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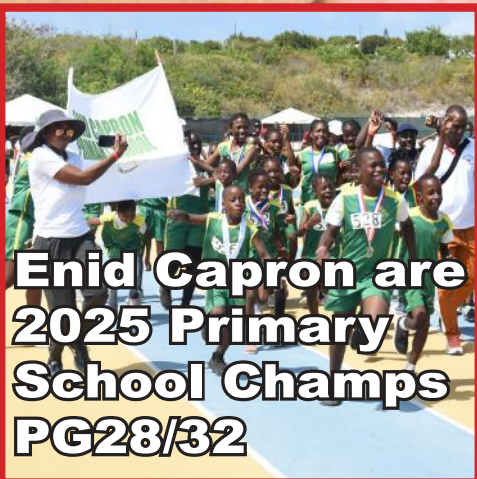


**TURKS AND CAICOS
ISLANDS INCLUDED
IN TRUMP'S NEW
TARIFF LIST
PG2**



**BRAND NEW
\$4-MILLION PORT
COMPLEX NAMED IN
HONOR OF LATE
DIRECTOR PG3**

I CAN'T GO BACK

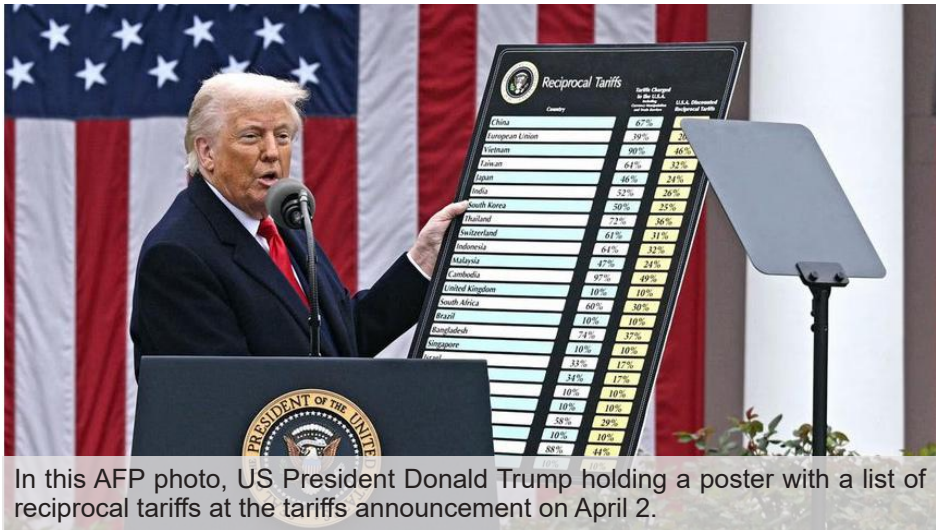


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- **Wilkie Arthur, Ex-convict Turned Media Owner Shocked at Level of Inspiration Young People Draw from His Life**
- **Arthur's Story Of Home Invasion/Armed Robberies to Meaningful Contributor To Society was Referenced by Two Competitors At This Week's High School Speech Competition**

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Turks and Caicos Islands Included in Trump's New Tariff List



In this AFP photo, US President Donald Trump holding a poster with a list of reciprocal tariffs at the tariffs announcement on April 2.

The Turks and Caicos Islands have been named among the countries affected by a new round of tariffs announced by former U.S. President Donald Trump. On April 2, Trump introduced a baseline 10% tariff on all imports from foreign countries, explicitly including the Turks and Caicos Islands. Under this policy, any goods shipped from the Turks and Caicos Islands to the United States will now face a 10% import duty, potentially impacting local exporters and businesses that rely on the U.S. market. According to AP, Reuters, The Guardian, Aljazeera, Business Insider and many other news entities, the tariff rollout will occur in two phases: **April 5, 2025:** The 10% baseline tariffs for all countries—including the Turks and Caicos Islands—take effect. **April 9, 2025:** Higher reciprocal

tariffs will be imposed on select nations, though the Turks and Caicos Islands are not subject to these increased rates. The Trump administration has framed this move as part of a broader effort to correct perceived trade imbalances and enforce what it calls “fair trade practices” on the global stage. For Turks and Caicos exporters, the immediate concern will be the increased cost of doing business with the U.S. As the tariff takes effect, those businesses may need to adjust pricing or absorb costs to remain competitive in the American market. The TCI does limited export. Seafood is the major export from Turks and Caicos to the United States. This development marks a significant shift in the trade dynamic between the Turks and Caicos Islands and one of its key trading partners. The recent announcement by

President Donald Trump on April 2, 2025, introducing a baseline 10% tariff on imports from all foreign countries—including the Turks and Caicos Islands—has elicited strong reactions from leaders and economic experts worldwide. Many have criticized the move as unjustified and potentially harmful to global economic stability. **China:** The Chinese Ministry of Commerce condemned the tariffs as “bullying” and indicated plans to take countermeasures to protect its interests. The ministry emphasized that protectionism offers no solutions and that trade wars have no winners. — **Business Insider** **European Union:** European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen labeled the tariffs a “major blow to the world economy,” warning of escalating uncertainty and the rise of further protectionism with dire consequences for millions globally. — **Reuters** **Canada:** Prime Minister Mark Carney expressed strong opposition, stating that Canada would implement countermeasures to protect its workers and economy. He emphasized the need for unity and decisive action in response to the tariffs. — **Business Insider** **Australia:** Prime Minister Anthony Albanese criticized the tariffs as “totally unwarranted” and contrary to the partnership between the two nations. However, he ruled out immediate retaliatory measures to avoid escalating the situation. — **Business Insider** **Japan:** Trade Minister Yoichi Muto

described the tariffs as “extremely regrettable” and indicated that Japan would seek exemptions while voicing concerns over the broader economic impact. — **Business Insider** **Germany:** Chancellor Olaf Scholz deemed the tariffs “fundamentally wrong” and an attack on a trade system that has fostered global prosperity. He pledged a united and proportionate European response. — **Aljazeera** **Reaction of the Markets** Financial markets have reacted negatively to the announcement, with significant declines in major stock indices and concerns about potential inflation and supply chain disruptions. Economists warn that the tariffs may harm U.S. consumers and the global economy without effectively addressing trade imbalances. President Trump’s sweeping tariffs have prompted widespread international criticism, with many countries considering or implementing countermeasures. The situation remains fluid as global leaders navigate the potential for escalating trade tensions. One country that did not feature on Donald Trump’s list of tariffs on US trade partners was Russia. US outlet Axios quoted White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt as saying this was because existing US sanctions on Russia “preclude any meaningful trade” and noting that Cuba, Belarus and North Korea were also not included.

TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS RED CROSS HOSTS SUCCESSFUL PETAL AND PURPOSE BRUNCH

The Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross hosted its much-anticipated Petal and Purpose Brunch at The Del Mar Restaurant & Beach Club at The Strand on Sunday, March 30th. This remarkable event brought together supporters, sponsors, and community leaders in support of the organization’s efforts in disaster preparedness, emergency response, health and safety training, and humanitarian aid. The event was supported by the Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam. The Red Cross expresses its deep appreciation to all attendees and donors who supported this fundraiser.



Brand New \$4-Million Port Complex Named In Honor of Late Director



The unveiling of the Port Complex's name on Friday at the official commissioning the building.



Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove presents a plaque of the first Port's director Clinton Wilson, to his widow Sheba Wilson at the commissioning of the Clinton Wilson Port Complex on Friday, April 4. Among those sharing in the moment are Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (left); Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams (fourth from left); Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson (sixth from left); Hon. Rachel Taylor (third from left) – Minister of Education Youth Sport and Culture; Hon. Shaun Malcolm (left) Minister of Home Affairs; Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly (second left); First Lady of the TCI Delthia Misick (fifth from left); Delton Jones (ninth from left) and members of the Wilson Family.

