  
Day Adventists,  
P.O. Box 803, Providenciales

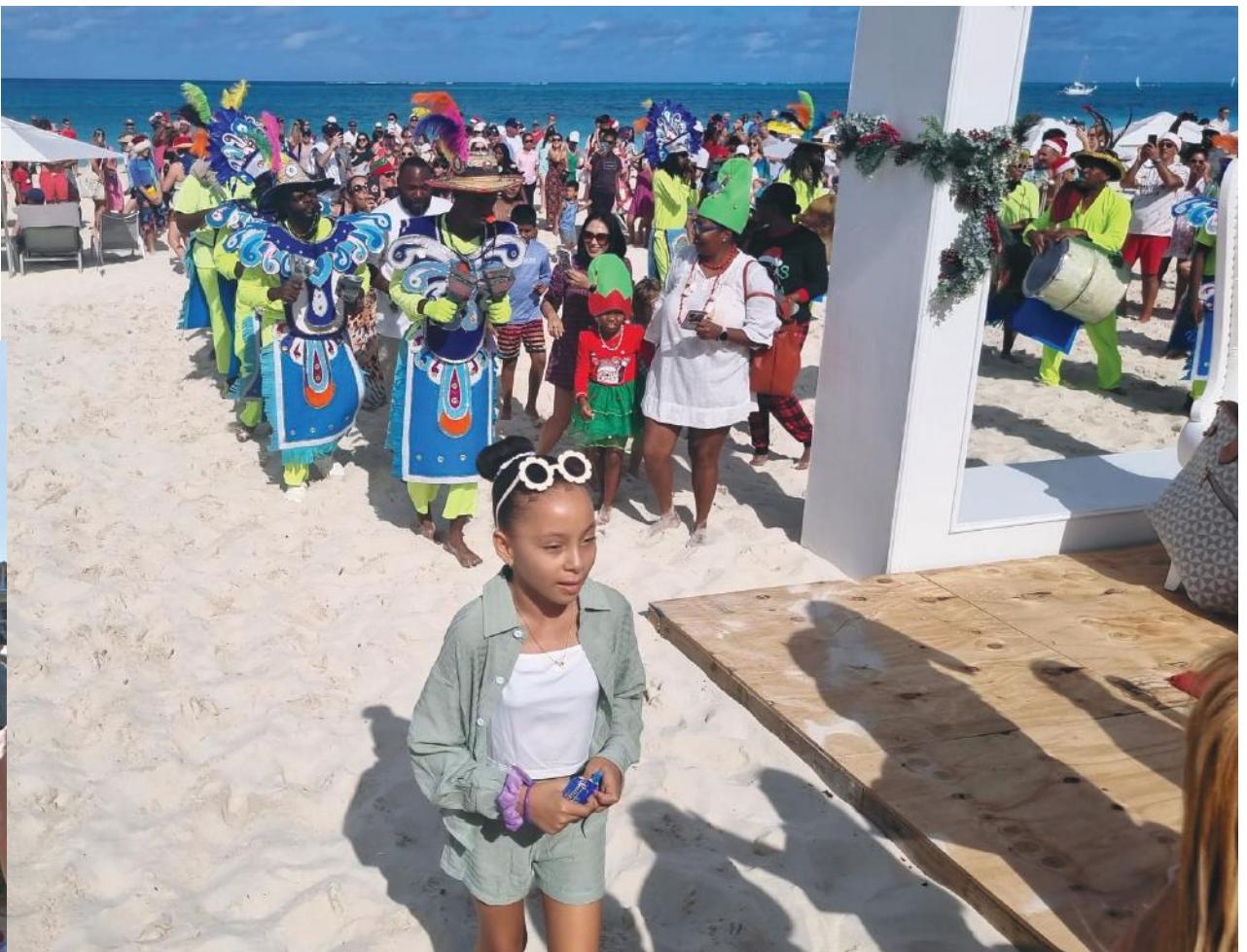
**United Pentecostal Church,**  
Brown's Plaza, Leeward Highway,  
Providenciales Tel: 956-5852

**Wesleyan Methodist Church,**  
Blue Hills, Providenciales  
Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596

**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

# Santa At Grace Bay Club

On Christmas Day, December 25, scores of guests, and members of the local community flocked the Grace Bay Club section of the Grace Bay Beach to welcome Santa and his elves. Following his usual arrival on a boat, Santa entered the Beach to thunderous cheers and screams from the score of waiting children. He did not arrive empty-handed as he brought goodies for the children especially. The following are photo highlights of the event.





# At Home Beauty Tips

Everyone wants inexpensive, non-invasive, toxin-free skincare ingredients. These do-it-yourself tips will save you time and money. However, the best part is that you are using the healing powers of nature to support your body's innate healing capacities to look naturally beautiful!

## HOMEMADE FACE MASK

There are tons of at-home face-masks that can do your skin good. Avocados help moisturize the skin and reduce inflammation. Here's one of my favourites.

### HOW TO MAKE:

Mix one avocado, some plain yogurt and one teaspoon of lemon juice. Apply liberally to face, leave on for 15-20 minutes, then rinse with warm water. Do this twice a week to have soft, supple skin.



## Honey. Everything.

Honey has tremendous beauty benefits. But today, we're focusing on scarring. Honey helps your body's healing process, which may help fade scars. Use honey as a spot treatment, applying it every day or every other day as a paste at the site of your scarring.

Honey may not be good for scarring caused by burns and deep cuts.



## Coconut Oil as Shaving Cream



Use coconut oil on your legs as a natural replacement for your shaving cream. Slather on a small amount of **coconut oil**. Use a sharp razor to get a close **shave**. The **oil** will moisturize your skin, helping the razor to glide over your legs and avoid razor burn.

## Cold Spoons

Place 2 metal spoons in the freezer at night. In the morning, place the backs of the cold spoons under your eyes and as close to the inner corners as possible. Apply a little bit of pressure and slowly glide the spoons toward the outer corners. The gliding movement will help drain the fluid that's pooling underneath your eye, while the cold spoon will help minimize any puffiness.



# GRACE BAY CLUB

GRACE BAY RESORTS

## OPEN JOB POSITIONS

### **POSITION: Development Representative**

#### **Job Overview:**

This position will work directly with the CEO and Director of Development and will have responsibilities in the company's hospitality development activities. This will involve considerable interaction with:

- Owners, hospitality guests, employees, and travel trade professionals.
- Development professionals including architects, interior designers & engineers.

The person in this role is expected to successfully pivot between hospitality and development, and as is the case with hospitality employees, will be expected to work weekends and public holidays from time to time. The company is in the people business. The ideal employee would possess strong people skills, in addition to the technical skills as further described below. A positive attitude is critical with an ability to communicate with his/her multi-cultural co-workers, hotel guests, international investors, and buyers.

