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**VOLUME 5 ISSUE 25**

**Dec. 01, 2023 - Dec. 08, 2023**

**“Fresh” Squatter  
Settlement  
Identified  
in Blue Hills PG4**

**Police Records  
now taking  
one day to  
process PG8**

**TCL Ladies Face  
Bonaire in  
Concacaf W Gold  
Cup Qualifier PG26**

## DIRE THREAT!

UNDP predicted that by mid to the century's end the TCL should lose a great deal of its landmass due to rising waters caused by Climate Change

**SEE PAGE 5**



# Salvation Army Red Kettle Launch

The Salvation Army's much anticipated launch of the Red Kettle donation drive was held at the IGA Gourmet in Grace Bay on Thursday, November 30. The event saw the performance by students from the International School of the Turks and Caicos, and also speeches from Salvation representatives Major Ernest and Germanie Gachelin, Todd Foss, Chair for the Turks and Caicos Islands Salvation Army Advisory Board, and David Brown, the 2023 Salvation Army Patron.

Major Germanie Gachelin of the Salvation Army address the audience at the Red Kettle Launch.



David Brown, the 2023 Salvation Army Patron, places his \$5,000 donation to the cause.

Major Ernest Gachelin places his donation in the kettle.

Todd Foss, chair of the Salvation Advisory Board, is joined by some of the International School of the Turks, as he attempt to make his donation at the launch of the Salvation Army's Red Kettle.

An International Schools of the Turks and Caicos student rings the bell to alert passers-by that the Red Kettle drive has started.

An International School of the Turks and Caicos student places his donations in the Red Kettle.

Students from the International School of the Turks and Caicos perform a couple of Christmas Carols at the event.



# Coroner's Court Opens In TCI



The Coroner's Court has been achieved under the stewardship of Chief Justice Mabel Agymang.

On 20th November 2023, the first Coroner's Court of the Judiciary of the Turks and Caicos Islands was officially be opened.

The establishment of a court dedicated to coronial matters is the response to a growing need to deal with the increasing number of unexplained deaths in the islands. The resultant backlog requires the focused, urgent attention of a magistrate dedicated to the performance of this very important jurisdiction of the court.

The function of the Coroner includes the making of orders for postmortem examinations, the holding of inquests to determine the causes of, and circumstances surrounding unexplained deaths, matters related to streamlining procedures in relation to sudden or unexplained deaths, and ancillary matters.

The work of the Coroner assists in providing answers to grieving families regarding the cause of death of their loved ones, giving them closure. The exercise of the coronial jurisdiction also ensures the safety of the country, as the Coroner may provide recommendations to relevant institutions and to the Government for measures that may prevent reoccurrence of accidents that lead to death.

On 18th August 2023, Her Honour Ms. Mickia Mills was appointed the first Coroner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Her Honour Ms. Mickia Mills assumed office on 15th November 2023, in time for the first sitting on November 20, 2023.

The Coroner's Court has been achieved under the stewardship of Chief Justice Mabel Agymang.

**SEASONS GREETINGS**

**PROTECT YOURSELF WHILE SHOPPING**

- Do not walk around with large amounts of money.
- Avoid crowded areas.
- Avoid going out alone, be with company.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- When walking to and from your vehicle, have your key in easy access.
- Do not overload, avoid too much bags while shopping.
- Inform your family members, where you are going, with whom and how long you intend to stay.

**FOR EMERGENCIES, PLEASE DIAL 911** or contact the nearest police station

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# “Fresh” Squatter Settlement Identified In Blue Hills



The Informal Settlements Unit (ISU) said it has discovered an additional squatter community located somewhere in Blue Hills, Providenciales, inching up the total of informal settlements in the Turks and Caicos Islands to 46. Head of the ISU retired judge, Justice Carlos Simons made the revelation while addressing a media briefing at this office at the Laporte Plaza in Providenciales on Monday, November 27. “Within the last three weeks, a fresh new in-

formal settlement has been discovered...we say ‘discovered’ because the various agencies don’t have the staff or the equipment to keep a 24-hour/seven days a week surveillance. So, in Blue Hills, on Crown Land, an informal settlement has been discovered that brings the number in the TCI altogether to 46 informal settlements now. And this one is on Crown Land...entirely on Crown Land,” Simons revealed. He pointed out that since they settlement is

Crown Land, the occupants would be forced off the land.

“There is no way that those people are going to have any kind of settled future there. And the overarching objective of the ISU is to build safer, more sustainable communities in the TCI. That (newly found settlement in Blue Hills) is not safe, sustainable community. And so, along with others, it will be dismantled as the time approaches, and the work of the ISU permits,” Simons affirmed.

He added: “We are not sure how many (structures are on the land), but from the aerial footage that we have seen, and the ground level inspection that we have been able to do, it appears to be around 30 potentially habitable structures.”

The ISU Head pointed out that he would not divulge any information at this time regarding the location of the newly discovered squatter settlement, because of, among other things, to not create a sense of uneasiness among the occupants until the situation is properly assessed. “One of the things we don’t want is to create concerns where we can lower the temperature. But I made that statement (regarding the new squatter settlement’s discovery) because I think it ought to be made. And people ought to know that the building of illegal structures must stop...it simply must stop. And this has been done in the face of all the appeals that historically have been made, and more recently have been out of this office,” Simons noted. Simons told the reporters that the ISU has had successes recovering land previously in the possession of squatters. However, he was unable to say at the time how much was recovered.

“We have not begun to measure the structures (recovered). What we have done is, we have tabulated the number of acres that have been occupied by informal settlements, and we have deducted from that total acreage the acreage that have been recovered.

“So, I think the number of acres that we are dealing with is probably in the region of about 500 or more, and most of it is in Providenciales, some in Grand Turk,” he said.

To fully recover land now occupied by squatter, Simons warned that it would take some time because of the approach the ISU will be willing to take.

“We don’t know how long it is going to take, and we don’t know how much it is going to cost. But we know that it is going to take a while, especially if we intend to approach the work in a humane and equitable way, which we intend to do, without putting people out in the road, especially young children, older folks or other persons who are challenged in any way,” he promised.



# DIRE CLIMATE CHANGE WARNING FOR TCI



Houses sit on the cliff edge on The Marrams in Hembsby, Norfolk, England. Beach erosion, caused from rising sea levels threaten the existence of the structures.



A potential scenario of future sea level rise in South Beach, Miami, Florida, with a global temperature rise of 2C. Photograph: Nickolay Lamm/Courtesy Climate Central

By the end of the century, it is predicted that about 10 percent of the Turks and Caicos Islands land mass could disappear under water, if more is not done globally to combat the rapid rate of climate change, according to the latest United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Sea Level Rise Platform finding.

New hyperlocal data released by Human Climate Horizons, a collaboration between the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Climate Impact Lab (CIL), maps in detail this fivefold increase in susceptibility to flood damage along the world's densely populated coastlines. The data platform makes it possible to see where sea-level rise impacts may most threaten homes and infrastructure.

Latin America, the Caribbean, the Pacific, and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), including the Turks and Caicos Islands are at the forefront, projected to lose significant land and critical in-

frastructure to permanent inundation.

It is predicted that hundreds of highly populated cities are exposed to increasing flood risk if the current emissions pathway is left unchecked. The UNDP said at the highest levels of global warming (SSP5-8.5), approximately 160,000 square kilometers or 61,776.34 miles of coastal land (an area larger than the territory of Greece or Bangladesh) would be inundated by 2100, compared to a future with no climate change. According to the UNDP, new data revealed that the extent of coastal flooding has increased over the past 20 years because of sea level rise, meaning 14 million more people worldwide now live in coastal communities with a 1-in-20 annual chance of flooding.

"Continuing our current course of global greenhouse gas emissions (SSP2-4.5) is projected by the end of the century to expand this 1-in-20 floodplain to areas today populated by nearly

73 million people," the UNDP said in a statement.

According to the UNDP report, which was released on November 28, 2023, by 2039 the Land Inundation Impact rate per average for the Turks and Caicos Islands is predicted to stand at .073 percent, with the global average predicted to be at 0.02 percent.

The UNDP report further stated that by midcentury – 2040 to 2059 – the Land Inundation Impact is estimated to rise at an average of 2 percent, and an estimated global average of 0.04 percent. And by the end of the century – 2080 – 2099 – the Land Inundation Impact average for the TCI could rise by an average of 10.8 percent, with the world average predicted at 0.09 percent.

As it relates to the expected Land Inundation Impact per Kilometer for the Turks and Caicos Islands, the UNDP said by 2039, 6.8 square kilometers or 2.6 square miles of its land will expose to sea level. At that time the global total inundation is expected to stand at 26,956 square kilometers or 10,407.77 square miles.

The report further stated that between 2040 and 2059 the number could rise to 18.7 square kilometers or 7.2 square miles, with the world's number set to increase to 47,734.2 square kilometers or 18,430.27 square miles. The UNDP noted that by 2080 to 2099, the TCI stands to lose 100.6 square kilometers or 38.84 square miles of its land mass. At that time the world average is expected to climb to 113,538.4 square kilometers or 43,837.42 square kilometers.

The UNDP predicted that by the next decade sea level rise average for the Turks and Caicos Islands is estimated to climb to 11.4 centimeters or 4.48 inches, with the global average predicted at 8.47 centimeters or 3.33 inches. By midcentury the sea level rise for the Turks and Caicos Islands will jump to 24.8 centimeters or 9.76 inches, with the global level estimated to be 18.15 centimeters or 7.14 inches.

And by the end of the century, the sea level rise for the Turks and Caicos Islands is set to jump to 55.4 centimeters or 21.81 inches, with the world average rise set at 40.73 centimeters or 16.03 inches.

Looking at the Population Flood Exposure Impact for the Turks and Caicos Islands, the UNDP stated that by the next decade, the number should register at 2.9 percent, with the global average being 0.18 percent by midcentury, the number is expected to rise to 6.39 percent, with the global average set at .039 percent. And by the end of the century the population flood exposure impact should affect 12.39 percent of the local population, and globally 0.9 percent. The latest data derived from satellite and tidal gauge observations and model ensembles from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Sixth Assessment Report.

"These projections are not foregone conclusions, instead, they can be a catalyst for action," said Hannah Hess, associate director at the Climate Impact Lab. "Swift and sustained action to reduce emissions will affect how quickly and how much coastal communities are impacted. Reducing emissions not only mitigates risk but buys us more time to proactively respond and prepare for rising seas."



# Towards a brighter tomorrow

By Narendra Modi.

It is a few days over a year since India assumed the G20 presidency. It is a moment to reflect, recommit, and rejuvenate the spirit of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' (One Earth, One Family, One Future).

As we undertook this responsibility last year, the global landscape grappled with multifaceted challenges, among them recovery from the pandemic, looming climate threats, financial instability, and debt distress in developing nations, all amid declining multilateralism. In the midst of conflicts and competition, development cooperation suffered, impeding progress.