The Turks and Caicos Islands marked a historic milestone on Thursday with the official opening of the Clinton Wilson Port Complex in South Dock, Providenciales.

The \$4 million, 8,000 square-foot facility, named in honor of the late Clinton Hugh "TC" Wilson, is the first completed phase of the South Dock Redevelopment and Modernization Project. Designed to modernize port operations, enhance logistics, and serve as a one-stop administrative hub, the complex stands as both a testament to Wilson's enduring legacy and the country's vision for the future. The complex includes four rental

units, housing for stakeholders, and operational offices for departments such as Border Services and Traffic, all designed to improve workflow, enhance safety, and deliver more efficient service to the public.

The event drew a wide cross-section of dignitaries, including Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, government ministers, including Hon. Jamell Robinson – Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration; Hon. Arlington Musgrove – Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development; Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture; Hon. Shaun Malcolm –

Minister of Home Affairs; and a number of government backbenchers. The Wilson family, including the late patron's widow Sheba Wilson.

Musgrove, during his speech, reflected on Wilson's legacy and the urgent need for the new facility.

"We could not continue with trucks queuing along the road. This project was a must. Clinton Wilson gave his all to this institution, and it's only right that his name now stands above the doors of this new complex," Musgrove stated.

Taylor, in whose constituency the port falls, reminded the audience in jest that the Five Cays, South Dock and

Calk Sound Constituency is the most important electoral district in the country because it also encompasses the airport.

"This development means reduced wait times, more efficient shipping, and ultimately, lower costs for the people of Turks and Caicos. It's a win for our economy and our everyday lives," noted.

Chairman of the Board, Tueton Williams, praised the Ports Authority team and project leadership for delivering the complex on budget.

"This isn't just a new building. It's the flagship of a much bigger vision—a future-ready industrial hub that puts efficiency and service first. And above all, it honors a man who helped build this institution from the ground up," Williams said.

Project Manager Lynco Williams also shared his pride in the teamwork behind the facility, especially after only joining the Ports Authority team a year prior.

"This complex represents not just better operations, but a deeper commitment to growth and sustainability. And it honors someone who saw what was possible before many of us did," Williams pointed out.

The spotlight of the day was on Clinton Wilson, remembered by all as a nation builder, dedicated public servant, and visionary leader. His widow, Sheba Wilson, delivered an emotional tribute on behalf of the family.

"This is more than a building—it's a monument to excellence, integrity, and quiet leadership. For our youngest son, who never got to know his father, today offers a gift he'll carry forever. Now he can see his father's name, hear his story, and know what he stood for," Wilson said.

The tribute was followed by a moving musical performance by Wilson's daughter, Alyssa Wilson, whose voice brought many in the audience to tears.

Her Excellency Governor Selvaratnam emphasized the magnitude of what was achieved—not just the construction but maintaining full operations throughout.

"Delivering infrastructure of this scale while running day-to-day port operations is no small feat. You've laid a foundation for long-term prosperity and economic growth," Governor Selvaratnam said.

Director of Ports Dalton Jones also thanked the government, contractors, and staff for their tireless efforts throughout the project.

"This complex symbolizes our commitment to excellence in the maritime sector. It was Clinton Wilson who helped define the framework we work within today. We're simply building on the path he paved," Jones said.

Devastating Five Cays Fire Leaves Over 30 Homeless

By Vivian Tyson, Editor-in-Chief



A resident attempts to use a garden hose to put out the fire on a property, while flames and billowing smokes can be seen emanating from other structures in the background.

A massive fire that tore through a densely populated section of Five Cays on Wednesday, April 2, has left more than 30 people homeless and destroyed over two dozen wooden homes, authorities confirmed. The blaze broke out shortly after 2:45 PM behind Liz Bakery in Five Cays. According to police, upon arrival, officers were met with a wall of flames consuming several wooden structures and vehicles. Strong winds hindered

initial efforts to control the blaze, forcing the immediate evacuation of the surrounding area to prevent further danger to residents. Officials from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force said no injuries were reported, but the destruction was extensive. The fire was eventually brought under control with the coordinated efforts of police, fire services, and emergency management personnel.

The Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME) has activated emergency shelter services at the Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex in Providenciales. As of press time, 16 displaced individuals were being housed at the facility, while an additional seven male residents, also affected by the fire, were confirmed to be at work. The current shelter occupants include three adult males, 6 adult females, and seven children—4 girls aged 5, 11, 15, and 16, and three boys aged 1, 8, and 12. “We know that the number is much higher than what is being reported, because a lot of these people were illegal, and are afraid that if they should come forward, they would get deported,” a resident in the area said. Authorities note that this number may not represent the full scope of displacement. Sources told this publication that some residents have been reluctant to come forward for assistance due to their undocumented status in the Turks and Caicos Islands, opting instead to seek refuge with friends or relatives. The cause of the fire remains unknown, but residents in the area pointed to a potentially hazardous web of illegal electrical wiring that criss-crosses the informal settlement. While un-

confirmed, the makeshift connections are believed to pose a significant fire risk and may have been a contributing factor. “The investigation into the origin and cause of the fire is being treated with the highest urgency,” said Denyse Renne, spokesperson for the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force. “We are working in close partnership with the Fire Department to gather evidence, speak with witnesses, and assess all potential causes, including unsafe electrical practices,” Renne said in a news release. The disaster has reignited concerns about the lack of proper infrastructure, regulation, and safe housing in vulnerable areas like Five Cays, where many homes are constructed in dense fashion, which makes it difficult for first responders to navigate the areas. Community leaders and government agencies are urging residents to come forward if they need help, assuring them that assistance will be provided regardless of their legal status. Humanitarian efforts are expected to ramp up in the coming days as more displaced families are identified. Anyone with information about the fire or who wishes to assist those affected is encouraged to contact the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force or the Fire Department.



THE STRAND
TURKS & CAICOS

◆ Guest Service Expert/Host

Job Specification:

- Take food and drink orders from customers accurately and with a positive attitude.
- Write patrons' food orders on order slips, memorize orders, or enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff.
- Engage with customers in a friendly manner.
- Knowledge of the menu, with the ability to make suggestions.
- Ensure tables are enjoying their meals and take action to correct any problems.
- Collect payments from tables.
- Prepare checks that itemize and total meal costs and sales taxes.
- Help food preparation staff when necessary.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English.
- Must have 3-5 years experience as a Server.
- Must have good interpersonal skills.
- Must have experience working in busy restaurant environment.
- Must be able to stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$9.00 - \$11.00 per hour

Interested applicants for all positions listed on this ad, should also send a copy of your resume to the Labour Department located Downtown, Airport Road, Providenciales

◆ Restaurant Supervisor

Job Specification:

- Assist in the hiring and training of new employees as well as the continuous training of existing staff.
- Oversee both front and back of house operations, including wait staff, kitchen crew, and bussing staff.
- Maintain high-quality food standards.
- Oversee our kitchen staff's compliance with all health code and sanitation requirements.
- Provide exceptional customer service and lead staff to do the same.
- Respond to customer complaints quickly and resolve them effectively.
- Develop strategies for improving our customers' dining experience.
- Work with staff to project future needs for kitchen supplies, goods, and cleaning products.
- Maintain inventory of all needed supplies.
- Identify methods our restaurant can use to cut waste, decrease costs, and improve profits.
- Manage the work schedules of our restaurant's staff.

Job Requirements:

- Must have 2-3 years experience in related field.
- Must be able to move over sloping, uneven, or slippery surfaces. Reach overhead and below the knees, including bending, twisting, pulling, and stooping. Perform other reasonable job duties as requested.