#### **Job Requirements:**

- Bachelor's diploma in Architecture/Interior Design/Quantity Surveying or related construction field.
- Experience managing interior designers, architects, engineers.
- Interior & architecture design experience in hotels and/or luxury condominiums required.
- Experience with furniture & OSE design, procurement, and installation.
- Hospitality client interface experience essential.
- Ability to read architectural, structural, and mechanical engineering drawings.
- Proficient in MS Office, Bluebeam, AutoCAD, SketchUp, etc.
- Read and write English proficiently, Spanish or French is a plus.

**Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.**

**Qualified Belongers need only apply**

**Salary Range: Salary Range: \$84,000 - \$102,000 per annum**

### **POSITION: Executive Housekeeper**

**Job Overview:** Participates in the development of business strategies for the rooms division which are aligned with the overall objectives of the resort: Develops and implements business strategies for housekeeping; Monitors status regularly and adjusts strategies as appropriate

Manages the operation of the housekeeping, public space and laundry areas. Ensures that the rooms and public space areas are spotless and continually restocked and straightened:

- Develops and implements processes, procedures and standards for assigned departments which support achievement of service and financial goals

- Prepares annual budget; monitors achievement of budget and takes corrective steps as appropriate
- Inspects rooms, public space and back-of-the house areas continually
- Determines appropriate staffing levels for forecasted business and schedules employees accordingly
- Develops and implements process for providing employees with customer service, technical and safety training on an ongoing basis
- Ensures efficient use of OPERA system for all guest housekeeping services and requests
- Establishes positive relationship with unit owners to ensure proper service and maintenance of units
- Oversees inventory, purchasing, disbursement and cost control for all linens, cleaning supplies, guest's room and restroom supplies, laundry supplies, etc.
- Manages operation of (and/or outsourced relationship with) laundry
- Responsible for uniform inventory, issuance and ongoing maintenance
- Monitors assigned departments with compliance to safety standards
- Coordinates room availability with the Front Office Manager
- Coordinates room maintenance with Director of Engineering

**Develops and implements strategies and practices which support employee engagement:**

- Recruits and selects qualified candidates
- Provides employees with the orientation and training needed to understand expectations and perform job responsibilities
- Communicates performance expectations and provides employees with on-going feedback
- Provides employees with coaching and counseling as needed to achieve performance objectives and their fullest potential

**Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.  
Qualified Belongers need only apply  
Salary Range: \$54,000 - \$64,000 per annum**

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### **POSITION: Kitchen Steward**

#### **Main Responsibilities:**

- Transport and clean cooking utensils and service ware in order to provide cooks, bus persons and food and food servers with appropriate equipment for guests' dining experience.
- Clean physical surroundings while caring enough to do it well by adhering to the hotel standards.
- Promptly and carefully sorting soiled ware so that it can be put through the dish or pot machine properly
- Quickly washing ware and replacing them in storage areas as designated and ensuring the dish machine is properly cleaned and filled with water per hotel standards.

**Shifts varies. Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.**

**Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2**

**Salary Range: \$8.00 per hour**

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### **POSITION: Laundry Attendant**

**Job Overview:** Maintenance and cleaning of Rooms, Restaurant, Private Villas and Pool & Beach linens. The Laundry Attendant will need to gather all dirty linens or other items as directed and process them to be laundered. This person will also be responsible for folding, organizing and sorting linens and towels to be delivered to the respective areas and departments for guest use. Follows established procedures and processes to ensure quality and timely completion of assigned tasks.

#### **Job Requirements:**

- Ensure the hotel has adequate amounts of linen and towels and all time
- Assist in all Housekeeping responsibilities, cleaning of all guest rooms, stocking amenities and linens
- physical stamina and mobility including ability to reach, kneel and bend
- Ability to lift, push and pull required load (usually about 30lbs)
- Ensure inventory is used properly and in supply at all times

**This position is currently held by an expatriate worker**

**Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2**

**Salary: \$8.00 per hour**

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**Interested persons should contact our Human Resources Department no later than December 29th 2023**

**Email: [humanresources@gracebayclub.com](mailto:humanresources@gracebayclub.com)**

**(649) 946-5050 Ext. 1020**

**#38 Grace Bay Circle, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies**

# DR. Virginia Clerveaux Appointed PS in Governor's Office

DR. Virginia Clerveaux



The Office of the Governor has appointed Dr. Virginia Clerveaux as the Permanent Secretary within the Office of the Governor.

Dr. Clerveaux's journey in public service commenced in 1997 as a graduate teacher in the Ministry of Education. Her educational voyage began at Shortwood Teachers College in Kingston, Jamaica, culminating in a Diploma in Education. She embarked on her teaching career at the Ona Gilton Primary School

in Grand Turk, subsequently returning to her alma mater, the Marjorie Basden High School, where she imparted knowledge in Geography, History, and Social Studies before pursuing higher education.

Her academic pursuits led her to obtain a Bachelor's degree from the University of the West Indies (UWI), Mona Jamaica, followed by a Master's of Philosophy in Geography also from UWI. Dr. Clerveaux furthered her academic prowess by completing her Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at Gunma University in Japan, backed by a Monboshei Scholarship from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). She boasts numerous certifications from esteemed organizations like ICPS, CDEMA, and FEMA, alongside co-authoring books and publications and creating the Disaster Awareness Game (DAG).

Dr. Clerveaux's career has been characterized by significant contributions to disaster management. Her pivotal roles with The British Red Cross in the aftermath of Hurricane Ike and Tropical Storm Hanna, alongside her engagement with CDEMA following the Haiti Earthquake, underscore her unwavering dedication to this field. Her commitment to the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) was evident as she took the helm at the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME), guiding the nation through tumultuous periods triggered by severe storms such as Juaquin, Cristobal, Irma, and Maria. In 2021, after nine years of unwavering commitment to disaster management at national, regional, and international levels, Dr. Clerveaux was appointed as the Deputy Permanent Secretary in the National Security Secretariat (NSS), spearheading crucial areas such as Maritime sovereignty, food security, cybersecurity, disaster resilience, and Critical National Infrastructure (CNI).

With an extensive tenure spanning over two decades, Dr. Clerveaux brings a wealth of knowledge, diverse skill sets, and a robust network of public-private partnerships garnered through collaborations with local, regional, and international entities like CDEMA, FCDO, the British Red Cross, UNDP, and the Turks and Caicos Islands Government.

Reflecting on her appointment, Dr. Clerveaux shared, "This journey began with my father's simple yet profound dream. He instilled in me the belief that education transcends boundaries and shapes destinies. His words became my guiding light, propelling me through academic pursuits, always striving for better. I am deeply humbled and grateful for the trust and confidence bestowed upon me by both the Governor and Deputy Governor. To my mentors, family, and friends—your support and guidance have been invaluable. This achievement is a tribute to my father."