Assuming the G20 chair, India sought to offer the world an alternative to status quo, a shift from a gross domestic product (GDP)-centric to human-centric progress. India aimed to remind the world of what unites us, rather than what divides us. Finally, the global conversation had to evolve; the interests of the few had to give way to the aspirations of the many. This required a fundamental reform of multilateralism as we knew it.

Inclusive, ambitious, action-oriented, and decisive, these four words defined our approach as G20 president, and the New Delhi Leaders' Declaration (NDLD), unanimously adopted by all G20 members, is testimony to our commitment to deliver on these principles.

Inclusivity has been at the heart of our presidency. The inclusion of the African Union (AU) as a permanent member of the G20 integrated 55 African nations into the forum, expanding it to encompass 80 per cent of the global population. This proactive stance has fostered a more comprehensive dialogue on global challenges and opportunities.

The first-of-its-kind 'Voice of the Global South Summit', convened by India in two editions, heralded a new dawn of multilateralism. India mainstreamed the Global South's concerns in international discourse and has ushered in an era in which developing countries take their rightful place in shaping the global narrative.

Inclusivity also infused India's domestic approach to G20, making it a people's presidency that befits that world's largest democracy. Through "Jan Bhagidari" (people's participation) events, G20 reached 1.4 billion citizens, involving all states and Union Territories (UTs) as partners. And, on substantive elements, India ensured that international attention was directed to broader developmental aims, aligning with G20's mandate.

At the critical midpoint of the 2030 agenda, India delivered the G20 2023 Action Plan to accelerate progress on the sustainable development goals (SDGs), taking a cross-cutting, action-oriented approach to interconnected issues, including health, education, gender equality, and environmental sustainability.

A key area driving this progress is robust digital public infrastructure (DPI). Here, India was decisive in its recommendations, having witnessed the revolutionary impact of digital innovations like Aadhaar, UPI, and Digilocker first-hand. Through G20, we successfully completed the DPI Repository, a significant stride in global technological collaboration. Featuring over 50 DPIs from 16 countries, it will help the Global South build, adopt, and scale DPI to unlock the power of inclusive growth.

For our One Earth, we introduced ambitious and inclusive aims to create urgent, lasting, and equitable change. The declaration's 'Green Development Pact' addresses the challenges of choosing between combating hunger and protecting the planet by outlining a comprehensive road map with employment and ecosystems being complimentary, consumption is climate conscious, and production is planet-friendly.

In tandem, the G20 declaration calls for an ambitious tripling of global renewable energy capacity by 2030. Coupled with the establishment of the Global Biofuels Alliance and a concerted push for green hydrogen, the G20's ambitions to build a cleaner, greener world is undeniable. This has always been India's ethos, and through Lifestyles for Sustainable Development (LiFE), the world can benefit from our age-old sustainable traditions.

Further, the declaration underscores our commitment to climate justice and equity, urging substantial financial and technological support from the Global North. For the first time, there was a recognition of the quantum jump needed in the magnitude of development financing, moving from billions to trillions of dollars.

G20 acknowledged that developing countries require US\$5.9 trillion to fulfil their nationally determined contributions (NDCs) by 2030. Given the monumental resources required, G20 emphasised the importance of better, larger, and more effective multilateral development banks. Concurrently, India is taking a leading role in UN reforms, especially in the restructuring of principal organs like the UN Security Council that will ensure a more equitable global order.

Gender equality took centre stage in the declaration, culminating in the formation of a dedicated Working Group on the Empowerment of Women next year. India's Women's Reservation Bill 2023, reserving one-third of India's Parliament and state legislative assembly seats for women, epitomises our commitment to women-led development.

The New Delhi Declaration embodies a renewed spirit of collaboration across these key priorities, focusing on policy coherence, reliable trade, and ambitious climate action.

It is a matter of pride that during our presidency, G20 achieved 87 outcomes and 118 adopted documents, a marked rise from the past.

During our G20 presidency, India led deliberations on geopolitical issues and their impact on economic growth and development. Terrorism and the senseless killing of civilians is unacceptable, and we must address it with a policy of zero tolerance. We must embody humanitarianism over hostility and reiterate that this is not an era of war.

I am delighted that during our presidency India achieved the extraordinary: It revitalised multilateralism, amplified the voice of the Global South, championed development, and fought for the empowerment of women, everywhere.

As we hand over the G20 presidency to Brazil, we do so with the conviction that our collective steps for people, planet, peace, and prosperity will resonate for years to come.



Narendra Modi is Prime Minister of India.



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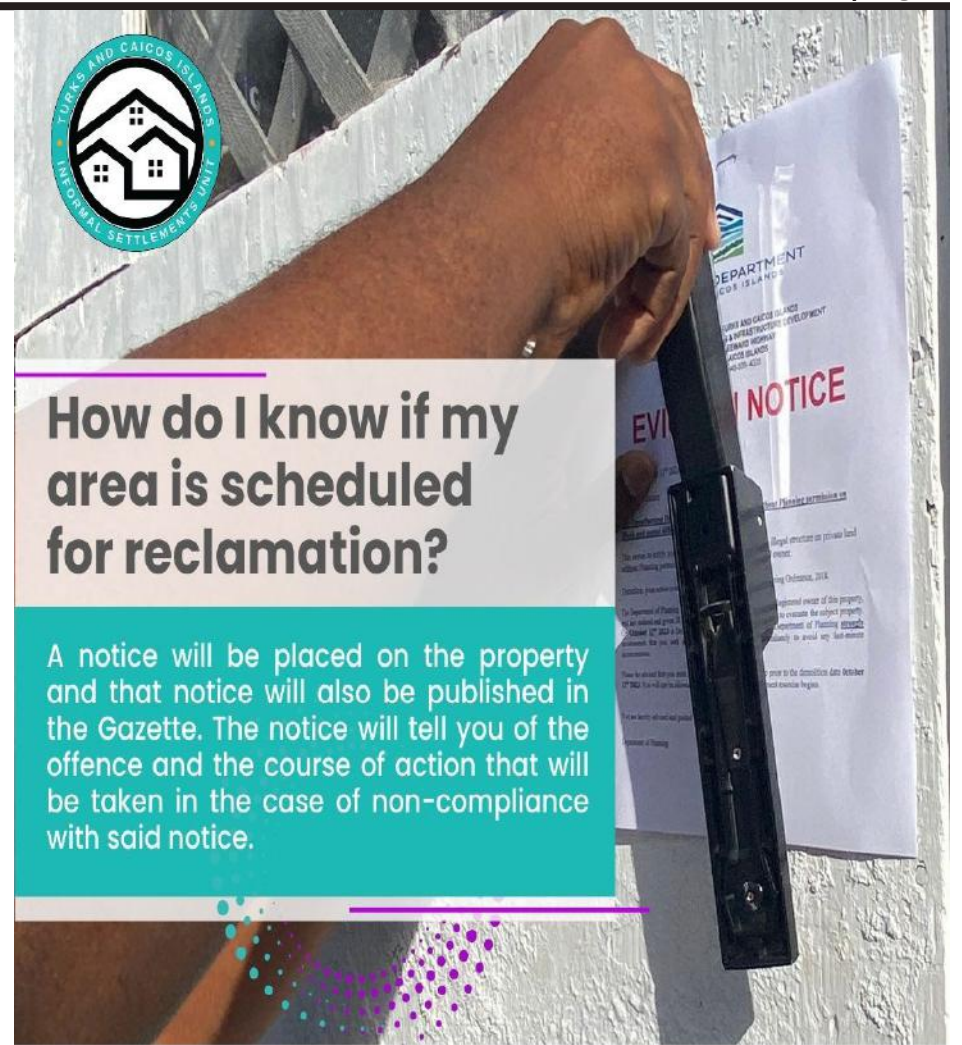


## How do I know if my area is scheduled for reclamation?

A notice will be placed on the property and that notice will also be published in the Gazette. The notice will tell you of the offence and the course of action that will be taken in the case of non-compliance with said notice.

For more information visit our website or follow our social media pages.

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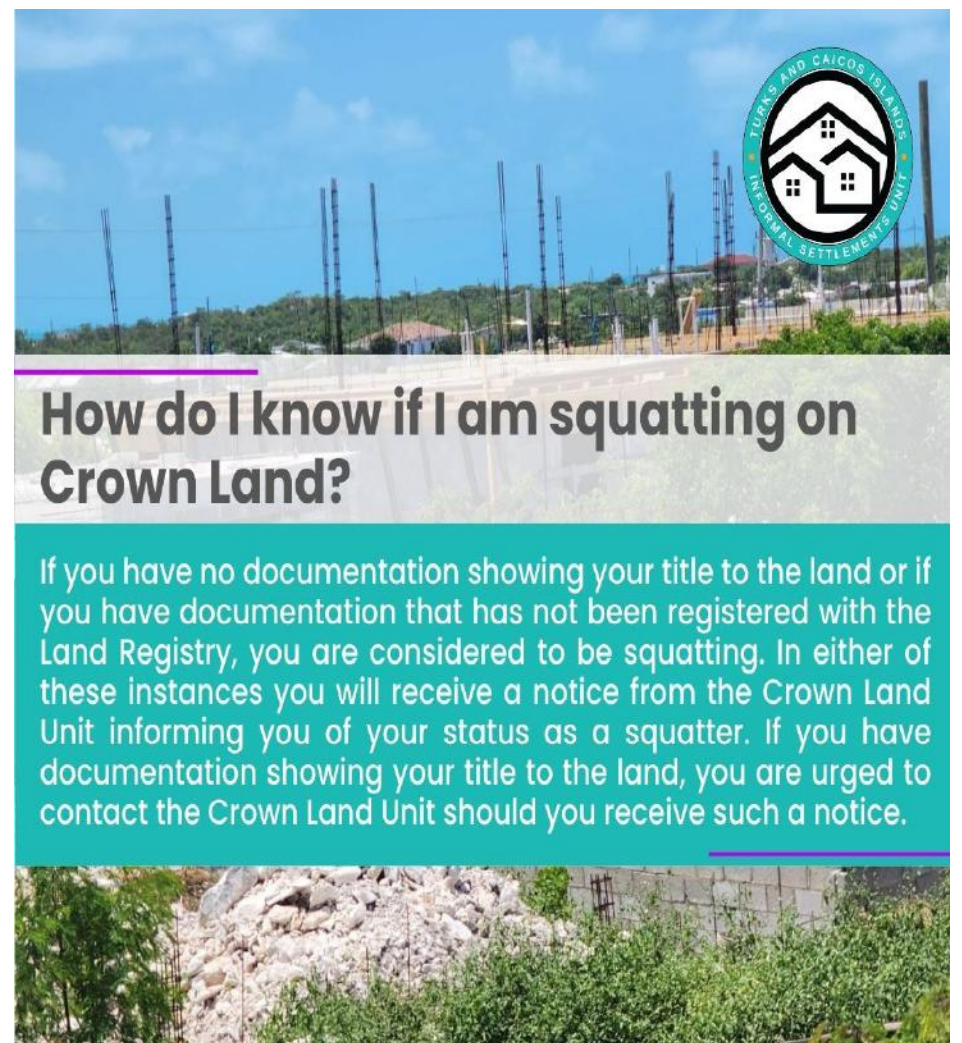


## What are Informal Settlements?

The short and simple answer is that an informal settlement is any area comprising illegally built structures, but the reality is far more complex than that.