Salary expectation - \$34,320- \$38,000 per annum

◆ Maintenance Technician

Job Specification:

- Inspecting machinery, equipment, buildings and systems, including heating, ventilation and air conditioning.
- Performing routine cleaning and sanitising, including specialist cleaning of delicate or high-value items such as entry systems, security equipment, lifts and escalators.
- Completing small repairs such as fixing locks, leaky taps and broken windows.
- Checking and maintaining safety equipment such as fire alarms, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors.
- Performing grounds maintenance such as mowing lawns, trimming bushes and replacing exterior light bulbs.
- Inspecting and troubleshooting problems and issues reported by clients or colleagues.
- Maintaining vehicles, tools and equipment required to perform the role effectively.
- Following a maintenance schedule to ensure that all routine tasks are completed.

Job Requirements:

- Must have 2-3 years working in the Maintenance or Mechanical departments.
- Must have a good experience in problem solving and fixing issues as required within the hotel environment, water waste, carpentry, mechanical issues, maintenance and fixtures.

Salary expectations - \$22,000 - \$35,000 per annum

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From Armed Robbery to Redemption: Wilkie Arthur's Journey from Prison to Purpose

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief



A man once known for his criminal past is now making headlines—not for breaking the law, but for breaking barriers, inspiring youth, and reshaping public opinion on second chances. From being charged with armed robbery and home invasion to now owning and operating Eagle Legal News, Wilkie Arthur's life has been anything but ordinary.

Arthur, who spent years cycling in and out of prison, has turned his life around in a way few would have predicted. Today, he runs an online news platform dedicated to especially crime/court reporting and legal commentary, and more importantly, he's become a beacon of hope for many—especially the younger generation. This week, during the Depart-

ment of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision's (DRCS) second annual High School Speech Competition at Beaches Resort, Wilkie's name came up more than once. At least two student speakers referenced Arthur's story as a powerful example of overcoming adversity. The competition's theme, "Turning Setbacks into Comebacks – The Power of a Second Chance," couldn't have been more fitting. The two students were Lauren Oné of Raymond Gardiner High School in North Caicos and Anavia Mantock of Helena Jones Robinson High School. Both students delivered impassioned speeches about how Arthur, after being released from prison, humbly worked a series of odd jobs before his deep legal knowledge caught the attention of Magnetic Media, who recruited him for court reporting. He eventually branched off and created his own platform—Eagle Legal News.

Arthur, who was covering the event for his platform, was taken aback with the level of research that both students put into their research, delivering his story with pin-point accuracy. "It really touched me," Arthur shared in a candid interview with reporters after the event. "Two schools spoke with a clear understanding of my story. Next month makes two years straight since I've been out of prison. I'm doing well, making the best of it—and seeing these children speak about me like that, it shows me I have to keep going. I have to keep doing right."

The man once known to law enforcement is now known to classrooms, courtrooms, and community events alike. His transformation has sparked admiration even from high-level officials who were present at the event—including the Chief Justice Mabel Agymang and a government ministers Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth Sport and Culture, and Minister of Public Service

and Utilities Hon. Otis Morris. "I love what Jaron Harvey (Director of the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision) and the DRCS team have done," Arthur said. "It's exactly what we need in Turks and Caicos. I hope they get more support to grow these kinds of programs because they work." Arthur's turnaround is not just emotional or symbolic—it's tangible. Through Eagle Legal News, he now provides consistent, detailed coverage of local court cases, crime and other matters. His reporting is widely read, even by some of the very institutions that once processed him through the justice system. When asked what finally made him change his life, Arthur was honest and raw.

"I couldn't do it anymore. I have a lovely daughter and a grandson I want to be there for. I didn't want to put them—or myself—through that life anymore. With the help of God, I've pushed forward, and I'll keep doing that until the day I die."

His recent birthday became a community-wide celebration, filled with unexpected love and support. Arthur says the public's response overwhelmed him.

"It frightened me. I had never seen anything like it in my 50 years. The love, the gifts, the encouragement—it showed me how far I've come. Turks and Caicos has some forgiving people. But you have to put yourself in the position to be forgiven. That's what I've done."

To those still behind bars at Her Majesty's Prison, Arthur offered some heartfelt advice:

"Don't wait until you're released to start your comeback. Begin from within. Focus on what got you there. Change your mindset. But above all, put God first. He's capable of turning your life around."

From felon to father, from prisoner to publisher, Wilkie Arthur is now rewriting his own story—and helping others realize they can, too.

The UN's broken mandate



The United Nations (UN) has long stood as a beacon of hope for global peace and security. Established in 1945 to prevent the recurrence of global conflict, the UN has since evolved into a multifaceted organisation that addresses myriad global issues.

Despite its most noble objectives, the UN has been faced with a lot of modern criticism, many of which stem from the UN's lack of interference in violent war between member states. Former Secretary General of the United Nations Kofi Annan, in his acceptance speech for the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo, Norway, December 10, 2001, said that, "More than ever before in human history we share a common destiny. We can master it only if we face it together. And that, my friends, is why we have the United Nations." This suggests that the UN as we know it since its inception has never been a perfect organisation.

However, when nations stand together as one for the advancement of humanity, the UN becomes indispensable. If we did not have a UN as we know it today, we would have to create one. Yet it is worthwhile to explore the obstacles to effective UN peacekeeping, the influence of recent conflicts on its role, and potential reforms that could enhance its ability to manage global crises.

To begin with, over the years, the UN has been faced with several challenges that have left many scholars and political commentators with the view that the UN needs to be reformed. According to the statute of the International Court of Justice and the Charter of the United Nations, article 1 sub-section 1-7, the UN is the organisation to maintain international peace and security, and to that end takes effective, collective measures for the prevention and removal of

threats to peace and the suppression of acts of aggression or other breaches of the peace and to bring about by peaceful means, and in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, adjustment or settlement of international disputes or situations which might lead to a breach of the peace.

The lack of political will of member states of the UN has long been one of the major issues that have been affecting peacekeeping efforts by the UN. In their book *Understanding Peacekeeping*, Alex Bellamy, Paul Williams, and Stuart Williams explained the critical analysis of modern peacekeeping operations. The authors explore the historical evolution of peacekeeping, addressing its political, operational, and ethical dimensions. They emphasise the complex challenges faced by UN missions, including the lack of political will from member states, financial constraints, and logistical difficulties.

As well as how limited resources and divergent political interests among contributing nations can undermine mission effectiveness, through case studies and theoretical insights, the authors highlight the need for realistic mandates, better coordination, and stronger international support. This shows that while the UN may carry out its role and functions, including its peacekeeping efforts, idealistically it emphasises a need for a more realistic way of dealing with member states who have to ensure their nation's best interests and foreign policy.

Financial constraints are a major challenge for the UN, as its reliance on member states' contributions often leads to budget shortfalls, affecting its ability to plan and execute missions effectively. It has been argued that the UN's dependency on a few major donors can

lead to undue influence over its agenda, compromising impartiality. This raises concerns about impartiality versus realpolitik, whereby major donor influence may affect sustainable peace. Others argue that UN missions must be tailored to each conflict, with appropriate authority and resources. While the UN can support peacebuilding and institution-building, it struggles to intervene in ongoing wars, especially when spoilers dominate. But even though it cannot act as an international police force, the UN can offer expertise in peacekeeping operations following enforcement missions by states or organisations like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). Those in the know emphasise that UN missions were most effective in the early post-war years and economic development is key to long-term peace, advocating for an expanded role in post-conflict development.

In addition, major recent conflicts between nations have shed light on modern discussions about the UN conflicts, such as the war in Gaza that looks at the UN's role in global peace and security. According to one study carried out at the Mohammed Boudiaf University/M'sila titled "The role of the United Nations in maintaining international peace and security: An analysis of the most important theoretical approaches".