The Governor, Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratham, in extending congratulatory remarks to Dr. Clerveaux, stated: "It is a great pleasure to announce officially and congratulate Dr. Virginia Clerveaux on her appointment as the new Permanent Secretary to the Governor's Office.

Dr. Clerveaux is an experienced public officer, having worked with various ministries and departments during her career. She has a strong track record of delivery and in her current role as Deputy Permanent Secretary of the National Security Secretariat, she has worked diligently to ensure the delivery of a number of key security initiatives.

"I look forward to working closely with Permanent Secretary Clerveaux and know that she will bring invaluable expertise in supporting and taking forward the objectives of the Governor's Office."

Come and be a part of the World's Best Team!  
The Caribbean's Leading Luxury-Included Brand® offers an opportunity for highly motivated, flexible and enthusiastic persons with exceptional skills to join our team.

*Build A Career in Hospitality*

**WE ARE HIRING!**  
**COME TO OUR JOB FAIR**  
**Thursday, January 25, 2024**  
**at 8:30am**



- Concierge Manager
- Assistant Front Office Manager
- Boat Captains \*
- Scuba Instructors\*
- Dive Masters \*
- Income Auditor
- Wedding Planner

- Cook 3
- Night Baker
- Housekeeping Room Attendants
- Room Technicians
- Security Officers
- Concierge Agents
- Junior Concierge

- Social Media Coordinator
- VIP Driver
- Dining Room Servers
- Groundsmen
- Bar Porters
- Laundry Attendants
- Stewards

**REQUIREMENTS:** • Updated Resume • Passport/Birth Certificate  
 • Local Status Document [Belonger Card, Freelance Permit, Residence Permit, Permanent Resident Certificate, Naturalization Certificate]  
 • Qualifications/Experience required \*

**BENEFITS:** • Healthcare • Education and Training • Staff Transportation  
 • Competitive Salary Packages • Opportunities for Growth & Development  
 • Banking Details [Bank, Branch, Account#]

# Take charge of your health and well-being in the new year



FOR MANY people, the start of a new year marks an opportunity to reflect on your life, and think about where you would like to be in the future. While new year resolutions may get a bad rap for encouraging unrealistic goals or placing pressure on you, they can also be a great starting point to prioritise your health and wellness on your own terms.

Starting small could look like making an effort to reset your sleep schedule and prioritising having a set bedtime. Or it may start with your home, beginning to organise one room at a time, first focusing on your closet and later getting to your kitchen. Still, it could be as simple as taking control of your thoughts and incorporating inspiring quotes and daily affirmations into your morning routine.

Even if the path to reinventing yourself starts off a little rocky, you can always get back on track at any time throughout the year.

## START A GRATITUDE JOURNAL

Keeping track of things, people and events that you are grateful for throughout the year can help you to improve your mental and physical wellness. It literally breathes new life into us. It recharges and it rejuvenates, and it does not have to take up much time. Just a few minutes a day can make all the difference.

## MAKE TIME FOR FAMILY

With the busyness of our daily lives, it can be difficult to prioritise spending time with loved ones, especially if they live far away or have hectic schedules themselves. But next year, make a conscious effort to carve out that one-on-one time, whether it is by planning monthly family dinners or simply checking in once a week, in person, or by telephone.

## PRACTISE MINDFULNESS

Anxiety can nag at anyone during any season, in all parts of life, and it can be easy to let the idea of the future, or past experiences, inform your reality of the present. Practising mindfulness means doing everything you can to be grateful for what you have in the moment, where you are in life, and who you are right now.

## COMMIT TO A HEALTHIER SLEEP ROUTINE

So many issues can be traced back to a poor night's sleep and yet, there is so much more that we can aim to improve beyond a reasonable bedtime. Creating a plan to improve your sleep hygiene, the habits you maintain to get good sleep every night, may look different for everyone, as it depends on when you need to be active and working throughout the day. Your brain actually relies on cues to regulate your internal circadian rhythm, and the choices you make throughout the day can interfere with these.

## QUIT SMOKING

Cigarettes are extremely harmful for your health, particularly your lungs, but tobacco products in general, including vapes, pose a serious threat. There are so many resources to help you get a jump-start on ditching tobacco.

## PRIORITISE ANNUAL HEALTH SCREENINGS

Open your calendar app or planner and make your appointments for the year in one sitting. Not only will you get the anxiety-inducing nuisance over with, but exams will be less likely to get squeezed out as life gets bonkers. Start with your primary care provider, and ask which screenings, for example, mammogram, colonoscopy, you are due for. Slot those in, then move on to the dentist's office, and head over to your ophthalmologist, too.

## DRINK UP

You know you need to hydrate, but it is especially important when you get only six hours of sleep or less. You are more likely to be dehydrated the day after a disrupted night of sleep, because a hormone that regulates your body's water conservation is released during later stages of sleep. So down some extra water on those days if you can, and remember that too much water can be tricky for your gut, too.

## CHILL OUT

Literally, start working on letting go of all of that anger! Constantly feeling angry and pissed off, especially for women, can lead to less-than-desirable, long-term effects on your holistic health. Chronic anger can impact the body in more ways than one; it can induce headaches, anxiety, digestion problems and high blood pressure, among other drawbacks.

## CONSIDER THERAPY

We all lean on friends and family for support, but is this the year that you finally make a move to unpack your mental health? You do not even have to leave the house to start, and some of the best digital offerings are absolutely free. Start by checking out a few apps on your phone or reach out to a healthcare provider.

The truth is that the lifestyle you have today is a result of a lifetime of choices that cannot be changed in the blink of an eye. Our history lives inside of us; it becomes part of us; it is who we are. We carry it in our bodies, until we mindfully overwrite it. Yes, you can rewrite your story. However, it is important to become very aware of what the whole story is that has lodged within you. That is why it takes time, patience and compassion to take charge of your life. We cannot expect instant results.

# NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup> & Chill

## Christmas Word Scramble

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

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

## 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

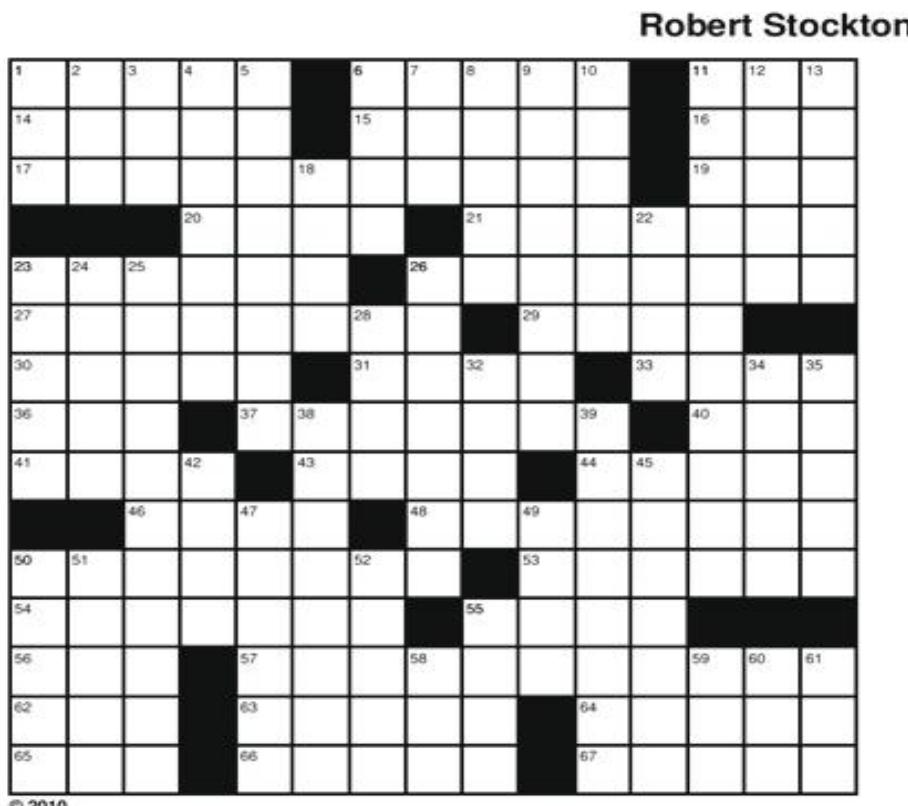
Governors of TCI

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

## 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 Baul
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
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

**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://beekleplabs.com/crossfire>)

Robert Stockton

## J 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..."

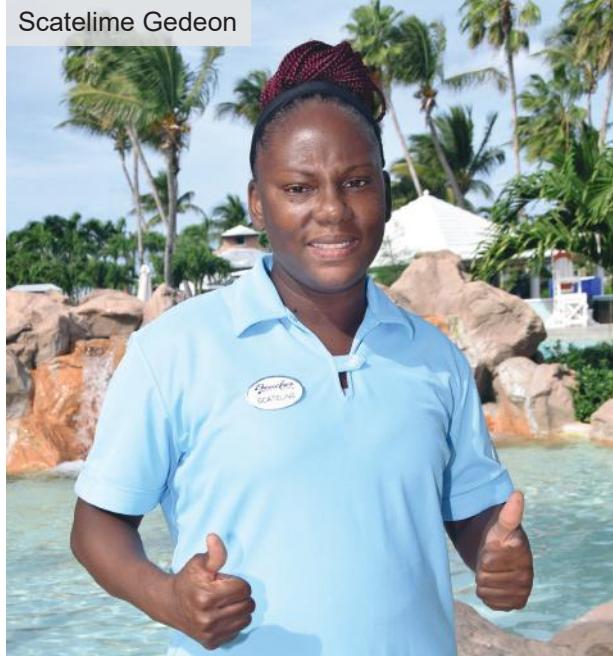
## SUDOKU

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			

# Scateline Gedeon Dominates Both Soccer and Service

Scateline Gedeon



Some leaders are born, while others are made, and for Scateline Gedeon the latter aptly represents her.

A valued dining room supervisor at Beaches Turks and Caicos (BTC) and a skillful national player for the Turks and Caicos Islands women's football team, Scateline thrives on being a leader in the middle of the field and in the restaurants. Described as an individual who is passionate about service, she remains a multi-talented team member, mother and sporting enthusiast. The former Clement Howell High School graduate has been a member of the BTC's food and beverage department for 12 years and a member of the national football team since 2009 where she has represented her country in several international matches. Scateline's passion for service has propelled her into a life of coaching, where she guides younger players in the sport and also helps team members from the different restaurants at the resort.

"The leadership qualities that I have gained here at Beaches Turks and Caicos have allowed me to transfer them onto the field of play, especially whenever I am representing my country. I'm

Scateline Gedeon &amp; Restaurant Manager Shereka Dobson



very passionate about my role as a leader and the same passion that I have at work, I also have on the field. I am a team player who always encourages my team members to maintain standards of excellence. I believe in scoring goals both on and off the field," shared Scateline.

While highlighting some of the leadership courses that she has done through the Sandals Corporate University (SCU), Scateline considers Leading Others, Train the Trainer and Team Building Techniques as the most impactful.

"I must commend the team from the Learning and Development department as they are always willing to guide every team member in experiencing educational growth. With the many online courses that are offered, the manager, Phildreka Mayham and her team have been a positive influence for me as I have been able to merge my professional development with

the academic growth that the company offers," Scateline noted.

Restaurant manager, Shereka Dobson in describing Scateline's leadership styles noted, "Scateline is a natural leader. She uses her discipline, attention to detail and team building experiences from sports to enhance her culinary leadership style and helps to motivate those around her to always give of their best."

Scateline's involvement in giving back to her community has also been recognised as she is one of the Sandals Foundation ambassadors who volunteers in several outreach projects. She describes her involvement with children in various schools as some of her fondest experiences.

"Giving back for me is similar to the mentorship that I have received from the many leaders in my career. National soccer coach, Aaron Lawrence and BTC's Executive Assistant Manager, Alpheus Pinder, have been two of those leaders whose passion for youth development have played major roles in my development.

Whenever I get the chance to share with children, I always remind them of my journey within the hospitality industry as well as my career as a national player. Being able to motivate the younger generation is something that I look forward to doing especially through my involvement with the Sandals Foundation," added Scateline.

General Manager, James McAnally noted, "Scateline displays the mindset that we cultivate here at Beaches Turks and Caicos, that of giving of our best in all that we do. As a company, we are happy for her commitment to nation building through sports and hospitality as one of our emerging leaders. We are proud of her and how well she has managed to merge sports and hospitality on her development journey."

Scateline along with Restaurant supervisor Christine



# Caribbean Journal's 25 Best Beaches to Visit in 2024

Mudjin Harbour, Middle Caicos, Turks and Caicos



Let's be frank. The best beach in the Caribbean is the one you're on right now. That means choosing our favorite beaches in the Caribbean each year is an almost impossible task — and one that, we admit, is completely subjective.

We all have our different tastes when it comes to beaches; some prefer the ultra-secluded, tucked-away beach; others are drawn to the all-day, bustling party beach. So which beaches made the cut this year? Our objective this year was to focus on beaches that are not just beautiful, but reachable.