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## How do I know if I am squatting on Crown Land?

If you have no documentation showing your title to the land or if you have documentation that has not been registered with the Land Registry, you are considered to be squatting. In either of these instances you will receive a notice from the Crown Land Unit informing you of your status as a squatter. If you have documentation showing your title to the land, you are urged to contact the Crown Land Unit should you receive such a notice.

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# Police Records Office Operating On Same-Day Processing



SAUNDERS: "When it comes to projects, especially Capital projects, Government is set-up like NASA - a bureaucracy. But to get further faster, a SpaceX type structure is needed."

If you apply to the Police Records Office early in the morning, chances are you might get the document back the same day, as that office is now reporting day application processing time. The fast pace with which that office has been processing police records is a far cry from about three months ago when applicants had to wait for up to three months to collect their documents.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance Hon. E. Jay Saunders, who designed new processing system told members of the media about efficiency of the news system via social media conversation.

Members of the public, up to recent time, complained bitterly about the snail's pace process that the police record processing system was taking, after the administration of that office

had changed the conventional format to an on-line platform. Members of the public lamented that because of the ultraslow pace of the police record processing, they were unable to conduct certain businesses, including travelling.

As a result, current Acting Commissioner of Police Rodney Adams reached out to the Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance for his assistance to upgrade the system. Saunders has a rich background in software development. Even though that assignment would fall within the aegis of the Premier's Office, Saunders jumped on it.

"If you remember, 12 months ago, if someone applied for a Police Record, it was taking up to three months to get it. It got so bad that in January 2023, I took on the personal responsibility to fix it," Saunders said.

At the time of completion of the system, Saunders said he was eventually aiming for a same day processing service from that office, based on the software's capacity to process the documents.

"Just three months ago, applicants were complaining that they had to wait three months to collect their police records after application. As you are aware, the new Police Records application was soft launched on the 28th of June 2023. With the fix, we quickly got the Police Records processing time down to three days," Saunders crowed, asserting that the intention for the medium term was to reduce the processing period to a single day.

"Notwithstanding the significant reduction in processing time, I went further and promised a turnaround time of one day by the end of 2023," Saunders further boasted.

He pointed out that last week the administrators of the system reached out to him to convey the good news that the system was already making same day processing for applications that submitted their document in the morning hours.

Saunders said the Police Records Office conveyed to him that as of November 22, that office had processed approximately 11,892 applications submitted.

"The average turnaround time during the week is 24 hours- next business day, and Mr. Williams (from the Police Records Office) reported that he is starting to see that the early morning applications are being processed same day," Saunders added, pointing out that that office had processed 10,000 applications by October 25.

"Very impressive stats!!," Saunders proclaimed. Having achieved that feat, Saunders said he would be seeking to improve other government departments if given the leeway. The long lines outside the treasury almost daily is in his cross-hairs.

"With that milestone, I'm now turning my attention to the long lines that form outside of Treasury every day, for persons to make payments to Government. I'm giving myself until the 31st of March 2024, to put the Treasury line on the endangered list," The deputy premier promised. Akin what he wants to do with e-services in the Turks and Caicos Islands to international space travel, Saunders noted: "Since I'm having a conversation with you all, let me put this in perspective. When it comes to projects, especially Capital projects, Government is set-up like NASA- a bureaucracy. But to get further faster, a SpaceX type structure is needed.

"The new Police Records application worked because I took personal responsibility for its success and failures and made all of the design decisions for it. This is what Elon Musk does for SpaceX. That's why they're able to do space travel better, on a lower budget, with less casualties, than governments, which are known to make decisions by committee," Saunders articulated.



# Department of Rehabilitation gives local media insights in its work



From Left – Drexanna Seymour of the DRCS; Jaron Harvey, Director of Rehabilitation; Andy Missick of the DRCS; Todeline Defralien of the Sun Newspaper; Te-Ann Thomas, Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs; Wilkie Arthur of Magnetic Media; Bridgette Newman, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs; Zoya Faessler of Radio Turks and Caicos; and Vivian Tyson of NewslineTCI.



Joran Harvey makes a presentation to the media at the event.

The Department of Rehabilitation and Community Services (DRCS) hosted a successful awareness session with media stakeholders on probation, parole, and offender rehabilitation, on Tuesday, 21st November 2023 on Providenciales.

The event was geared to sensitize media practitioners on the significant work that the DRCS has been conducting to reducing crime and re-

offending in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The session provided an in-depth understanding of our strategies, initiatives, and challenges in offender rehabilitation. Through interactive discussions, compelling presentations, and collaborative dialogues, it highlighted our shared commitment to reshaping how we approach rehabilitation and community integration.

Jaron Harvey, Director of Rehabilitation, said,

“As a newly established Department, our commitment to transforming lives through rehabilitation and community integration is paramount. This media session served as a crucial platform to highlight our efforts in addressing offending behavior.

“It was an opportunity to showcase our dedication, share our initiatives, and foster a deeper understanding of the pivotal work we are undertaking. Our aim was to build bridges of understanding, reinforce our commitment to change and forge a collaborative path forward in creating a more rehabilitative and inclusive society.”

Harvey reinforced pivotal role that the news media holds plays in molding public perceptions and shaping the narrative surrounding offender rehabilitation. He pointed out that the portrayal of success stories, hurdles and the transformative journey of individuals plays a vital role in nurturing empathy, raising awareness, and building a supportive framework essential for effective rehabilitation endeavours.

“DRCS extends heartfelt gratitude to our media colleagues whose collective efforts contributed to this remarkable success,” a statement from the DRCS pointed out.



# Ministry of Fisheries Announces Ground-breaking Spiny Lobster Artificial Habitat Program



In response to the significant challenges faced by fishermen in the aftermath of the 2018 hurricanes, the Ministry of Fisheries has announced an innovative pilot program, the Spiny Lobster Artificial Habitat Program.

The initiative is designed to address the decline in spiny lobster catch levels caused by the destruction of natural habitats, consequently impacting the economic viability of lobster fishing for local communities.

## **Background: Challenges and Economic Impact**

The Caicos Banks, renowned for their rich marine biodiversity, suffered severe habitat loss due to the accumulation of sands in the cracks and crevices of the seafloor after the 2018 hurricanes. This depletion of natural habitats has led to a direct correlation with the decline in spiny lobster catch levels over the years. Compounded by the rise in fuel prices and the overall cost of living, lobster fishing has become a less lucrative endeavour, with the economic cost per day soaring from \$307 in 2010 to \$493 in 2022.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the Ministry of Fisheries has undertaken a comprehensive study to devise strategic solutions that not only replenish lobster habitats but also ensure the sustainability of the industry for future generations.

## **The Spiny Lobster Artificial Habitat Program: A Holistic Approach**

As part of the ministry's commitment to supporting local fishermen and fostering sustainable practices, a pilot program is underway to construct 150-200 artificial habitats on the Caicos Bank. The following key components outline the comprehensive strategy of the program:

The Spiny Lobster Artificial Habitat Program, spearheaded by the Ministry of Fisheries, is not just a strategic move to revitalize spiny lobster populations but a dedicated effort to enhance the livelihoods of fishermen and their families. The program's multi-faceted approach, encompassing financial incentives, community involvement, and ecological conservation, aims to bring about tangible and lasting improvements to the lives of those who depend on the sea for their sustenance.

## **Valuable Caribbean spiny lobsters get their food from an unexpected source**

Artificial habitat serves to provide lobsters with shelter and thus increasing their survival from natural predators.

The infusion of financial incentives into the Spiny Lobster Artificial Habitat Program serves as a life-line for fishermen, providing them with a supplementary income during traditionally challenging periods, such as the Christmas/Winter Season. By compensating registered fishermen for their labour in constructing artificial habitats, the program offers not only a short-term economic boost but also establishes a foundation for long-term sustainability.

While the tourism industry has undeniably played a pivotal role in the economic development of the islands, the benefits have not always trickled down to all sectors of society. Fishing communities, such as South Caicos, have stood on the periphery of the economic boom, facing challenges that threaten their traditional way of life. The Spiny Lobster Artificial Habitat Program represents a conscientious effort by the government to bridge this gap and ensure that every Turks and Caicos Islander shares in the prosperity of the nation.

In expressing her commitment to the well-being of fishing communities, the Hon. Josephine Connolly, Minister with Responsibilities for Maritime and Fisheries Management, remarked, "Our islands have witnessed remarkable economic growth, particularly in the tourism sector. However, it is crucial that we do not leave behind the communities that have sustained themselves through generations of fishing. The Spiny Lobster Artificial Habitat Program is not just a conservation initiative; it is a testament to our commitment to inclusivity and ensuring that the economic prosperity of the islands reaches every corner and every family."

Minister Connolly further emphasized the importance of sustainable development, stating, "We recognize the delicate balance between economic growth and environmental preservation. This program is designed not just to increase lobster

stocks but to empower our fishermen to thrive in harmony with our marine ecosystems. It is a step towards a future where our traditional ways of life coexist with progress, and where no one is left behind."

As the Spiny Lobster Artificial Habitat Program takes its initial steps, the Ministry of Fisheries remains steadfast in its commitment to a holistic vision for sustainable growth. The success of this program is not merely measured in lobster catch levels but in the improved well-being of fishermen, the resilience of fishing communities, and the equitable distribution of economic benefits across the islands.

The Ministry invites all stakeholders, from fishermen to environmental advocates, to join hands in creating a future where prosperity is synonymous with sustainability. The long-term vision of this project is that these artificial habitats will increase spiny lobster stock levels, enhancing profitability for fishermen and indirectly improving their livelihoods.

While this initiative is currently in its pilot phase, its success hinges on the collaborative efforts of the fishing community, stakeholders, and the Ministry of Fisheries. As part of the broader project, "Sustainable Livelihood for Fishermen," the artificial habitat program signifies a commitment to a holistic approach that balances ecological conservation with economic prosperity.

The success of the Spiny Lobster Artificial Habitat Program relies on the collective commitment of the fishing community, government agencies, and environmental organizations. The Ministry of Fisheries encourages public support and anticipates expanding the initiative with a larger number of 4,000 artificial habitats in the coming years. The Ministry will be hosting a public meeting with all commercial fishermen in Providenciales at the Felix Morley community Center on Wednesday 30 November 2023 starting at 6:00 pm to present more information on the proposed lobster casitas and how fishermen can play a role and to hear more about the Ministry's plans to ensure sustainable livelihood of fishermen and their families.