The study mentioned that "the United Nations' fulfilment of its obligations relating to the maintenance of international peace and security requires it to take effective cooperative measures to prevent and remove threats to peace", it can also be noted that the UN Security Council (UNSC) is a system in deadlock, this suggests that the Veto powers that the USA, Russia, China, UK, and France has is often used as a weapon to prevent resolutions that can end modern wars, and this factor weakens the UNSC and the UN.

This can be resolved by increasing the number of permanent and non-permanent members and restricting the Veto powers for the UNSC in humanitarian issues. As seen in the recent war in Gaza, the UN often fails to limit the death rates of innocent civilians in wars. Overall, these led to a call for the UN to be reformed, with the point that a post-World War II UN does not reflect the geopolitical realities of the 21st century.

Moreover, the UN needs to im-

prove its ability to manage global crises. In recent times the UN has faced accusations of bias as it relates to the wars in Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine, particularly in the way in which it handles difficult conflicts, a more effective resolution is enforcing international law to benefit all member states and engage more with non-state actors.

We can also argue that the UN needs to strengthen the role of the General Assembly, welcome emerging economies like Brazil, India, and South Africa, and ensure that there is greater representation from regions — Latin America, Asia, and Africa — while restricting the veto powers in times of war between member states.

Furthermore, the UN faces critical challenges that question its relevance and capacity to uphold global peace and security. Structural limitations, political inertia, financial constraints, and Security Council deadlock, especially due to P5 veto powers, highlight the need for urgent reforms. The UN's struggles in addressing conflicts in Gaza, Sudan, and Ukraine reveal the inadequacy of its post-World War II framework.

Key reforms include expanding Security Council membership, limiting veto use in humanitarian crises, and enhancing engagement with non-state actors. Strengthening the General Assembly's role could also promote inclusivity. As Annan emphasised, unity and collaboration are essential. The UN must evolve to maintain its legitimacy and fulfil its mission of fostering peace, justice, and sustainable development.

Without reform it risks falling short of its mandate, leaving a gap in global governance that no other entity can fill.

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

Government Plans Assault on Child Delinquency

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

In a determined move to combat rising child and youth delinquency, Minister of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor says the Turks and Caicos Islands Government is taking bold steps to prevent young people—especially boys—from entering the criminal justice system.

Speaking to the media on Tuesday, April 1, following the 2025 National High School Speech Competition hosted by the Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision at Beaches Turks and Caicos, Minister Taylor called attention to



Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood (left) appears amused by something said by Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, during the National High School Speech Competition at Beaches Resort and Spa. Also in photo are Minister of Public Service and Utilities Hon. Otis Morris (third left) and Chief Justice Mabel Agymang.

the urgent need for intervention in the lives of at-risk youth and

stressed that education must play a central role in rehabilitation and prevention.

“We are facing serious challenges in our communities related to juvenile delinquency,” she said. “Our goal is to reach these children before the streets do. That means reviewing our policies, creating real opportunities, and putting support systems in place that lead young people toward productive futures.”

At the heart of this initiative is the Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) program, launched two years ago in partnership with institutions such as H.J. Robinson High School in Grand Turk, HEART Trust in Jamaica, and the Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) frame. She pointed the program aims to equip students and incarcerated individuals with practical, employable skills that can lead to entrepreneurship or workforce entry.

“We’ve been intentional in making sure this program is more than a classroom experience,” Taylor said. “Those who complete their certification automatically qualify for a small business grant through the MSME program, in partnership with Invest TCI. It’s a lifeline for those who may not have traditional job opportunities.”

Taylor revealed that 20 inmates recently completed Level 1 of the TVET program at the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College. They are now progressing to Level 2, with pathways

leading up to Level 4—equivalent to associate degrees and in some cases, a foundation for bachelor’s-level qualifications.

“Giving someone a second chance through education can change the course of their entire life,” Taylor emphasized. “We’re already seeing the transformation in those who were once written off.”

She noted that the Ministry is also working closely with the Department of Rehabilitation to review and enhance the alternative education policy—a key step in keeping troubled children in school and out of the justice system. Plans include early intervention programs, school-based counseling, mentorship, and stronger collaboration between schools and social services.

Taylor praised the students who participated in the competition, themed ‘Turning Setbacks into Comebacks: The Power of a Second Chance’, for their courage and insight.

“The quality of the presentations today was outstanding,” she said. “Our students helped remind us that everyone stumbles, but with support and opportunity, every setback can lead to a comeback.”

The Minister reaffirmed her Ministry’s commitment to fighting child delinquency through education, rehabilitation, and empowerment. An updated youth strategy, including expanded TVET access and targeted support programs, is expected to be unveiled later this year.

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Clement Howell's Reriana Nikes Is DRCS 2025 National High School Speech Champion



Reriana Knight (second left) of the Clement Howell High School is being presented with trophies and other gifts by Minister of Public Services and Utilities (under whose portfolio is the Department of Rehabilitation); and Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture.



Anique Archer of the Maranatha Academy accepts her prizes (from left) Hon. Otis Morris - Minister of Public Service and Utilities, Roma Stubbs of the Rotary Club Provo, and Hon. Rachel Taylor - Minister of Education, Youth Sports and Culture.



Damian Missick (second left) of the A. Louise Garland Thomas High collects his prizes (from left) Minister of Public Service and Utilities Hon. Otis Morris, Roma Stubbs of the Rotary Club Provo and Hon. Rachel Taylor - Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture.

With poise, passion, and a powerful delivery, Ririanda Nikes of Clement Howell High School has claimed the top title in the 2025 National High

School Speech Competition, impressing judges and audience members alike with her eloquence and authenticity. Representing the pride of the

Eagles, Ririanda captivated the room and earned every syllable of applause she received, arguing the theme: 'Turning Setbacks into Comebacks – The Power of a Second Change.'

"Honestly, first I'm going to go back to where it all started," she said moments after her victory. "I used to be so nervous and scared, and I didn't express much as I do now. It's such a beautiful thing for me to see how much I've improved—how great I can talk and express my emotions, and get the audience connected."

Her journey to the top wasn't without sacrifice. Ririanda shared that her preparation involved countless hours of practice after school, often staying until 4 p.m. or later to fine-tune her delivery with the help of her dedicated teacher. "I go home, I'm repetitively practicing, trying to make sure that I know it in my head so that I don't have to read off of a paper," she said. "I'm very thankful for my teacher who stayed with me after school to help me practice and gave me pointers... it really, really paid off today."

And it certainly did. Her performance had the audience "glued to every single syllable," according to event organizers, a quality that undoubt-

edly sealed her win.

Taking second place in the national contest was Anique Archer of Maranatha Academy, who also delivered a compelling and well-crafted speech that earned high praise from the judges. Damian Missick of A. Louise Garland Thomas High School secured third place, adding his own unique style and strength to the podium.

As for how she'll celebrate, Ririanda is most excited to bring the trophy home to her school.

"My principal already knows, so it's going to be so exciting to go to school and bring the trophy. On Monday, I'll go to devotions and everyone will hear that I won for our school," she said with a bright smile. "The celebration is just celebrating with my peers and my teachers."

This victory isn't her first brush with public speaking success. She recently walked away with the Best Speaker award at the national AIDS debate. When asked how many wins she's racked up so far, she laughed, "I'm not completely sure, but it's over five. I've been in a lot of debates and it's just been consistent growth from there." Though she's still exploring her future career path, one thing is certain—Ririanda Nikes is aiming high.

"I want to work in business... I just know that I'm going to do something that has a change for the world. I know I'll be something great."

When teased about how convincing she'd be as a lawyer—thanks to her commanding speech—she replied thoughtfully, "Law? I've thought about it. It's very difficult, so I'm not too sure... but there's nothing that's impossible for me to do." The Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision staged the competition in conjunction with the Rotary Club of Providenciales and Toastmasters International. The event was sponsored by Grace Bay Resorts, Business Solutions and FLOW.