That means just about every beach on this list can be driven to from a Caribbean airport — in other words, you won't need to charter a boat, say a secret password and commandeer a dinghy to reach them. You may have heard of some of these beaches; others may be new to your radar. But all of them are the essence of what makes Caribbean beaches so enchanting: that ideal shade of blue, the right softness of the sand, the marvelous alchemy that occurs when white sand and green hills meet the sun.

## Long Bay, Antigua

It's not easy to choose in a destination that has 365 beaches, but we're smitten with this stretch of sugar-white and sparkling turquoise water on the eastern coast of Antigua.

## Eagle Beach, Aruba

Aruba is filled with picture-perfect beaches, but nothing stands out quite like the seemingly endless, impossibly wide coastline that is Eagle Beach. Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman There's just something about Seven Mile Beach, Grand Cayman's signature strand, the way the water feels beyond crystal clear, the way it always feels a few degrees warmer. True sandy perfection.

## Long Bay, San Salvador,

The Bahamas This is where Columbus was said to have landed in 1492, and when you get here, you'll feel like no one has been here since. Delicately empty, with soft sand, calm waves and the feeling of total privacy.

## Grand Anse Beach, Grenada

There's an extra degree of sparkle in the water on Grenada's most famous beach, dotted with lovely hotels and a few beach bars, perfect for long walks or longer swims. A sublime Eastern Carib-

bean beach.

## Le Carbet, Martinique

This volcanic beach is set in the northwestern corner of Martinique, just south of Saint Pierre in the beach town of Le Carbet. The sand is deliciously soft, the water almost always calm and the beach bars, well, plentiful.

St Jean Beach, St Barth The Caribbean capital of people watching is also just a plain tremendous beach, with spectacular beach bars like Pearl Beach and Gypsea and wonderfully calm waves, perfect for afternoons of sunning and rumming.

## Paradise Beach, Paradise Island, The Bahamas

Tucked just past The Cove and The Reef on Paradise Island is this beach seemingly ripped straight out of a poster, where you'll never find crowds and the sand and sea are just so. A reminder of why people came to Paradise Island in the first place.

## Grace Bay Beach, Turks and Caicos

Grace Bay has it all — the wide sand, the perfect shade of blue, and an infinite number of great resorts and restaurants dotting the coastline. This is the beach that made Provo into a travel hotspot, and it's not hard to see why.

## Pink Sand Beach, Harbour Island, The Bahamas

There are more than three miles of, yes, pink sand at this legendary Harbour Island beach, dotted with colorful umbrellas from the hotels perched just above on the dunes.

## Rendezvous Beach, Anguilla

Anguilla doesn't have any subpar beaches. What sets Rendezvous apart, beyond its blindingly white sand, are the impossibly beautiful views of neighboring St Martin; the imposing green hills just across the water make for an otherworldly, exotic, hard-to-describe feeling of wonder.

Tropic of Cancer Beach, Little Exuma, The Bahamas Little Exuma is accessed by a tiny bridge just across from the southern part of Great Exuma, and it's home to this astonishing stretch of shoreline that just so happens to be directly on the boundary of the Tropic of Cancer.

## Valley Church Beach, Antigua

The color of the sea here is spellbinding, an almost neon turquoise color that has a special kind of sheen. That, coupled with the brilliant sand and Antigua's green hills, make for an unforgettable

visit.

## Maho Beach, St John, US Virgin Islands

The story here is not just the fantastic Maho Crossroads beach bar, but a postcard-perfect, palm-lined beach at the edge of St John's National Park.

## Magens Bay, St Thomas, US Virgin Islands

You can't do a list of the best beaches in the Caribbean without Magens, the signature beach on St Thomas and the sort of perfect crescent beach straight out of a Caribbean tourism poster. It's just that beautiful.

## Old Bight Beach, Cat Island, The Bahamas

The Out Islands of The Bahamas are home to some of the most magnificent, uncrowded beaches in the hemisphere, and it's hard to find one more idyllic than the five-mile-long Old Bight Beach, where, other than a tiny boutique hotel, you could go days without seeing another soul on the sand.

## Gold Rock Beach, Grand Bahama

Travelers are beginning to appreciate just how beautiful Grand Bahama Island is, and that's nowhere more true than the island's Gold Rock Beach, where the sand is soft and the water is shallow enough that you can wade out hundreds of feet into the sea.

## Seven Mile Beach, Negril, Jamaica

There's no place in Jamaica quite like Negril, and there's no beach quite like Seven Mile, an action-packed, fun-loving endless party filled with great little bars, lovely beach hotels and endless positive vibes.

## Pinel Island, St Martin

Accessed by a brief ferry from Cul de Sac in St Martin is this jewel, home to a pair of world-class beach bars (with the food to match) and a sliver of sand that feels like something in the South Pacific.

## Mambo Beach, Curacao

Curacao's capital of fun is this energetic, always-bustling stretch of sand lined where the emphasis is on, well, enjoyment. The facilities are hard to beat, the food is great and the party simply never stops.

## Mudjin Harbour, Middle Caicos, Turks and Caicos

Hidden away on the island of Middle Caicos is this otherworldly gem of caves and cliffs and the visceral energy of nature. It's also home to a terrific little hotel, Dragon Cay.

## La Sagesse, Grenada

While Grand Anse rightly gets much of the renown, venture a bit further into Grenada and you'll find this charming corner of sand tucked between green hills.

## Reduit Beach, Saint Lucia

Saint Lucia's premier beach is a lovely stretch of golden sand on the north western coast of the island. It's perfect for all-day beach retreats or long strolls, and it's also home to the top floating waterpark in the Caribbean.

## Bathsheba Beach, Barbados

The Caribbean capital of surfing is this beach on the raw, rugged eastern coast of Barbados, where you'll find stunning scenery, wonderful breezes and some of the best fried fish in the Caribbean.

# Powerful earthquakes leave at least 55 dead, destroy buildings along Japan's western coast



A series of powerful earthquakes that hit western Japan have left at least 55 people dead and damaged thousands of buildings, vehicles and boats. Officials warned Tuesday that more quakes could lie ahead. Aftershocks continued to shake Ishikawa prefecture and nearby areas a day after a magnitude 7.6 temblor slammed the area.

Damage was so great that it could not immediately be assessed. Japanese media reports said tens of thousands of homes were destroyed.

Government spokesperson Yoshimasa Hayashi said 17 people were seriously injured and gave a slightly lower death toll, saying he was aware of the prefecture's tally.

Water, power and cell phone service were still down in some areas. Residents expressed sorrow about their uncertain futures.

"It's not just that it's a mess. The wall has collapsed, and you can see through to the next room. I don't think we can live here anymore," Miki Kobayashi, an Ishikawa resident, said as she swept around her house.