# 'Let It Grow' Programme Blooms in Schools across the Turks and Caicos Islands



A smile with a head of lettuce from the 'Let it Grow'.



Students are happy to be able to share items from the farm.



'Let it Grow' items from the farm.

The Ministry of Education and Department of Agriculture's comprehensive farming programme, 'Let it Grow', which saw the launch of the island's first in-school hydroponics system at the Clement Howell High School earlier this year, has brought great success to the Turks and Caicos Curriculum Development Unit.

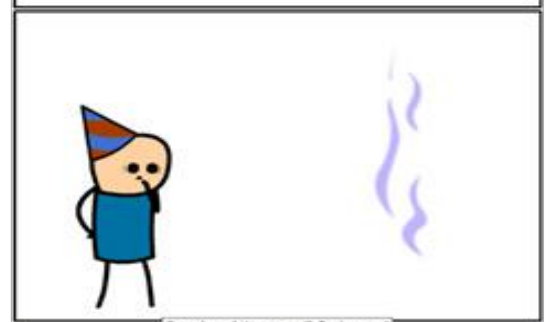
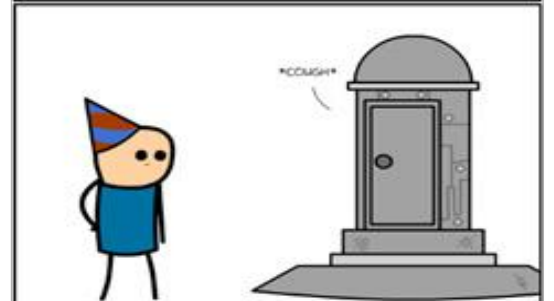
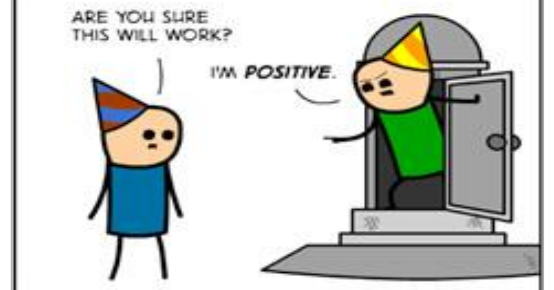
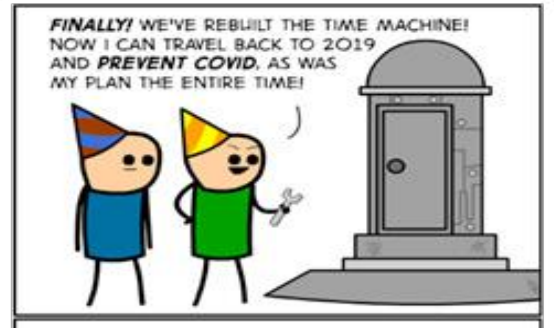
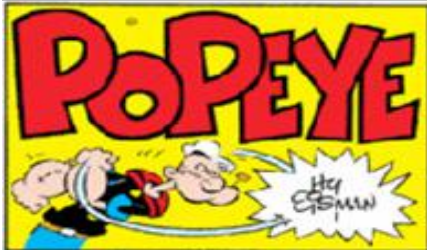
The 'Let It Grow' programme, supported by the Sandals Foundation, was designed to support the establishment of school farms at all public and private educational institutions, providing over 4,000 students and 110 teachers with the necessary skills and knowledge to foster the development of agriculture as an alternative career choice, while promoting entrepreneurship and sustainability within the community.

Now, at the close of its first year of execution, 'Let It Grow' has successfully established farms in fourteen (14) public and two (2) private schools, with each introducing clubs centered around farming concepts. To support the farming in schools programme, upgraded irrigation systems were also set up in eight (8) schools, with others benefiting from needed soil, fencing and other farming resources. The programme provides more hands-on experiences to students- reinforcing the three pillars of the Let It Grow programme- Sustainability, Entrepreneurship and Responsibility.

Heidi Clarke, Executive Director at Sandals Foundation, expressed delight in the outcome of the programme which saw farming concepts being introduced to schools' curriculum via guides, lessons, and project-based learning.

"The Let it Grow programme saw the systematic capacity building of students and teachers from all 14 of the island's public schools where they learned to establish and maintain small farms. These schools have since set up gardens that enable students to grow their own vegetables and fruits, which not only promotes healthy eating habits, but also provides a sustainable source of food for the school. As the foundation zoned in on projects this year that support the region's food security, we couldn't ask for anything else." Elisann Delancy, Curriculum Development Officer for the Turks and Caicos Islands Government Department of Education, says, "The Let It Grow Programme has made significant progress since implementing Phase 1. Positive results have been seen across the board, with feedback from students and teachers being overwhelmingly positive. The programme's impact has surpassed initial expectations, with students showing an increased interest in gardening and a deeper understanding of environmental issues." "The success of Phase 1 has raised hopes for future phases of the programme", Delancy continued, "With continued support and investment, the Let It Grow Programme can expand its reach and impact, further promoting environmental awareness and sustainability in schools and communities. The programme has truly proven its worth, and its continued growth and success will undoubtedly benefit future generations."







# PINK *flamingo*

The Pink Flamingo or West Indian Flamingos are a common site in the wetlands throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. West Indian Flamingos are one of the six species of flamingo in the world. They used to flourish but by the 1950's its numbers were greatly diminished due to hunting. The nature reserve program in the TCI brought an increased population. The West Indian Flamingo's numbers are now healthy.

**NEWSLINE**  
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

Heritage



# Series Of Activities Marked Raymond Gardiner High School 50th Anniversary



The 50th Anniversary of the Raymond Gardiner High School (RGHS) in North Caicos saw a plethora of activities held to mark the occasion. RGHS, formerly North Caicos Junior High School

(NCJHS) was opened on Monday, September 3rd, 1973. The milestone celebration begun with a series of fundraising events. The first event was a Crab Extravaganza, which was held

on June 19, 2023, at the TCI National Stadium in Providenciales. The next event was the 'Road To 50 Health & Wellness Day', which was staged on August 19, 2023, at the Graceway Gourmet







Parking Lot in Grace Bay, Providenciales.

On September 23, 2023, the committee held a 'Road To 50 Fun Run, at the Bight Park, Lower Bight, Providenciales, then about a week later, on September 29, staged 'Road To 50 Family Fun Day, at the National Stadium in Providenciales. On October 14, 2023, the committee held a 'Fun Run /Walk on North Caicos.

Bellefield Landing, North Caicos came alive on Friday, October 27, 2023, with Welcome Party, featuring the Star Junkanoo Band performed by RGHS Students and DJ Space, an alumnus of the institution.

One of the biggest events of the celebration series – the Grand Gala Ball- slated for the Horse Stable Beach, suffered some a minor setback due to weather. But despite the decor and music set-up delay caused by strong winds and lingering showers, the committee was able to pull it together, and everyone enjoyed a beautiful night.

The theme for the occasion was 'Nurturing A Legacy of Excellence', which was hosted by Obrien Forbes. Guest Speaker was Bishop Dr. Cyclyn R. Smith-Mobley. The honorees at the event were Hope Hamilton, Susan Musgrove, Edith Gray (former student and teacher), and Agnes Swann- former Teacher and Acting Principal.

Other honorees were Briann Gardiner and Juca Higgs. They were recognized for going above and beyond to ensure the success of the 50th anniversary string of events.

On the morning of Saturday, October 28, 2023, was the 'Cheerleading & Banner Competition, Road To 50 Sports Day', with Gardiner's House emerging victorious.

The Raymond Gardiner High School has three Sports houses/teams - Duncanson's House (Blue), Gardiner's House (Red), Seymour's House (Yellow). Prior events were garnered for teams to accumulate points before the final showdown in North Caicos- October 27-29,



2023.

In the afternoon the committee hosted an event called 'Festarama & Cultural Expo, which was held from 2PM-to 10PM. The event was hosted by retired district commissioner for North Caicos- Cyclair Musgrove.

Cultural Performances were performed by students of the Adelaide Oemler Primary, Charles Hubert James Primary and the Raymond Gardiner High School. Music was provided by Provision Band, A+Band, and Q-Band Lynks. Nishie L.S., and Blaudy J from The Bahamian Artist were the special guests.

During the event a raffle was also held.

On Sunday, October 29, 2023, a 'Golden Jubilee

Thanksgiving Service' was held at the Church of God of Prophecy in Bottle Creek, North Caicos. A procession was held from the RGHS to Church of God of Prophecy, led by the Royal Turks & Caicos Police Marching Band.

The service was led by former student, Pastor Ronald Gardiner. The Charge was brought by Pastor Bradley Handfield, a former student of the RGHS.

Following the service, the Royal Turks & Caicos Police Marching Band led a procession to AOP, where a concert, headlined Simeon Outten, backed by Provision Band was held.

The bands chosen to perform were all North Caicos roots or have an RGHS alumni member.



# TCI To Benefit from First Caribbean Comtrust's/ CCRIF \$80,000 Disaster Preparedness



L-R: CIBC FirstCaribbean's Debra King, Director, Corporate Communications and Mark St. Hill, Chief Executive Officer, along with CCRIF SPC's Desirée Cherebin, Vice-Chairperson of the CCRIF Board and Chairperson of CCRIF's Technical Assistance Committee; Isaac Anthony, Chief Executive Officer; and Leslie Gittens, Business Development Specialist at the ceremony commemorating the donation from FirstCaribbean International Comtrust Foundation to CCRIF.

The FirstCaribbean International ComTrust Foundation and CCRIF SPC (formerly the Caribbean Catastrophe Risk Insurance Facility) recently met to celebrate the Foundation's donation of US\$75,000 to help enhance rainfall monitoring systems and disaster preparedness in the Caribbean and another US\$5,000 to print and disseminate additional copies of CCRIF's children's publication on "Hazards, Disasters and Climate Change", developed for children ages 8 to 12 years old.

The grant of US\$75,000 will be used to enable at least 4 Caribbean countries to improve their weather monitoring networks by adding automated weather systems and other equipment to their existing networks. These new automated weather systems (AWSs) will enhance these countries' early warning systems and their ability to better prepare for hydro-meteorological events such as hurricanes and severe rainfall events throughout the year.

These systems also can inform longer-term planning. AWSs can incorporate a range of sensors that can provide data to enable national meteorological services to undertake more detailed and reliable analysis of climate trends to inform national strategies on climate change and disaster risk management.

The FirstCaribbean International ComTrust Foundation is a registered charity which was established in 2003, to support CIBC FirstCaribbean's community relations programmes. The Bank makes contributions to causes within the Caribbean in the areas of Health & Wellness, the Community & the Environment, and Youth & Education. Since its inception in October of 2002, through the ComTrust Foundation, CIBC FirstCaribbean has donated more than US\$30M to worthy projects across the Caribbean.