Bight MP Hon. Audric Skippings Donates Cheque to Alma Mater, Ianthe Pratt Primary

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief



Member of Parliament for the Bight Hon. Audric Skippings (centre) donates a cheque to the Ianthe Pratt Primary School. Accepting the cheque on the school's behalf are Principal Nikeemo King (left) and Vice Principal Porsha Saunders.

The spirit of giving came full circle this week as Member of Parliament for ED6 (The Bight), Hon. Audric Skippings, returned to his roots at Ianthe Pratt Primary School (IPPS) to make a meaningful donation to

the institution that helped shape his path. Standing before students, staff, and community members, MP Skippings presented a cheque as part of his pledge to reinvest con-

stituency funds directly into the communities he represents—beginning with the very school where his journey began. “This school, my beloved Ianthe Pratt Primary, is where it all started,” said Skippings. “It molded me, encouraged me, and prepared me for a life in public service. To return here not just as a past student, but as the elected representative for this district, is truly humbling.” Describing the school as his “second home,” Skippings reflected on the values of discipline, resilience, and pride instilled in him during his formative years at IPPS. Those same values, he said, continue to guide him in his role as a servant of the people. The donation marks the first step in what Skippings described as a broader plan to uplift and invest in the schools, infrastructure, and community spaces across ED6. “Our children deserve safe, well-equipped, and inspiring spaces to learn and grow,” he said. “This con-

tribution is just the beginning.” Teachers and administrators at IPPS expressed gratitude for the support, noting the donation will go a long way toward improving learning conditions and resources at the school. “We’re proud to see one of our own return in this capacity,” said Principal [Insert Name]. “It’s inspiring for our students to see firsthand what can be achieved with hard work and community spirit.” The cheque donation was warmly received by students, who presented MP Skippings with a thank-you card and shared performances to mark the occasion. MP Skippings reaffirmed his dedication to ensuring the legacy of Ianthe Pratt Primary continues to thrive, pledging ongoing support for the school and the wider ED6 community. “I stand with you not just as an alumnus, but as a representative committed to your success,” he said.

ELISANN DELANCY APPOINTED DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION



I am deeply grateful to God for guiding my path as I continue working to advance education for all.

The Office of the Deputy Governor is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Elisann Delancy as the new Deputy Director of Education within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture.

Ms. Delancy began her career as a Graduate Teacher at the Marjorie Basden High School, where she quickly made a significant impact on her students and the community.

She progressed through various positions, including Assistant Curriculum Development Officer and Curriculum Development Officer. Throughout her career, she has played a pivotal role in shaping local and regional literacy and numeracy programs, serving as the Turks and Caicos Islands Focal Point for the CARICOM, CDB, and OECS LET’s REAP Initiative. Ms. Delancy holds: a Teacher’s Diploma (Honours) from Mico University College; a Bachelor of Education in Technical and Vocational Education from the University of Technology, Jamaica, and a Master of Education in Curriculum Development with Distinction from the University of the West Indies. Her award-winning research on the “Impact of Teacher Quality on Students Performance” in the Turks and Caicos Islands has garnered recognition and has been published, further demonstrating her expertise and dedication to the field of education. In addition to her academic credentials, Ms. Delancy has honed her leadership and management skills through various professional development opportunities, including Organisational Leadership from Harvard Business School and Contemporary Project Management from UWI Cave Hill. She is also a Level 4 Caribbean Vocational Qualifications Assessor and an active member of the Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (ASCD). Currently, she

is pursuing Public Financial Management qualifications through ACCA, London, to enhance her knowledge in this critical area. Commenting on her appointment, Ms. Delancy stated, “The responsibility of leadership comes with great expectations, and I embrace this calling with gratitude and humility. Luke 12:48 states, “From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked. “I am deeply grateful to God for guiding my path as I continue working to advance education for all. I did not stumble into the path of Educating; I chose this path because I recognised its power as the greatest equaliser, a force that can break cycles of disadvantage and create opportunities for all. The work ahead remains critical, and I am fully committed to working with the new Director of Education and our team at the Department of Education to build a progressive and responsive education system.” Meanwhile, Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service H. E. Anya Williams congratulated Ms. Delancy on her new appointment, stating, “We are thrilled to have Ms. Delancy stepping into this vital position. Her passion for education, proven leadership skills, and commitment to developing our youth will undoubtedly propel our educational system forward. We look forward to the positive impact she will have in this role.”

Adventist Youth in TCI Champion Change on Global Youth Day

Contributed by Jodian Scott-Banton



HOPE (Helping Other People Excel) Sign Language Ministry adds a creative element of praise



We stand against violence as we raise the Banner of Prince Emmanuel for peace



Youth in the country's capital - Grand Turk, distributed care packages



The Pathfinders bear the Adventist and National Flag



This message of love was championed by all ages - Kindness Conquers All

Adventist youth from around the world united in a powerful movement of service and transfor-

ma- tion as they took part in this year's Global Youth Day, themed "A Community Trans-formed." Orga-

nized by the Seventh-day Adventist Church, this annual initiative empowers young people to make a meaningful impact in their communities through acts of kindness and service. Since its launch in 2013, Global Youth Day has served as a catalyst for change, reinforcing the principles of salvation, discipleship, and mission through hands-on outreach efforts. This year, the emphasis remained on practical and sustainable projects, equipping youth to address pressing local needs while fostering long-term positive change.

In the Turks and Caicos Islands, young Adventists engaged in a variety of outreach activities, including



The Seventh-day Adventist brass band leads the march.



The Blue Hills SDA contingent proudly displays this year's theme, Transformed Lives Transformed Communities



A contingent from the Ephesus Seventh-day Adventist Church along with Youth Director of the TCIC (centre) Elder Jermaine Reid

food basket distribution, blood donation, care package distributions, prayer walks, and street evangelism. Their mission of service was

inspired by Matthew 5:16, which states, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father

which is in heaven."

The day culminated in a grand motorcade and march against violence, where over 50 vehicles

and more than 200 young people took to the streets, bearing banners and slogans promoting peace and standing against drugs, gun violence, and crime. The youth distributed approximately 900 pieces of literature, spreading messages of hope and transformation.

The event concluded at the Kew Town Farmer's Market, where a time of praise, prayer, and reflection took place. Pastor Steve Cornwall, President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Conference (TCIC) of Seventh-day Adventists, delivered a stirring charge, encouraging young people to continue their commitment to service.