The house was also damaged in a 2007 quake, she said.

Although casualty numbers continued to climb gradually, the prompt public warnings, relayed on broadcasts and phones, and the quick response from the

general public and officials appeared to have limited some of the damage.

Toshitaka Katada, a University of Tokyo professor specializing in disasters, said people were prepared because the area had been hit by quakes in recent years. They had evacuation plans and emergency supplies in stock.

"There are probably no people on Earth who are as disaster-ready as the Japanese," he told The Associated Press.

Japan is frequently hit by earthquakes because of its location along the "Ring of Fire," an arc of volcanoes and fault lines in the Pacific Basin.

Katada warned the situation remains precarious and unpredictable. The March 2011 quake and tsunami in northeastern Japan had been preceded by other quakes.

"This is far from over," Katada said.

Predictions by scientists have repeatedly been proven wrong, such as with the 2016 quake in southwestern Kumamoto, an area previously seen as relatively quake-free.

"Having too much confidence in the power of science is very dangerous. We are dealing with nature," Katada said.

Japanese media's aerial footage showed widespread damage in the hardest-hit spots, with landslides

burying roads, boats tossed in the waters and a fire that had turned an entire section of Wajima city to ashes.

Japan's military dispatched 1,000 soldiers to the disaster zones to join rescue efforts, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida said Tuesday.

"Saving lives is our priority and we are fighting a battle against time," he said. "It is critical that people trapped in homes get rescued immediately."

A quake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.6 shook the Ishikawa area as he was speaking. Quakes continued to rock the area, reaching more than 100 aftershocks over the past day.

Nuclear regulators said several nuclear plants in the region were operating normally. A major quake and tsunami in 2011 caused three reactors to melt and release large amounts of radiation at a nuclear plant in northeastern Japan.

On Monday, the Japan Meteorological Agency issued a major tsunami warning for Ishikawa and lower-level tsunami warnings or advisories for the rest of the western coast of Japan's main island of Honshu, as well as for the northern island of Hokkaido. The warning was downgraded several hours later, and all tsunami warnings were lifted as of early Tuesday. Waves measuring more than one meter (3 feet) hit some places.

Still, half-sunken ships floated in bays where tsunami waves had rolled in, leaving a muddied coastline. People who were evacuated from their houses huddled in auditoriums, schools and community centers. Bullet trains in the region were halted, but service was mostly restored by Tuesday afternoon. Sections of highways were closed.

Weather forecasters predicted rain, setting off worries about crumbling buildings and infrastructure. The region includes tourist spots famous for lacquerware and other traditional crafts, along with designated cultural heritage sites.

U.S. President Joe Biden said in a statement that his administration was "ready to provide any necessary assistance for the Japanese people."

## Israel is pulling thousands of troops from Gaza

Palestinians inspect the damage of a destroyed house following Israeli airstrikes on Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on Sunday, December 31



Palestinians inspect the damage of a destroyed house following Israeli airstrikes on Khan Younis, southern Gaza Strip, on Sunday, December 31.

Thousands of Israeli soldiers are being shifted out of the Gaza Strip, the military said on Monday, in

the first significant drawdown of troops since the war began, as forces continued to bear down on the main city in the southern half of the enclave.

The troop movement could signal that fighting is being scaled back in some areas of Gaza, particularly in the northern half where the military has said it is close to assuming operational control. Israel has been under pressure from its chief ally, the United States, to begin to switch to lower-intensity fighting. Word of the drawdown came ahead of a visit by Secretary of State Antony Blinken to the region and after the Biden administration bypassed Congress for the second time this month to approve an emergency weapons sale to Israel.

But fierce fighting continued in other areas of Gaza, especially the southern city, Khan Younis, and central areas of the territory. Israel has pledged to charge ahead until its war aims have been achieved, including dismantling Hamas, which has ruled Gaza for 16 years.

The military said in a statement on Monday that five brigades, or several thousand troops, were being taken out of Gaza in the coming weeks for training and rest.

In a briefing on Sunday that first announced the troop withdrawal without specifying how many forces were leaving, army spokesman Rear Adm Daniel Hagari did not say whether the decision meant Israel was launching a new phase of the war.

"The objectives of the war require prolonged fighting, and we are preparing accordingly," he said.

Israel has vowed to crush Hamas' military and governing capabilities in its war, which was sparked by the militant group's October 7 attack on southern Israel, which killed 1,200 people. Roughly 240 people were taken hostage.

Israel responded with a blistering air, ground and sea offensive that has killed more than 21,900 people in Gaza, two-thirds of them women and children, according to the health ministry in Gaza, which does not differentiate between civilians and combatants in its count.

Israel says more than 8,000 militants have been killed, without providing evidence. It blames Hamas for the high civilian death toll, saying the militants embed within residential areas, including schools and hospitals.

The war has displaced some 85 per cent of Gaza's 2.3 million residents, sending swells of people seeking shelter in Israeli-designated safe areas that the military has nevertheless bombed. Palestinians are left with a sense that nowhere is safe in the tiny enclave.

With tensions remaining high across the region, the US announced on Monday that it would be sending an aircraft carrier strike group home and replacing it with an amphibious assault ship and accompanying warships.

# Outstanding Matthews on shortlist for ICC T20 honour



MATTHEWS... headlined her side's three-match series against Australia last October, plundering 310 runs at an average of 155

LONDON, United Kingdom (CMC)- West Indies Captain Hayley Matthews has been shortlisted for the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Women's Twenty20 International Cricketer-of-the-Year award.

The free-scoring 25-year-old joins Sri Lankan all-rounder Chamari Athapaththu, England left-arm spinner Sophie Ecclestone and outstanding Australian fast bowling all-rounder Ellyse Perry, as the players up for the honour.

Matthews proved one of the most dominant all-rounders in the shortest for-

mat this year, scoring 700 runs from 14 innings while averaging 63 with the bat and snaring 19 wickets.

The stylish right-hander headlined her side's three-match series against Australia last October, plundering 310 runs at an average of 155. She smashed a career-best 132 from 64 balls as West Indies chased down a record 213 in North Sydney.

She also topped her side's bowling with five wickets at 17 runs apiece.

Matthews, who made her international debut as a teenager, was appointed cap-

tain last year June, replacing veteran Stafanie Taylor.

Meanwhile, the 33-year-old Athapaththu averaged 31 with the bat and picked up eight wickets from 16 matches.

Ecclestone, 24, finished the calendar year with 23 wickets at an average of ten. The 33-year-old Perry, a two-time former winner of the ICC Women's Cricketer-of-the-Year honour, averaged 45 with the bat from 14 outings while picking up six wickets at nine runs apiece.

The winner of the award will be announced later this month.