This donation from the ComTrust Foundation

will support an existing initiative currently being implemented by CCRIF that focuses on providing much needed assistance to its member governments to enhance their AWS networks. In 2020, CCRIF worked with the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH) to undertake a situational analysis to determine if there were existing gaps in rainfall measuring networks of its member governments and the extent of these gaps.

According to Isaac Anthony, CCRIF's Chief Executive Officer, "The Situational Analysis, which assessed the rainfall measuring network of 19 of CCRIF member governments, indicated that only 5 Caribbean countries have over 70 per cent of the recommended level of AWS coverage. The minimum coverage was 10 per cent of optimal coverage, the maximum was 90 per cent of optimal coverage, with an average of 40 per cent of optimal coverage across the countries".

Having reviewed the report, the CCRIF Board took the decision to provide support under its Technical Assistance Programme to member countries in the region to strengthen their network of automated weather stations (AWSs). CCRIF also reached out to the FirstCaribbean International ComTrust Foundation based on the goals of the Foundation to determine if this was an area that they would be willing to provide support for. The rest is history!

To date, CCRIF has assisted 4 countries (Belize, Antigua and Barbuda, Turks and Caicos Islands, and Cayman Islands), providing them with approximately US\$250,000 in support to improve and expand their rainfall data collection and measurement systems.

These resources from the ComTrust Foundation will support an additional 4 countries to expand their rainfall monitoring networks. CCRIF will

match these resources from ComTrust to support another 4 countries in the region. By the middle of 2024, 12 countries in the Caribbean would have additional AWSs and enhanced rainfall measuring networks, which will help governments to better prepare their populations in the face of the increasing frequency and intensity of hydro-meteorological hazards.

CIBC FirstCaribbean's CEO, Mark St. Hill, who also serves as the Chairman of the ComTrust Foundation, noted: "Our bank is committed to maintaining strong environmental standards and to conducting our activities in an environmentally and socially responsible manner that contributes to long-term value for our clients, employees, communities, and our shareholders. "Climate change has been engaging our region for some time, and our bank has established itself as a leading financial partner for stakeholders seeking to address the issue. We actively seek to support the Caribbean region's transition to a low-carbon economy and advancing of sustainability and climate resiliency initiatives in the territories in which we operate."

The "Hazards, Disasters and Climate Change" booklet allows children to learn about the different types of hazards that affect the Caribbean; actions to take before, during and after these natural hazard events; climate change; and how to take care of our natural environment.

Since its first publication in 2021, CCRIF has distributed over 2,000 copies to schools, ministries of education, disaster preparedness and management agencies, public libraries, and civil society organizations throughout the region. The booklet is also available in French and can also be accessed via the CCRIF website at: <https://www.ccrif.org/publications/booklet/booklet-ccrif-spc-hazards-disasters-climate-change-primary-level-kids>.



Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we turn the spotlight on All Saints Mission Church, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The minister for that body of Christ is Pastor James Prospere. All Saints Church, which has one of the largest memberships of the any such body in the Turks and Caicos Islands, conducts two services on Sunday – the Sunday Morning Service and the Sunday Night Service. On Wednesday Night is Prayer Meeting and on Friday its their Youth Service.



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, Providenciale  
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





# Marilyn's

'silly little dress'

What we can learn?

## Film Fashion

We've all seen that iconic 1954 scene (in some form at least) from *The Seven Year Itch* when Marilyn Monroe stood above a New York City subway grate wearing a white dress. As the train passed, her dress blew upwards, with Marilyn flirtatiously trying to keep it down. This scene, while only lasting a few seconds, became one of the most iconic scenes in movie history.—making the dress one of the most famous of all time in the process. Designer William Travilla didn't think much of the white dress, once calling it 'that silly little dress'. Little did he know that it would be celebrated for generations. It was ultimately sold in 2011 for a record \$4.6 million, one of the highest ever paid for a movie costume. This dress has stood the style test of time.

## Thousands of Spectators

Filming this now iconic dress scene took place at 1am while thousands of fans looked on. The take took 14 times to get right while 100 male photographers tried to capture the moment. The scene was then ultimately re-shot on a lot in California as the noise made it difficult to transfer to film. However, the original location shots were what was used for ads and promos. However much fanfare surrounded the filming, this image was made iconic by her confidence. For its time, filming a scene of such a 'provocative' nature was unheard of. Its rebelliousness of that era was what made it iconic. The confidence with carrying out such a scene, in front of thousands no less, is what made this era-defining.



## Look of Death

Monroe's then-husband, Joe DiMaggio, was apparently less than thrilled at the sight of the seductively billowing dress. In his book, Wilder, director of 'The Seven Year Itch', described the 'look of death' on DiMaggio's face as he stormed off the set to the nearby St. Regis Hotel. It was then chronicled by many that when Marilyn returned to the hotel, the couple was in heated debate. This, apparently being one of several straws that ended their marriage. Back in Los Angeles 3 weeks later, their divorce was announced. News headlines read 'Marilyn Splits with Joe Over Sexy Pics'. If there's anything we can learn from this ordeal, it's that we should embrace body autonomy, no matter the situation. Marilyn embraced her body and sexuality and in turn became an example to women today on not minimising yourself so that others can feel big. So, don't change what you wear because someone is piercing you with a 'look of death'. Instead, wear what makes you feel good, powerful, confident, sexy. Then, all the right things will follow.

## Dynamic Dress

The flirty dress has had an enduring legacy. The image has been reproduced in countless fashion shoots and marketing campaigns. The dress' success was not only due to its revealing attributes. Travilla's design embodies a mix of innocence and seduction. One that has proven difficult to reproduce. The dress is both 'angelically white' and 'daringly audacious'. It reflects the natural contradictions that lie within us as women. Dupes of this dress are easy to find. However, I find that the best approach to take is usually to grab aspects of iconic pieces that compliment your body type. For example, this dress has a halter neckline which is best for medium to full busts, wide shoulders and straight or hourglass midsections. It also contains a pleated skirt, which can be a tricky wear depending on your body type. Ultimately, it depends on the type of pleats and the starting point of the pleats.

*Jo*



# Grethen Been Appointed Immigration and Border Services Head of Secretariat



Grethen Been

The Office of the Deputy Governor has announced the appointment of Grethen Been to the post of Head of Secretariat in the Ministry of Immigration and Border Services.

Ms. Been is a proud native of the serene Salt Cay and brings with her a wealth of experience from a fruitful career at the National Insurance Board in Grand Turk.

Her educational foundation flourished in the Turks and Caicos Islands, earning her an associate degree in business administration from the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College in 2002. Advancing her studies, she attained an Advanced Level Certificate in Administrative Corporate Secretaryship, collaboratively certified by the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College and the University of the West Indies, St. Augustine, through distance learning in 2002.

Furthering her career, she completed an Executive Diploma in Management focused on Social Security from the University of the West Indies – Cave Hill School of Business in

Barbados in 2009. Her most recent academic achievement, a Master of Business Administration in Leadership and Sustainability from Robert Kennedy College – Cumbria University, was completed in 2023.

Ms. Been's professional journey took root in September 1998 as a Clerical Officer in the Ministry of Health and Education, marking her dedication to public service. Transitioning to the Turks and Caicos National Insurance Board in March 2001 as a temporary Data Entry Clerk, she laid the groundwork for an illustrious career, spanning over twenty-two years, manifesting in various capacities.

Her recent tenure as a Claims Adjudicator in the benefits department stands as a testament to her exceptional standards of performance, imbued with a profound sense of accountability and trust earned through her steadfast dedication.

Reflecting on her path, Ms. Been said: "It was Mac Anderson who wrote, "your dreams are

blueprints of your soul. They should take you by the hand and lead you to your life's purpose and passion. They are one of, if not the greatest, source of self-motivation that you have. So, nurture them and feed them inspiration whenever you can".

"God is faithful, He did it. I acknowledge His handy work as I continue my quest to fulfilling what I deem as His plan and purpose for my life.

"To Her Excellency Anya Williams and the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, I am humbled and honoured to be afforded the opportunity to give of my talents and abilities in service for the greater good of the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service.

"I am excited about the rewarding possibilities that will continue to manifest themselves on this leg of my professional journey and likewise look with great hope and optimism to traversing the rough terrains and challenges that may lie ahead. I have an assurance that, "the will of God will never take me, where the grace of God cannot sustain me" - Billy Graham.

"Also, 'Being confident of this, that He that began a good work in me, will carry it through to completion until the day of Jesus Christ' Philippians 1:6.

"Of significant importance to my achievements are my late parents to whom I pay special homage; my father who was always enthused about our educational and professional advancement, being my constant push and encouragement, and my dear mother who taught me the importance of affectual fervent prayers and whose prayers are the bedrock of my survival and success. All that I am and ever hope to be, I owe it to them."

Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service, Her Excellency Anya Williams, in extending congratulatory remarks to Ms. Been, stated:

"It gives me great pleasure to officially announce and to congratulate Ms. Grethen Been on her appointment as Head of Secretariat within the Ministry of Immigration and Border Services and welcome her back to the core public service.

"Heads of Secretariats are essential to ministry operations. They are responsible for the overall office administration, safety, and operations for key government services within their respective ministries and work closely with their Minister and Permanent Secretary to ensure the appropriate carriage of processes to achieve ministry objectives. "Having dedicated her life to public service, Ms. Been is no stranger to government operations and financial management. We wish her well on her appointment and look forward to supporting her in her new role."



# Bird Tourism Market Takes Flight in the Turks and Caicos Islands with Caribbean Birding Trail Guide Training

Intense days, dozens of birds spotted, six thrilling TCI Birding spots explored, and 24 Bird and Nature Guides Certified – BirdsCaribbean is pleased to present our Caribbean Birding Trail 2023 cohort! Photo credit: Christel Mohammed/BirdsCaribbean



What's that field mark? Participants consult their Birds of the West Indies field guides to distinguish between tricky shorebirds at Wheeland Pond. Photo credit: Christel Mohammed/BirdsCaribbean

Out of the classroom and into the field! Each day of training featured field trips, which gave participants ample opportunity to learn and practice bird ID and guiding techniques and to familiarize themselves with the Turks and Caicos Islands' top birding spots. Photo credit: Christel Mohammed/BirdsCaribbean



Twenty-four bird and nature guides have been trained and certified in bird identification and guiding techniques in the recently concluded Sandals Foundation sponsored Caribbean Birding Trail Guide Training Program.

The event, which took place October 23 to 27, forms part of the Caribbean Birding Trail Project – an initiative of BirdsCaribbean aimed at promoting nature-based, authentic experiences that benefit local people and encourage the protection of the Caribbean's natural resources, including birds and their habitats.