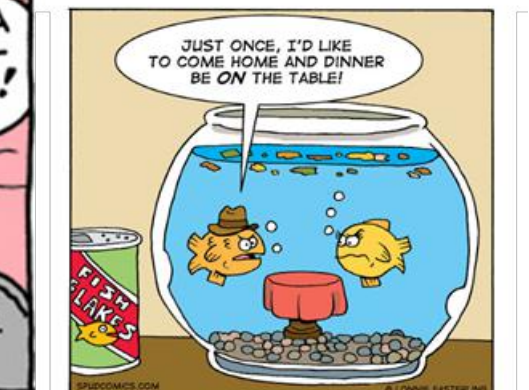
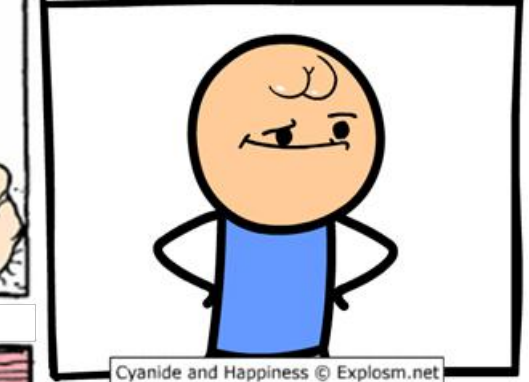
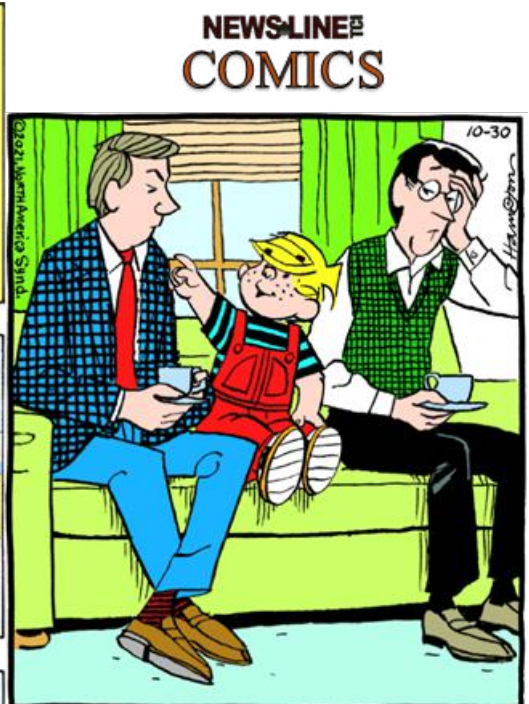
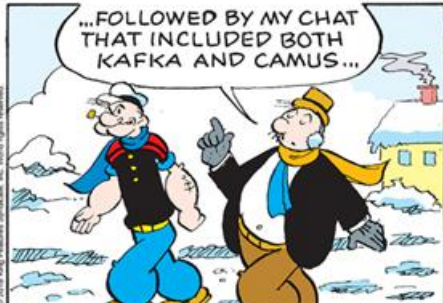
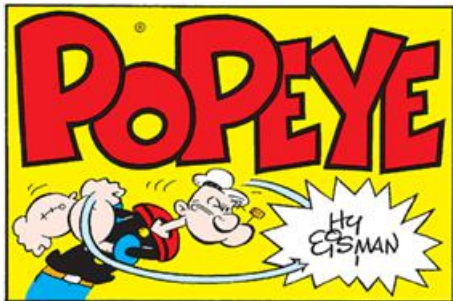
Youth Director of the TCIC, Jermaine Reid expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support, saying: "This year's Global Youth Day was a testament to the power of youth in ministry. We saw the hands and feet of Jesus in action as young people selflessly served their communities. As Ro-mans 12:11 reminds us, 'Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord.' We believe that the seeds planted today will lead to a truly transformed community."

The Adventist youth of TCI extend heartfelt thanks to the Royal Turks and Caicos Police Force for their support in guiding the procession, as well as Sunny Foods for their generous donation of water. Special appreciation also goes to the Social Development team, the health and community services ministries, and all church members and volunteers who made the event a success.

As the youth of TCI move forward, they remain committed to being agents of change, embracing the mission of Global Youth Day not just as an event but as a lifestyle.



Adventist Youth gathered at the Kew Town Farmer's Market





The Conch Bar Caves are one of the largest cave systems in the Caribbean, they are located on the island of Middle Caicos and house four different species of bats. The cave system is named after the village of Conch Bar nearby. Moreover the cave also boasts the skeletal remains of several extinct animals from birds to tortoise.

The cave system is considered mid-sized on a global scale, and is a live cave system. Conch Bar Caves has many of the common cave features found in caves in other regions, including stalactites, stalagmites and columns, along with pools that fluctuate with the ocean tide.

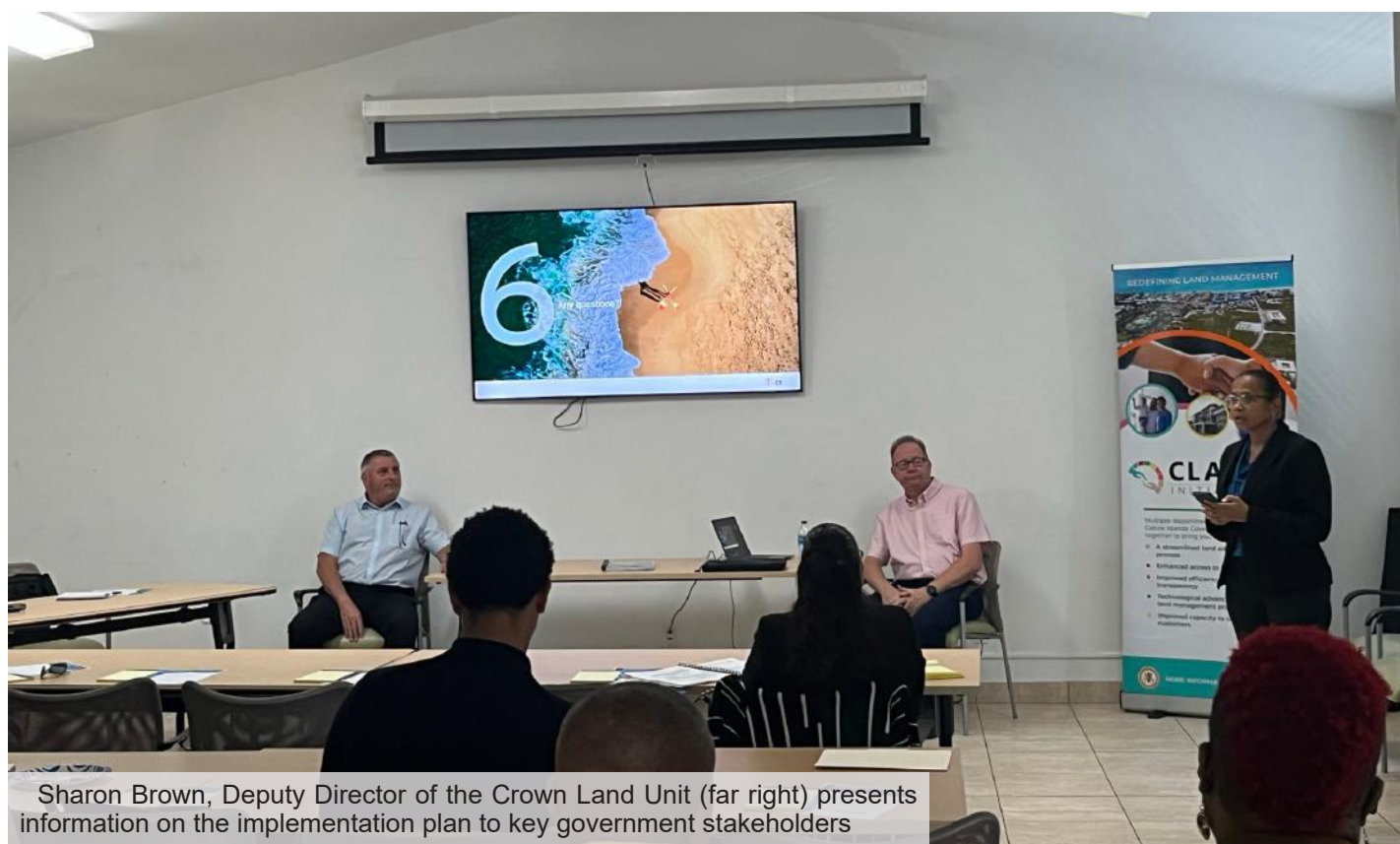
The cave's recorded history started when guano (bat manure) mining began in the 1880s. Guano was in great demand at the time as a fertilizer, and the guano from Conch Bar Caves was exported from the Turks and Caicos. During these initial diggings, skeletal remains of animals and Lucayan Indian artifacts were found, but unfortunately, these findings weren't preserved. Recent archeological excavations at the nearby Indian Cave site uncovered skeletons of extinct animals, including a giant iguana, a tortoise unique to the Turks and Caicos, and owls, hawks and other birds, so the discoveries in Conch Bar Cave were probably much of the same. Carved and painted names and dates from the guano mining period can still be seen in the cave today.