# Waugh calls on ICC to save Test cricket



"It's pretty obvious what the problem is. The West Indies aren't sending their full-strength side [to Australia this summer]. They haven't picked a full-strength Test team for a couple of years now."

AUSTRALIAN TEST legend Steve Waugh has urged the intervention of cricket's world governing body, the International Cricket Council (ICC), to help salvage the credibility of the game's longest format after South Africa followed West Indies' lead in selecting an under-strength Test side for the two-Test tour of New Zealand.

Only last month, West Indies named seven uncapped players in a weakened 15-man squad for two Tests in Australia, and South Africa followed suit by picking an inexperienced squad – also featuring seven debutants – for their two-Test series in New Zealand next month.

The New Zealand tour has clashed with the



Leading all-rounder Jason Holder ... opted out of the tour of Australia.

SA20 – Cricket South Africa's money-spinning premier T20 domestic tournament – and the leading players have been allowed to focus their efforts on the shorter format.

"It's going to happen if the South African Cricket Board are any indication of the future, keeping their best players at home," Waugh lamented.

"If I was New Zealand I wouldn't even play the series. I don't know why they're even playing. Why would you when it shows a lack of respect for New Zealand cricket?"

"It's pretty obvious what the problem is. The West Indies aren't sending their full-strength side [to Australia this summer]. They haven't picked a full-strength Test team for a couple of years now."

"Someone like Nicholas Pooran is really a Test

batsman who doesn't play Test cricket. Jason Holder, probably their best player, is not playing now. Even Pakistan didn't send a full side [to Australia]."

Holder, the Caribbean side's leading all-rounder, skipped the Australia tour along with batting all-rounder Kyle Mayers, with Cricket West Indies saying both players had "expressed a preference to explore T20 Franchise opportunities in January."

In the past, West Indies have also found Test selection hampered due to the unavailability of key players, owing to their focus on T20 franchise leagues.

While acknowledging there was little financial incentive for smaller nations to play Test cricket, Waugh called for a standardised fee to be implemented by the ICC.

"If the ICC or someone doesn't step in shortly then Test cricket doesn't become Test cricket because you're not testing yourself against the best players," he argued.

"I understand why players don't come. They're not getting paid properly. I don't understand why ICC or the top countries, who are making a lot of money don't just have a regulation set fee for Test matches, which is a premium, so people are incentivised to play Test Cricket."

"Otherwise they just play T10 or T20. The public are the ones who are going to suffer because it's not the full side playing, so it's not Test cricket." A plethora of T20 franchise leagues have emerged in recent years, with many spanning the early part of the year.

The SA20 runs from January 10 to February 10, the ILT20 in United Arab Emirates runs from January 19 to February 17, while the ongoing Australian Big Bash, which got under way December 7, goes until January 24.

# Wayne Rooney fired as manager after 15 games at second-tier Birmingham



England great Wayne Rooney was fired as the manager of second-tier club Birmingham on Tuesday after 15 games.

Rooney earned only two wins since his controversial appointment in October. Birmingham was sixth in the Championship when he started, and has fallen to 20th.

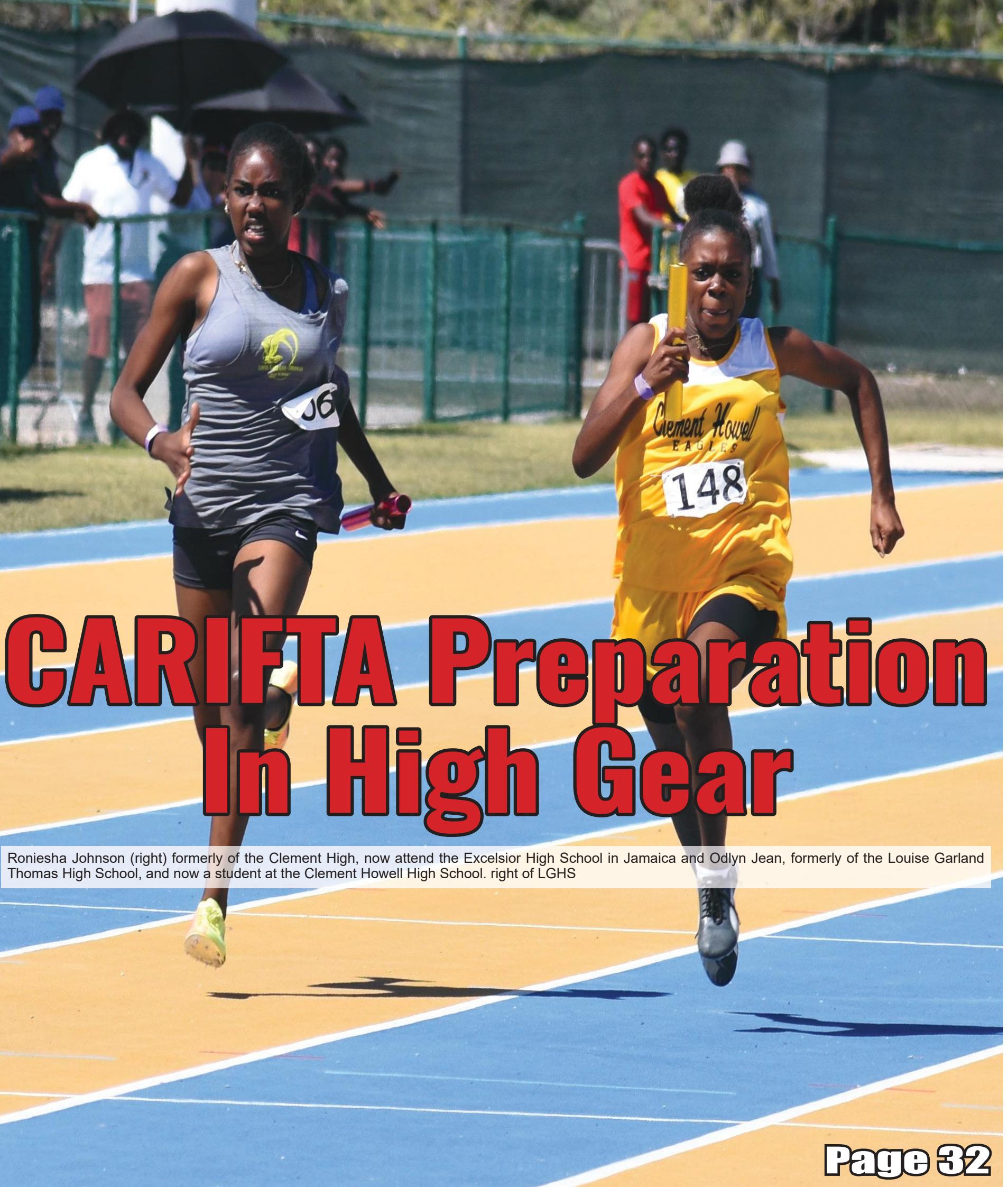
The club was taken over last summer by a company owned by American businessman Tom Wagner, and it got rid of popular coach John Eustace, who had been in charge for 15 months and steered the club away from rele-

gation.