Lisa Sorenson, Executive Director at BirdsCaribbean says, "The 5-day interactive program targeted persons working as guides who would like to expand their businesses by adding birdwatching or "birding" to their tour offerings. The sessions were also open to those who work in outreach and education about birds and nature."

Participants explored the importance of preserving the Turks and Caicos Islands' birds and nature while strengthening the island's local ecotourism sector. They also learned bird identification, guiding techniques, and environmental interpretation—making connections to natural resources through story telling. Everyone received a package of materials including binoculars, a bird field guide, bird ID cards, CBT hat, endemic birds of the Caribbean, and many other resources.

"Globally, the tourism market for wildlife watching and wildlife photography is growing, and bird

tourism is a significant part of this market. The Caribbean Birding Trail seeks to attract these markets to the Turks and Caicos Islands and the wider Caribbean. Integral to this is having well-trained guides who can help connect ecotourism travellers with the cultural and natural resources of the island, creating meaningful and authentic experiences," said Sorenson.

When asked what they most appreciated, one participant commented, "The mix of different people and to be inspired by the facilitators to seek a profitable but sustainable way forward and also a healthy way forward for the spirit. The materials given were awesome! And more than I was expecting."

"The content of the workshop was outstanding, presented at the right pace and by the best instructors," said another participant.

Known for its commitment to the conservation of the Caribbean's natural resources and ecosystems, the Sandals Foundation funded the training workshops and other initiatives to support the creation of a cadre of trained bird and nature interpretive guides on the islands.

Heidi Clarke, Executive Director at the Sandals Foundation said the organisation was, "proud to support this programme which taught participants how to inspire people and engage audiences through storytelling aimed at preserving TCI's incredible birds and nature."

"Collectively," Clarke continued, "We can build a stronger eco-tourism market in TCI that provides sustainable livelihoods and supports environmental conservation. Helping trainees learn about the bird tourism market and how they can tap into this rapidly growing and lucrative ecotourism sector will be beneficial for years to




Black-necked Stilts

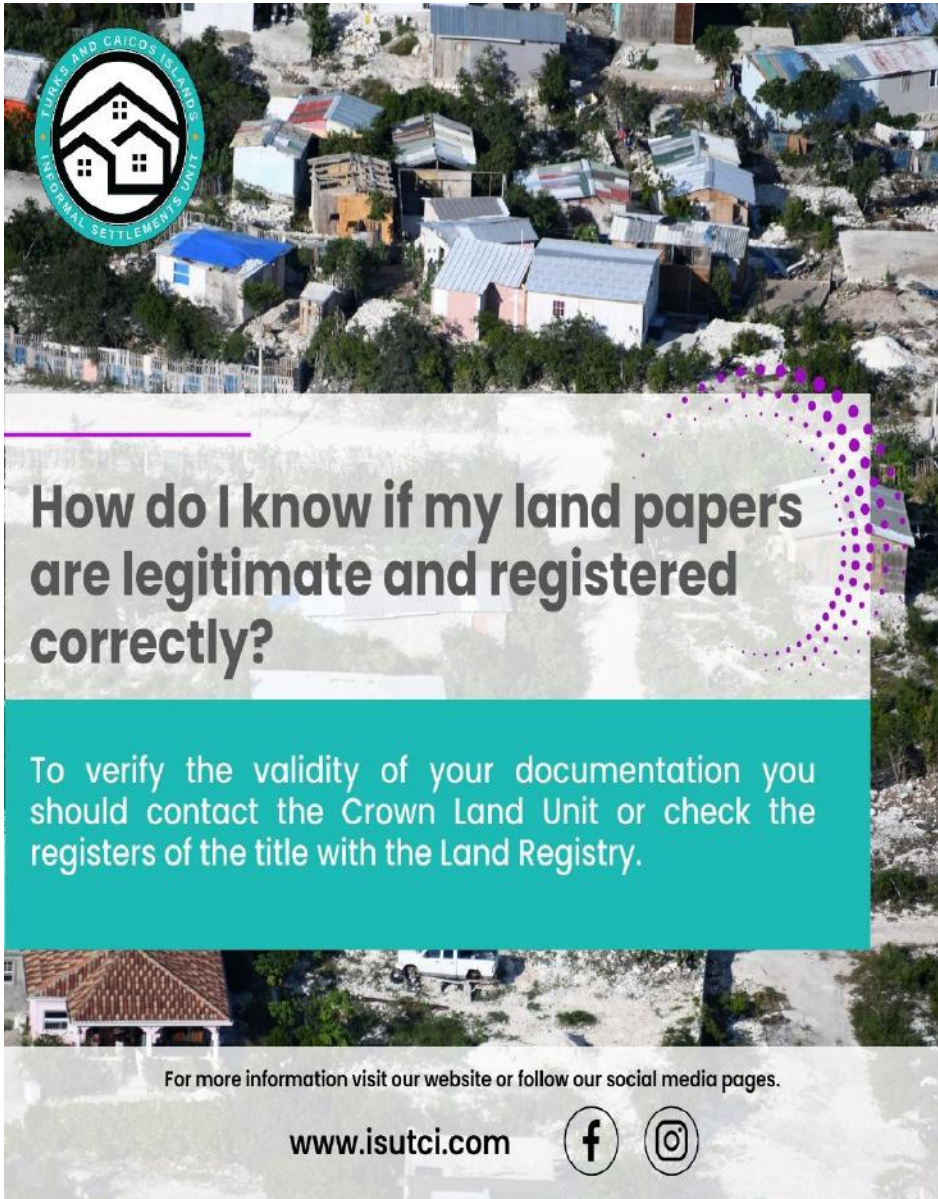


come.”  
The Caribbean Birding Trail Certified Interpretive Bird Guide Training Workshop was hosted and coordinated by BirdsCaribbean and the Turks and Caicos National Trust, with additional support from the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources and the Royal Society for

the Protection of Birds.  
BirdsCaribbean is an international, non-profit organisation committed to the conservation of Caribbean birds and their habitats. The organisation aims to raise awareness and empower local partners to build a region where people appreciate and conserve bird populations and

ecosystems, through education, science and advocacy.  
Similarly, the Turks & Caicos National Trust (TCNT) is a membership, non-profit organisation dedicated to the preservation of the natural, historical, and cultural heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands.








### How do I know if my land papers are legitimate and registered correctly?

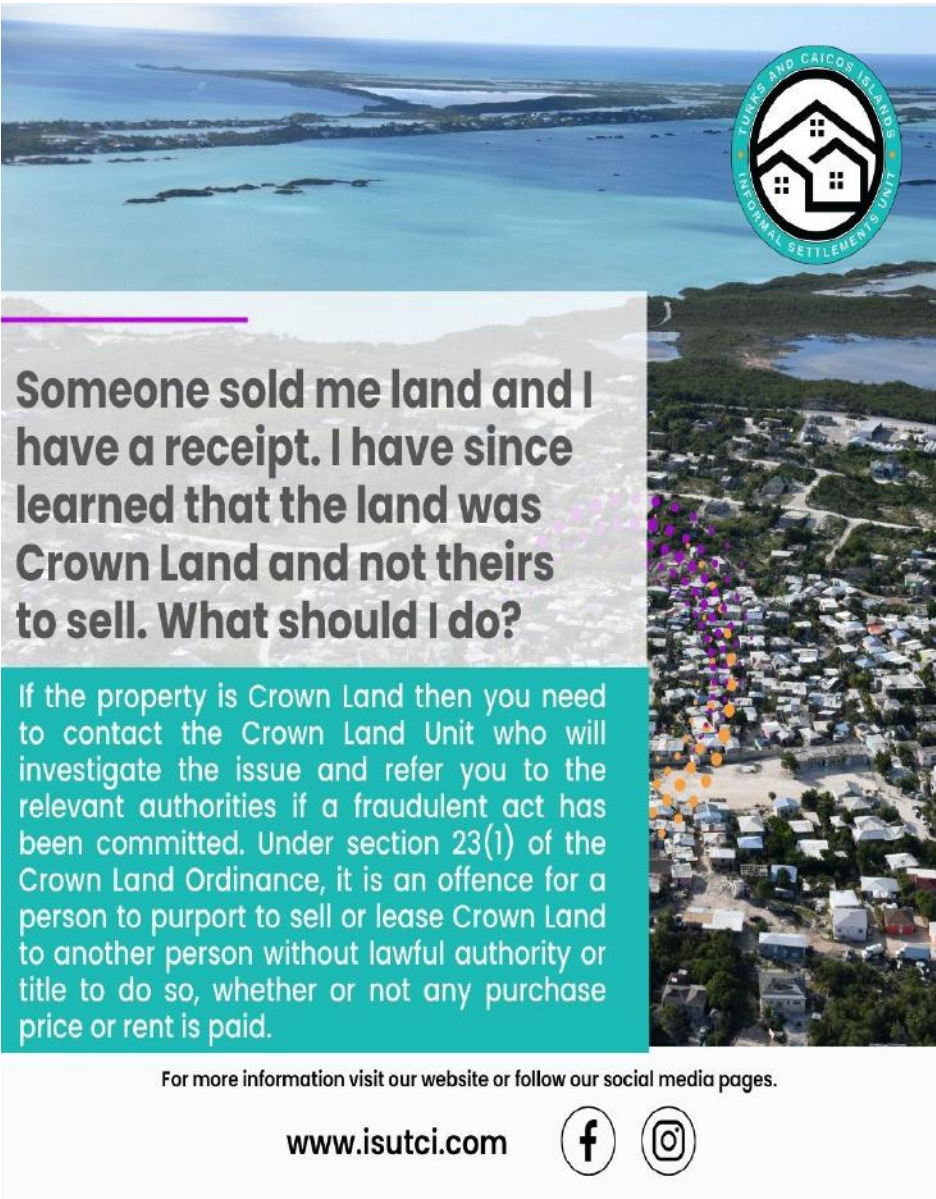
To verify the validity of your documentation you should contact the Crown Land Unit or check the registers of the title with the Land Registry.

For more information visit our website or follow our social media pages.

[www.isutci.com](http://www.isutci.com)









### Someone sold me land and I have a receipt. I have since learned that the land was Crown Land and not theirs to sell. What should I do?

If the property is Crown Land then you need to contact the Crown Land Unit who will investigate the issue and refer you to the relevant authorities if a fraudulent act has been committed. Under section 23(1) of the Crown Land Ordinance, it is an offence for a person to purport to sell or lease Crown Land to another person without lawful authority or title to do so, whether or not any purchase price or rent is paid.

For more information visit our website or follow our social media pages.

[www.isutci.com](http://www.isutci.com)





NEWSLINE  
& Chill

Fruit Word Scramble

1. abnaan

2. alpep

3. rgeoan

4. ryrhec

5. rgaep

6. treamloenw

7. wiik

8. ganom

9. paer

10. plnpaepie

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Brain Teaser

What is special about these words: job, polish, herb?