The system spans more than 1.5 miles of underground caverns.

TCI Crown Land Unit Introduces Plan for Improved Crown Land Management



(l to r) EY consultants Andrew Gale and Jon Llewellyn present the implementation plan to key government stakeholders.



Sharon Brown, Deputy Director of the Crown Land Unit (far right) presents information on the implementation plan to key government stakeholders

The Turks and Caicos Islands Crown Land Unit (CLU) hosted a pivotal presentation on March 20, 2025, to key government stakeholders outlining the implementation plan for the upcoming Crown Land Access Support Programme (CLASP). This event marks a significant step toward reforming and enhancing Crown Land management in the Turks and Caicos Islands, reaffirming the government's commitment to improving land accessibility and administration.

The meeting brought together representatives from the National Land Secretariat, including the Crown Land Unit, Survey and

Mapping Department, Valuation Department, and Land Registry, alongside officials from the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Housing Department, and Attorney General's Chambers.

Tatum Clerveaux, Commissioner of Lands, expressed her enthusiasm for the initiative, emphasizing its transformative impact.

"This is a significant milestone, marking the administrative launch of something transformative for the management of Crown Land in the Turks and Caicos Islands," she stated. "As we utilize the CLASP Initiative to reform and enhance the

systems currently in place, our implementation plan provides us with an outline which identifies the key steps we will take to achieve these vital changes. With a strong focus on timelines, resource allocation, and seamless coordination among stakeholders, we will successfully redefine land management for a more sustainable, transparent, and efficient future."

Background on the CLASP Initiative: In 2022, the Cooper-Gardiner Report, which provided a comprehensive assessment of Crown Land policies, processes, resourcing, and legislation, was submitted to the Turks and Caicos Islands Gov-

ernment (TCIG). This review was led by two independent consultants:

- Professor S. A. A. Cooper, PhD, nominated by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
- Mr. R. D. Gardiner, Attorney at Law, Notary Public, and Justice of the Peace, nominated by the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Their extensive study resulted in 146 recommendations aimed at improving Crown Land administration and governance. Recognizing the importance of implementing these recommendations effectively, the Crown Land Unit engaged EY Consultants of Jamaica to support with the creation of the CLASP Initiative.

The Role of CLASP in Crown Land Reform: The Crown Land Access Support Programme has been developed as a structured approach to implementing the recommendations that come directly from Cooper-Gardiner Report.

The programme is designed to ensure effective, transparent, and sustainable Crown Land management, benefiting both the government and the public.

Through CLASP, the Crown Land Unit will improve land management in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) a number of ways, including:

- Streamlining the land administration processes
- Enhancing access to land resources
- Improving efficiency and transparency
- Implementing technological advancements in land management practices
- Increasing capacity to offer better support to customers By setting clear objectives and workstreams, CLASP will transform policy recommendations into tangible improvements.

Next Steps: This presentation is just one of the first steps in a long-term commitment by the TCIG to enhancing transparency, efficiency, and accessibility in Crown Land management.

Once the Initiative is fully rolled out, key stakeholders will work collaboratively to ensure the success of CLASP projects, ensuring that land resources are effectively managed, equitably distributed, and sustainably developed for future generations.

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.



ALL SAINTS MISSION CHURCH

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.

Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581	Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240	Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624
Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030	Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438	Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349
One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.	Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136	Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349
Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731	Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073	Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565
Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755	New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631	Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181
Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289	Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352	St. Monica's Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499
Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118	Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867	Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales
Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854	House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309	United Pentecostal Church, Brown's Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852
Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866	Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727	Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596
Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212	Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205	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
Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc	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	

Highlights of the DRCS National High Speech Competition

The Department of Rehabilitation and Community Supervision (DRCS) hosted the 2025 renewal of the National High School Speech Competition on April 1, at the Beaches Resort and Spa in Providenciales. All the speakers wowed the audience with their well-researched material. Reriana Nikes of the Clement Howell High School was adjudged the winner. The following are highlights of the event.





Hydroponic Farm Opens at ALGHS

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Minister of Education, Youth Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor (in orange top) is presented with freshly harvested lettuce from the A. Louise Garland Thomas High School Hydroponics Farm, by members of that School's Cadet Corps. Looking on are other Ministry officials, officials from the Agriculture Department and other stakeholders.

the hydroponic garden ties into the Ministry's broader "Greening in Schools" initiative and encouraged cadets to take pride and responsibility in maintaining it.

The project was made possible through cross-sector collaboration. The Department of Agriculture, under the Ministry of Tourism, funded the majority of the build-out, with materials provided by community partners like Do-It Center and skilled volunteers such as electrician Frank Penn, who offered his services free of charge.

"This is for the kids," said Penn. "The only payment I wanted was a thank you—and seeing this completed is thanks enough."

A Vision for the Future

The hydroponic farm is more than a science project—it's a working model for national resilience and sustainability. According to Kissoonsingh, the long-term goal includes selling the produce to ho-



Mario Smith (left), Extension Officer at the Department of Agriculture explains to Minister Hon. Rachel Taylor the intricacies of the hydroponic farm.

The A. Louise Garland Thomas High School in Long Bay has broken new ground in agricultural innovation, unveiling the first-ever hydroponic farm on a school compound.

Already yielding fresh lettuce and soon to produce tomatoes, the farm marks a major leap forward in the nation's food security and youth development efforts.

The hydroponic project, officially launched during a ceremony on Saturday, March 22, brings together government officials, educators, and community partners, in a bold initiative to promote sustainable farming, environmental education, and entrepreneurship among youth.

Hydroponics, a soil-free method of growing plants using water and nutrients, offers a high-yield, eco-friendly alternative to traditional farming—particularly

crucial for an island nation with limited arable land. The system installed at the school uses fixed hydro setups and circulating nutrient solutions carefully tested and maintained by trained cadets.

A total of 60 cadets from A. Louise Garland Thomas High School took part in the venture, receiving hands-on training in everything from greenhouse construction and nutrient testing to business planning and crop management. Wilhelmina Kissoonsingh of the Department of Agriculture highlighted the educational impact.

"Cadets were trained in every aspect—from constructing the greenhouse to understanding plant nutrition," she said. "They gained firsthand knowledge of how hydroponic systems work, and how to manage them for different crops."

The training equips students with



valuable agricultural and business knowledge. Cadets not only manage crop growth but also track inventory, learn financial literacy, and prepare to bring produce to local markets—creating pathways into both farming and business careers.

Government and Community Support

Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, praised the initiative during the unveiling exercise.

"This is an incredible opportunity for our young people to learn new techniques in sustainable farming," Taylor noted. "With everything in the supermarket being so expensive, imagine being able to grow fresh produce right at the back of your school—this is backyard farming, on a new level."

Minister Taylor emphasized that

tels and grocery stores, generating up to \$10,000 USD per week with little to no pesticide use.

"We're investing in our youth and our future," Kissoonsingh added. "This initiative addresses food security, crime prevention, and economic independence all in one."

Lorenzo Chariandy, who helped broker the opportunity for the cadets, called it "a holistic development initiative," teaching not just agriculture but life skills. "This isn't just about lettuce," he said. "It's about leadership, responsibility, and hope."

With environmental science set to be introduced in primary schools soon, Minister Taylor noted that this initiative gives A. Louise Garland Thomas High School students a head start. The school is now well on its way to earning a "green flag" under the national program.



OPEN JOB OPENINGS

A&G Department:

• Director of Owners Relations

To improve and cultivate relationships with the owners of South Bank in the area of property management, operating models & efficiencies, integration with resort, residential standards, operational policy and procedures and enhancing homeowner experiences. This role also oversees all maintenance and repairs to the owner's property grounds and villa and coordinates events and functions that the owners wish to host with the resort for execution. The Director of Owner Relations will also responsible for managing estates' budgets and accounts so that an accurate report can be relayed to the owners.