"Birmingham City has today parted company with manager Wayne Rooney and first-team coach Carl Robinson," the club said in a statement.

"Despite their best efforts, results have not met the expectations that were made clear at the outset. Therefore, the board feels that a change in management is in the best interests of the football club."

Birmingham lost at Leeds 3-0 on Monday, and supporters called for the removal of Rooney, the former Manchester United and England striker.



# CARIFTA Preparation In High Gear

Roniesha Johnson (right) formerly of the Clement High, now attend the Excelsior High School in Jamaica and Odlyn Jean, formerly of the Louise Garland Thomas High School, and now a student at the Clement Howell High School. right of LGHS

# Ministry of Tourism, Experience Turks and Caicos Sponsor Grand Turk Stallions to UK



The HJ Stallions Rugby Team visits Rochester

Experience Turks and Caicos and the Ministry of Tourism said it is pleased to have sponsored the HJ Rugby Stallions for their recent tour and training in the United Kingdom.

The group, comprising 21 teens between the ages of 14 to 17, as well as their coach, Austin Dickenson, Assistant Head Coach, Michael Woodbine and four chaperones - Ms. Rose Dickinson, Ms. Carmen Ariza, Mr. Wesley Cherry, and Mr. Jeffrey Castillo travelled to the UK between December 3rd and 10th, 2023. They left with the support of Keith Burant, President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Rugby Football Union.

The team, from the HJ Robinson High School in Grand Turk, attended training at the Gravesend Grammar School in Rochester, England, which has one of the top rugby teams.

Experience Turks and Caicos and the Ministry of Tourism donated \$14,000 to the team.

"We are very pleased to assist in the development of young talent in the Turks and Caicos Islands. We look forward to one day seeing our homegrown rugby talent shine not just at home but also on the international stage. The exposure and training the team received will have a lasting impact and will motivate them positively on and off the field," said the Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Josephine Connolly. Head coach Mr. Dickenson said while in Rochester the team received skills training from the coaches and practiced with the A Team.

"The trip aimed to expose them to the real experience of where rugby came from and to do it in winter, which is the peak time for the sport. They had the highest training that any kid from



Minister of Tourism, the Hon Josephine Connolly with Coach Mr. Austin Dickenson

Grand Turk ever experienced. This was the first time a team from Grand Turk underwent this type of training." Mr. Dickenson said.

Mr. Cherry, a player with the Turks and Caicos Islands national team based in Providenciales also did training separately with the national Rugby Club in England while there. In addition to training, the delegation took time to sightsee. They visited the House of Parliament, met the Mayor of Rochester and toured two rugby clubs. The delegation also presented gifts from the Turks and Caicos Islands to their hosts.



# TCI Have CARIFTA Medals In The Crosshairs



FORD...As it relates to the CARIFTA Games now, we should be able to field somewhere about 18 athletes.

Many time CARIFTA Track and Field Coach

Randy Ford is liking what he is seeing from local athletes as far as the new track seas approaches, telling NewslineTCI that possibility is high for local athletes to return with medals from the high-quality regional event. Ford, who is also head of Quality Athletics Track Club, which he founded, would commit himself to say the quality of medals that the national team should return with, but stated that they will be gunning for at least four medals at this year's CARIFTA Championships. He said based on the performances of the athletes, the TCI should be able to field a collection of close to 20 runners, jumpers, and throwers for the regional blue-ribbon event.

"As it relates to the CARIFTA Games now, we should be able to field somewhere about 18 athletes. We have a wealth of talent... athletes that are experienced, that have medaled before, and so, four medals is not a far possibility. Of course, I am aiming for more than that, but worst-case scenario, we should be able to get our hands on four medals. The quality of the medals I won't say now, but quality performance is my hallmark for the upcoming season," Ford noted.

With respect to the Inter-High School Athletics Championships, Ford, who is also coach for the Clement Howell High School, said that his charges should stage good performances in both individual events and in the relays. He pointed that the majority make-up of the CARIFTA Team should come from his school.

"As it relates to the upcoming track season, Clement Howell doesn't have numbers, we have high quality athletes. However, I anticipate that a large portion of the CARIFTA Team will be Clement Howell Athletes. We are expecting some exceptional performance (at the Inter-High Championships).

"The basic idea is to go out there and bring in high quality medals...to go for gold and silver medals, and in the process, we plan to give the public a treat...some good performances, quality relay running and quality individual performances," Ford pointed out. According to Ford, Quality Athletics Track Club works with a number of athletes, including graduates of the Clement Howell High and other schools that are still interested in track and field, and athletes in the United States and Jamaica.

## Sports Commission Excited For 2024 Activities



The instructors for 'Let's Move Turks and Caicos', from left (front) Olympian Delano Williams and Lauren Teressa. Back row – Jimkelly Joseph, Terri Stokes, and Maya Saunders. Teressa and Stokes are partners in an initiative called 'Outdoor Fitness TCI'. The hosts who will be guiding participants through the 12 weeks of health reformation starting on January 22nd.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission is basking in the success of 2023, while planning for an even greater 2024.

In a news release, the sports oversight body, said it's achievements and initiatives throughout 2023, showcased it's dedication to promoting sports and

physical activities within the community. The inclusion of various programs such as the Police Action League, Inter-High Sport Competitions, Inter-Primary Sport Competitions, Project I.D.E.A. Media Club, Let's Move TCI, and Sports Summer Camps

indicates a commitment to engaging the community in diverse sporting activities. These initiatives, the Sports Commission said, not only encourage physical fitness but also contribute to building a sense of community through sports.

The sporting administrative body noted that the mention of Training Programmes and Long-Term Athlete Development initiatives underscores the importance placed on skill enhancement and professional development. Collaborations with organizations like FIBA and IMG Academy further emphasize its efforts to provide comprehensive opportunities for athletes to excel.

It said that the commitment to offering certifications free of charge to the public and educators reflects a commendable dedication to promoting sports education and expertise at a grassroots level, noting that such approach is likely to contribute to the overall growth and development of sports within the community.

In the meantime, the Sports Commission is expressing anticipation for more memories and successes in the new year, highlighting the positive impact these initiatives will continue to have on sports development in the region.

"The final wish for continued success in 2024 conveys optimism for the Sports Commission's ongoing efforts to foster a sports culture and nurture talent within the Turks and Caicos Islands," the Jarrett Forbes-led body noted.