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Social Circles

ACROSS

1. TV's Galloping Gourmet

5. The celebrated Dan'l Webster, e.g.

9. "Rock and Roll All Nite" Rockers

13. Here in Havana

14. Clara, to Samantha Stephens

15. Popular Christmas display

16. Panhandlers, perhaps

19. Feature of Edward Cullen

20. Popular Christmas display

21. Unalaska native

22. Folk/rock star Suzanne

23. Meritorious

30. Even backwards, she's still part of the family

33. WWE champion wrestler, Randy

34. Cosmic "Kaboom"s

35. Prefix with war or hero

37. Participants in a diplomatic meeting

39. Drop

40. Pictures on a desktop

42. Little Bighorn braves

44. Former Bush spokesman

45. WB drama set in Cape side, Massachusetts

48. "Typee" sequel

49. Contradict

53. Like some ropes or reptiles

56. Participate

59. Arcsine to sine

61. Low land in the Highlands

62. Stop sleeping

DOWN

1. Initial for Konstantinos Karamanlis

2. Splenda rival

3. Capital of Belarus

4. Irk

5. Kind of time or card

6. Goes on the lam

7. Burden

8. Volkswagen hatchback

9. Qantas logo critter

10. Crawl (along)

11. Editors "never mind" mark

12. Cheek

15. River by Ho Chi Minh City

17. Emcee's offering

18. Offed

22. He might hawk at a Cardinal's game

24. Location of 63 across

25. "Yea, verily"

26. Like a certain Doctor's screwdriver

27. Rating for HBO's "Deadwood"

28. Kind of clip, or something to clip

29. Hairy himalayan

30. Announced

31. Ancient pyramid builder

32. Lade

36. Cheeky

38. Noted T-Rex at the Chicago Field Museum

41. TV star Suzanne

43. Mediterranean corsair's ship

46. Drowns

47. Maintained

50. Boxer Ali

51. Alanis Morissette subject

52. Old lab heaters

53. Short smokes?

54. Just

55. Burl treading the boards

56. Nonstick cookware brand

57. Black and white sea-birds

58. Prop for a marriage proposal

60. She on the lea

Robert Stockton

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66

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

Uninhabited Cays In TCI

Half Moon Bay  
Little Water Cay  
The Seal Pup Cays  
Gibbs Cay  
Big Southern Bush  
Dragon Cay  
Dickish Cay  
French Cay  
Hog Cay  
Toadstool Cay  
Maggot Rock  
Sail Rock Island

H T Y A C H C N E R F K N V Y W

S O T H E S E A L P U P C A Y S

U A N K Q R M B T Q Y N C M H T

B D I V C L D W R A G R T A Q J

N S Y L N O L D C L E M L W Q N

R T A J R Y R S D T D F N W V B

E O C Y X O B T A Q M R M B J P

H O H Y A B C W O O D D T Z W J

T L S J I C E K O G Q R W M L L

U C I G V L N N I H G L K B N Z

O A K V T J B O R S O A T Y B B

S Y C T V A K N G V L G M L J G

G M I L Y W N J J A R A C Q G Y

I L D Q M K K J R T R X N A M V

B Z Q D M T Y Y L L Y D N D Y R

J of the  
JOKE WEEK

Q: Why couldn't the leopard play hide and seek?

A: Because he was always spotted.

SUDOKU

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9

5 3 2 4 1 7 8

2 5 3 4 7 5

6 3 4 7 5

3 4 6 7 5

4 2 3 7 4

4 1 7 3 2

5 2 7 4

2 3 5 1

8 9 6 2

5 3 4 9

2 4 8 5

4 6 9 5 8

9 8 2 6

8 5 3 6 2 9

4 2 5 9 6

5 8 6 4 2

9 2 7 8 5



# What diabetics can do at Christmas



CHRISTMAS IS a time to enjoy yourself and have foods that you would not regularly eat at other times of the year. However, being a time of celebration, many traditional Christmas foods tend to be high in saturated fat, free (added) sugars and salt than our usual diets.

If you have diabetes, or are close to someone who does, you may find that this time of year can make managing your diabetes more difficult, with so much tempting Christmas food and drink to choose from.

Dr Rivane Chybar Virgo, medical doctor and

health and wellness coach, says that before the Christmas celebrations, diabetic patients can plan ahead to include what method of cooking they will use, and what meals and snacks they can eat, that will ensure that they keep a regular eating schedule.

"At some point during the festive period, you may find that you have higher blood sugar levels than normal due to being less active than usual, overindulging, or changing your routine. While one or two high readings should not affect your long-term health or diabetes management, take care not to let your blood sugar levels stay high for long, as you could start to feel unwell," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

She said if you self-test your sugar levels, it is a good idea to do this more often over the Christmas period, so you can catch changes in your blood sugar sooner and avoid a hypo or hyper. "Stress and illness can raise your blood sugar levels," she said.

Although we all love putting our feet up and relaxing over the festive period, it is important to keep active. Being physically active can help lower your blood sugar levels, blood pressure and blood fats over the Christmas period and help you manage your weight.

"There are many easy and fun ways to fit in some physical activity. A brisk walk is a great way to stay active. Playing with the children or dancing the night away at a party can help towards keeping healthy as well. You could also try some active party games," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

Eating and drinking at Christmas time is part of the fun, and there is no need to completely miss out on certain foods and drinks. However, be mindful about what you are choosing, and do not beat yourself up if you do eat more than you usually would, or have foods that are not as healthy for you.

"Everyone should be making healthy food choices year round, but the festive period should not affect your long-term health and diabetes management, as long as you plan for it and get back on track right away," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

## QUICK TIPS FOR HEALTHY EATING DURING THE CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS

A healthy diet is important for managing diabetes. Try these tips to make your festive occasions a little healthier:

- Fill up on the array of vegetables available.
- Keep an eye on your portion sizes. Fill your plate up with vegetables first, as we tend not to get enough of these.
- Serve yourself, if possible. Someone else might pile certain foods high, so choosing your own options for starchy carbs, protein and healthy fats will help you keep your blood sugar levels on track.
- If you are having a dessert, try to stick to one portion of your sweet treat, and think about what it is served with.
- Do not drink on an empty stomach, as this increases your risk of hypos if you manage your diabetes with insulin or some medications.
- Steam your vegetables rather than fry or boil – this does not use oil and keeps more vitamins and minerals. Including vegetables at each meal can help prevent your blood pressure and blood cholesterol going up over the holidays.
- We should all try to eat less salt to help manage our blood pressure.

## Coral Gardens Management Co Ltd

whose address is Penn's Road, Lower Bight; Providenciales is seeking suitable qualified Belongers to fill the following positions:

# HOUSEMAN

- Cleans, maintains and prepares arrival and departure guest rooms and bathrooms.
- High level inside & Outside cleaning, shifting furniture's using heavy cleaning equipment, ladders, shampoo and vacuum carpet
- Maintain and clean assigned public areas & guest room
- Collects soiled linen for laundering from housekeeping carts
- Cleans and restocks the facilities, administration offices and

This position is held by Work Permit Holder. Qualified Belonger candidates with clean police record are encouraged to submit a CV by e-mail to: [marsha@misickstanbrook.tc](mailto:marsha@misickstanbrook.tc) (Marsha Blanche) Applications should be received no later than December 15, 2023.



# Jamaica repatriates nine Haitians



The 28-foot sailboat in which the Haitians arrived in Portland was burnt by health officials.

The nine Haitians who were intercepted near Hope Bay, Portland, on Monday, November 27 after fleeing their vessel shortly after landing on the beach in Long Road on Sunday night, have been repatriated.

The Haitians, five adult females and four adult males, boarded a Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) coast guard vessel shortly before 7 p.m. on Wednesday at the Boundbrook wharf in Port Antonio, after being transported from a holding area at Manchioneal in the parish by the police.

Attorney and founder of human rights group Freedom Imaginaries, Malene Alleyne, who has been

complaining bitterly about the police refusing her access to speak with the Haitians, asserted that once again the Government of Jamaica has violated international law.

Earlier Alleyne had said Freedom Imaginaries requested precautionary measures from the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. She said that the request was under study and that the Haitians should not be returned home, while the process is under way.

According to Alleyne, there could be serious implications arising from the Government's return of the Haitians to their homeland.

"I think it would mark a very serious disintegration for rule of law in Jamaica and it will have implications for all persons in Jamaica and their rights," she said.

"The Government will not allow us to speak to the Haitians. These things unfolded in a matter of hours at a location very far away. All of these factors militate against access to justice for Haitians. At no time was I granted access to speak to the Haitians. I went to the health facility in Port Antonio and I was barred from speaking to the Haitians. And it has been like this since September involving two separate groups of Haitians," she added.

On Monday, the Portland police launched a search for a group of Haitians, who abandoned their vessel after landing in the dead of night on Sunday at Long Road beach in the parish.

However, the police managed to intercept a taxi near Hope Bay, some 36 miles away from the Long Road beach, and nine Haitians, including one that was residing in St James for more than two years, was discovered aboard the vehicle.

They were taken into police custody and later screened and processed by health officials.

It is still not clear how many Haitians landed in Long Road.

The police say items of clothing belonging to adults and children were discovered in the 28-foot sailboat in which they arrived. However, when the nine Haitians were intercepted in Hope Bay, no children were found aboard the taxi.

## Henry Kissinger, secretary of state under Presidents Nixon and Ford, dies at 100



Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger speaks during a meeting with President Donald Trump in the Oval Office of the White House, October 10, 2017, in Washington. Kissinger, the diplomat with the thick glasses and gravelly voice who dominated foreign policy as the United States extricated itself from Vietnam and broke down barriers with China, died Wednesday, November 29, 2023. He was 100.

Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the diplomat with the thick glasses and gravelly voice who dominated foreign policy as the United States extricated itself from Vietnam and broke down barriers with China, died Wednesday, his consulting firm said.

He was 100.

With his gruff yet commanding presence and behind-the-scenes manipulation of power, Kissinger exerted uncommon influence on global affairs under Presidents Richard Nixon and Gerald Ford, earning both vilification and the

Nobel Peace Prize.

Decades later, his name still provoked impassioned debate over foreign policy landmarks long past.

Kissinger's power grew during the turmoil of Watergate, when the politically attuned diplomat assumed a role akin to co-president to the weakened Nixon.

"No doubt my vanity was piqued," Kissinger later wrote of his expanding influence. "But the dominant emotion was a premonition of catastrophe."

A Jew who fled Nazi Germany with his family in his teens, Kissinger in his later years cultivated the reputation of respected statesman, giving speeches, offering advice to Republicans and Democrats alike and managing a global consulting business.

He turned up in President Donald Trump's White House on multiple occasions. But Nixon-era documents and tapes, as they trickled out over the years, brought revelations — many in Kissinger's own words — that sometimes cast him in a harsh light.

Never without his detractors, Kissinger after he left government was dogged by critics who argued that he should be called to account for his policies on Southeast Asia and support of repressive regimes in Latin America.



# Fierce Competition Greet 2023 High School Softball Season



The Wesley Methodist seizes a photo moment with Minister of Sports Hon. Rachel Taylor



The Majorie Basden vs Elite High encounter



A Majorie Basden High player sprints home.

The TCISS Inter-High Softball Season for 2023/24 has officially begun, drawing in an enthusiastic crowd of fans eager to witness the intense competition. Nine schools have registered to vie for the coveted Softball Championship trophy, setting the stage for a thrilling season. Missing out on winning the title last season, which HJ Robinson snared, the girls from the various schools, fueled by a desire for redemption, have returned with determination. However, an equally determined HJRHS has already signaled their intention to turn back any opponent who dare to come up against them, showcased their dominance in the opening game by defeating Marjorie Basden High School (MBHS) 10-5.

In Last week's matches, held from Nov 23-25, Maranatha Academy collected full points without taking the field after TCPS forfeited that assignment.

Wesley Methodist were close 10-8 winners over A. Louise Garland Thomas High; Marjorie Basden were 11-4 winners over Elite High School; British West Indies Collegiate were 11-2 winners over Raymond Gardiner High; and HJ Robinson turned back Majorie Basden High 10-5.

The matches scheduled to be played on December 1, will see Majorie Basden facing of against Elite High starring 3: 30p.m at the Downtown Ball Park. On Saturday, December 2, Wesley Methodist will do battle against Clement Howell High School beginning at 9:30am at the Downtown Ballpark. Raymond Gardiner High will tackle A. Louise Garland Thomas High starting at 11:00am also at the Downtown Ballpark, Providenciales.

As the competition intensifies, fans can purchase bundled tickets at the booth for \$8 (adults) and \$5 (children), granting access to both softball and basketball games. The heat on the diamond

will coincide with basketball season, offering a double dose of sporting excitement.

The culmination of the softball season will be celebrated during the third-place and Championship games, which will be streamed live from Grand Turk on January 26-27, 2024, accessible via the TCI Sports Commission Facebook page and YouTube channel.

The Softball School Pool is divided into two groups. The following are the groupings:

Group A

HJ Robinson High School- HJRHS

Elite High School- EHS/ELITE

Marjorie Basden High School- MBHS

Maranatha Academy- MA

Group B

A. Louise Garland Thomas High School- ALGTHS

Wesley Methodist School- WM

British West Indies Collegiate- BWIC

Raymond Gardiner High School- RGHS

Clement Howell High School- CHHS

With the competition heating up, softball enthusiasts are in for a season filled with remarkable plays and nail-biting matches as these schools vie for softball supremacy.



# TCI Face Bonaire In W Gold Cup match-up



Eradannia Ortiz, the TCI custodian is expected to have another outstanding game

The Turks and Caicos Islands ladies will go up against Bonaire in their final international match of the year, in the Road to CONCACAF Women's Gold Cup Tournament, at the TCI Field on Monday, December 4, starting at 3:00pm.

The Turks and Caicos Islands, who for all intents and purposes are out of the contention, remain winless after two outings, and would no doubt be looking to end the year on a strong note.

In their game against Belize at home on Oc-

tober 26, the youthful TCI aggregation went down 0-6, in an encounter which saw the local girls almost matching their far more mature opponents stride for stride. In a previous game on September 26, the local girls went down 0-5 to their more fancied opponents Aruba.

This is a game that the TCI should fancy their chances of taking all three points, having drawn goalless with Bonaire at the Stadion Antonio Trenidat in Bonaire on September 21. The TCI, however, will have to fight hard

for that win though, because Bonaire are no pushovers, having beaten one of the group's fancied teams Aruba 3-1 in a home game on October 26.

Aruba, however, got their revenge on October 30 at home when they trounced Bonaire 5-0.

Belize is the only unbeaten team in the competition so far, having won all of their matches.

The 2024 CONCACAF W Gold Cup qualification competition, also known as the Road to CONCACAF W Gold Cup, is a women's football tournament contested by 34 of the senior women's national teams of the member associations of CONCACAF.

The competition will decide six of the twelve participating teams of the 2024 CONCACAF W Gold Cup, the inaugural edition of the W Gold Cup.

The qualification competition, known as the "Road to Concacaf W Gold Cup", began with the group stage, featuring 34 women's national teams of CONCACAF split into three leagues (A, B and C). Each league features three groups, containing three teams each in League A, and four teams each in Leagues B and C.

The teams in each group will play against each other home-and-away in a double round-robin format. The top three teams in League A will qualify directly for the W Gold Cup. The three group runners-up of League A and the three League B group winners will participate in a play-off on 17 February 2024 to compete for the final three spots at the W Gold Cup.

The play-offs were originally planned to take place in March 2024, but have been moved to February to accommodate the W Gold Cup final tournament also being moved from June to February and March 2024). The two CONCACAF women's national teams that qualify for the Summer Olympics in 2024 will receive a bye directly to the W Gold Cup, skipping qualification.

## Scores of Athletes To Compete At TCAAA Development Meet December 9

Close to 200 athletes from high and primary schools across the Turks and Caicos Islands have confirmed their participation for the Joint Development Track Meet to take place at the National Stadium on Saturday, December 9.

The event is staged by the Turks and Caicos Amateur Athletics Association in conjunction with Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission.

The event will only cater to track event, according to the organizers, meaning that the

meeting will not cater to field events.

So far, seven primary schools, four high schools and two clubs have signaled their intention to take part in the event. According to the organizers of the event, each school and club has an allotment of 25 athletes in total.



# Kevin Debellot, Hency Gedion, Jess Cary, Tania Gardiner top DWF Road Race

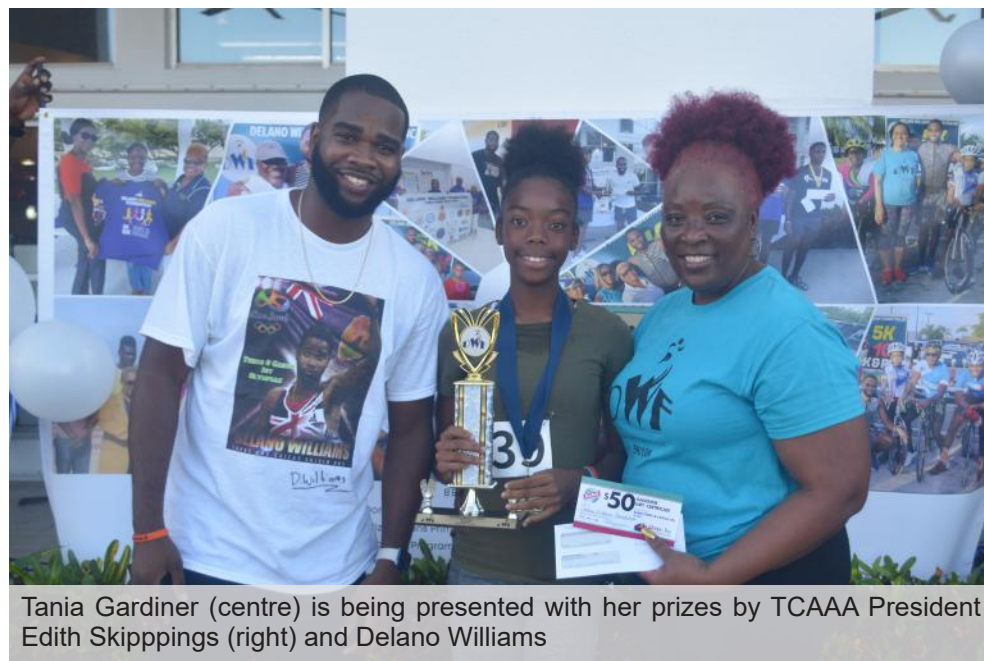
Kevin DeBellot collecting his prize from Delano Williams



Hency Gedion collecting his prize from Delano Williams (left) and Jarrett Forbes, Director of Sports



Jess Cary (centre) collects her prize.



Tania Gardiner (centre) is being presented with her prizes by TCAAA President Edith Skippings (right) and Delano Williams

Kevin Debellot and Hency Gedion successfully defended their title won last year in the Providenciales leg of the Delano Williams Foundation 10k and 5K Road Race respectively on Friday.

Jess Carey and Tania Gardiner were the winners of the 10K and 5K Female races, respectively.

Debellot topped the field in his category in a time of 41. 12.60 seconds, ahead of Clement Howell High School student Love Joseph, stopped the clock in a time of 42.25.30 seconds, while Jermaine Malcolm ended in third place, to cap the top three.

Gideon, Clement Howell High School stand-out, cross the line in a time of 20.13.4 seconds, ahead of Dasly Desir of the A. Louise Garland Thomas High, and Erwin Guerrer also of A. Louise Garland Thomas High.

Jess Carey crossed the finish line in a time of 54.0.2 seconds to be crowned top female of the 10K. She came in ahead of Yvonne Ewing, who finished her race in a time of 1:08.4 seconds, ahead of Jennifer Solan, who finished

her race in a time of 1:09.6 seconds.

For the 5k Female race, Tania Gardiner of A. Louise Garland Thomas High School finished ahead of Tian Otuonye and Mary Kennedy.

In the Primary Age Group for girls, Hayley Gardiner of Ianthe Pratt Primary School topped her category. She came in ahead of Pari Ochani of British West Indies Collegiate. In the Primary School Boys Age Group, Eight-year-old Yash Ochani of Precious Treasures was the winner. There was no second or third in that race.

In the Junior Girls category, Tania Gardiner was the winner, ahead of Dassy Lacoste and Krysann Williams.

There were also prizes for the Top male and female Senior Runners, and the male award went to Ravi Ochani, while the female title went to Kathleen Cannon.

Patron for the event, Delano Williams, was pleased with the event, stating that this year's event was better organized than previous years, and the fundraising machinery was firing on all cylinders.

"We sent out between 65 to 70 letters, and a lot of sponsors came on board," Williams said. "I gave out more cash prizes this year...\$4,000 in cash prizes between both islands. "I think it was great, I think next year is going to be better."

Williams asserted that funds raised go right back to supporting young athletes in a number of ways, pointing out that Rayvon Black, a promising local athlete who attends high school in Jamaica is supported monetarily by the DWF.

"In terms of our beneficiaries this year, we haven't sorted that out yet, but most likely, it is to support schools who compete in track and field. We also want to branch out in other sports such as swimming and basketball. The meet was originally scheduled for last Saturday, November 18, but due to the threat of a storm, had to be pushed back to this Friday. However, Williams said the threat of a storm did not setback the meet any way, but if anything, gained more traction from the postponement.





# TCI Host Bonaire In W Road To Gold Cup