Job Specification

- Technically savvy and familiar with Guest Services operating/budgeting systems and spreadsheets.
- Basic Accounting skills/ experience is preferred.
- Ability to identify and solve problems.
- Professional & appropriate business appearance and demeanor.
- Excellent English verbal and written communication skills.
- Flexibility to meet the demands of a 24-hour operation

Requirements

- A post-secondary diploma or degree in a field of study related to this profession, Hospitality or Project Management.
- 5 years of experience in a comparable position and/or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Minimum 3 years' experience in a management/ leadership role.
- Experience in working in a 5-star resort.
- Experience successfully leading in a fast-paced environment and prioritizing demands.

Reports: General Manager

Salary: \$84,000.00- per annum

Food and Beverage Department:

- Director of Food and Beverage
- Bartender
- Server

Job Description

Provides functional assistance and direction to the Food and Beverage operation, Pool and Beach operation and interacts with resort members and individuals outside the Resort including, but not limited to suppliers, competitors and other members of the local community. Responsible for coordinating functions and activities with department heads as appropriate. The Director of Food & Beverage will be responsible for the operations of Food & Beverage, Pool and Beach Department and special events/ functions, as well as the VIP facilities behind the scenes management.

Job Specification

- Planning and Organizing - To plan all operational procedures, to plan and organize all recruitment, grow revenue of the F&B Department and Pool and Beach Department and to improve service and quality.
- To coordinate with the heads of P&B and F&B departments to ensure adequate coordination and operations implementation
- Implement departmental strategies and action plans in accordance with the resort's strategic and sales plans
- To plan the yearly revenue target
- To plan and get the desired cost price for products sold by the resort
- To plan on upgrading the standards within the Resort
- To liaise with the sales & marketing manager to set the strategy for the F&B department

- At least 5 years of experience in a management role, preferably within a well-reputed 5-star exclusive resort/ luxury country-club
- Strong command of the operations of restaurants and accommodations facilities
- Good understanding of procurement functions, pricing strategies as well as sales & marketing methods

Salary: \$102,000.00- per annum

Pool and Beach Department:

• Pool and Beach Manager

The Pool & Beach Manager directs and organizes the activities of the Pool & Beach departments to maintain the high standards of the service offered

Job Specification:

- Planning and Organizing - To plan all operational procedures, to plan and organize all recruitment of the Pool & Beach areas to improve service and quality.
- Manage and oversee Pool & Beach Supervisors and Attendants
- Ensure that all equipment and tools are available and to give the guests the best vacation possible
- Must be detailed oriented with an ability to handle multiple priorities
- Ensure guest satisfaction within the Pool & Beach department

Reports: Director of Food & Beverage

Salary: \$54,000.00- per annum

Kitchen Department

- Executive Chef
- Executive Sous Chef

The Executive Chef is responsible for all culinary activities for the Resort. This position will oversee all activity in the kitchen, train personnel, plan menus, oversee product purchasing and manage culinary budget. The Executive Chef needs to be able to assist the Group Director of Food & Beverage in required projects.

Job Specification:

- Participate in the production of all pastry items.
- Create centerpieces in a timely manner, utilizing chocolate, pastille, sugar, and dead dough.
- Plate desserts.
- Ensure that all ingredients, supplies, and equipment are properly stored.
- Maintain production records.

Qualifications:

- Minimum 3 years of hands-on pastry shop experience in a fast-paced, hotel environment.
- Excellent communication skills.
- Ability to convert formulas and follow production lists.
- Strong time management skills and ability to work effectively in a fast-paced environment.
- Ability to lift and move materials of various weights and sizes.

Reports: General Manager

Salary: \$104,000 per annum

<p>Kitchen Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Chef de Partie • Chef de Partie • Sushi Chef • Wok Chef • Cook <p>Job Specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare all types of sushi, including maki, nigiri and sashimi; • Prepare appetizers, soups and salads that are close to the philosophy of Japanese cuisine; • Add additional flavors to sushi rolls with ginger, rice vinegar, wasabi and soy sauce, when appropriate. • Must be knowledgeable with handling the Wok. <p>Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have at least 3 to 5 years’ experience with making sushi and Wok skills • Must be experienced in Asian cuisine, particularly in Wok skills <p>Reports: Sous Chef Salary: \$24,000 – \$27,600- per annum</p> <p>Rooms Division Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Rooms <p>The Director of Rooms is responsible for overseeing the Guest Services, Personal Concierge, Housekeeping and Laundry Departments. This role also includes developing and implementing strategies to increase revenue and profitability to ensure a high level of efficiency and satisfaction for guests and team members.</p> <p>Job Specification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding market dynamics, enterprise level objectives and important aspects of the company’s business to accurately diagnose strengths and weaknesses, anticipate opportunities and risks, identify issues, and develop strategies and plans. Aligning individual and team actions with strategies and plans to drive business results. • Obtaining and seeing to the appropriate use of equipment, facilities, and materials needed to do certain work. • Works with Resort’s leadership team to determine areas of concern and develops strategies to improve the departments’ financial performance. • Establishes challenging, realistic and obtainable goals to guide Rooms Division operation and performance. • Strives to improve service performance • Develops and manages Resort budgets. • Focuses on maintaining profit margins without compromising guest or employee satisfaction • Ensures that the individual departments are focused on daily labour, expense and revenue management • Analyses and assesses each department’s capital needs in order to prepare the Rooms Division’s capital requests in to ensure that divisional needs are met <p>Requirement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A post-secondary diploma or degree in a field of study related to this profession; 5 years of experience in a comparable position and/or an equivalent combination of education and experience. • Detailed hotel Rooms Division operating knowledge; demonstrated strong leadership and strategic planning skills; and proven achievements in optimizing guest and team member engagement and financial performance. • Experience successfully leading in a fast-paced environment and prioritizing demands. • Strong interpersonal, team member relations and leadership abilities. • Well versed in hotel Rooms Division financial aspects <p>Reports: General Manager Salary: \$102,000 per annum</p> <p>Guest Service Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guest Services Director <p>The Director of Guest Services will have accountability to ensure performance, guest satisfaction, continual review and improvement of processes related to the Guest Services, Concierge, Loss Prevention, Valet and Call Center oversight. They would be responsible for providing strategic leadership and direction to</p>	<p>ensure the Guest Services department drives guest and team member engagement, achieves operational and financial excellence and upholds brand standards.</p> <p>Job Specification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding market dynamics, enterprise level objectives and important aspects of the company’s business to accurately diagnose strengths and weaknesses, anticipate opportunities and risks, identify issues, and develop strategies and plans. Aligning individual and team actions with strategies and plans to drive business results. • Obtaining and seeing to the appropriate use of equipment, facilities, and materials needed to do certain work. • Works with Resort’s leadership team to determine areas of concern and develops strategies to improve the departments’ financial performance. • Establishes challenging, realistic and obtainable goals to guide the Guest Services Department’s operation and performance. <p>Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A post-secondary diploma or degree in a field of study related to this profession; 5 years of experience in a comparable position and/or an equivalent combination of education and experience. • Detailed hotel Guest Services operating knowledge; demonstrated strong leadership and strategic planning skills; and proven achievements in optimizing guest and team member engagement and financial performance. • Experience successfully leading in a fast-paced environment and prioritizing demands. • Strong interpersonal, team member relations and leadership abilities. • Well versed in hotel Guest Services financial aspects <p>• Reservation Manager</p> <p>Reservations Manager will be responsible of aligning goals and strategies to increase conversion rates and drive ancillary revenue following the guidelines and training in line with Grace Bay Resorts brand standards that ensure delivering a superior guest experience. They will support the remote Leisure and Group Sales team with availability inquiries and leads. They will set the standards for reservations & pre-arrivals and resolve guest issues and complaints and will build reports, manage guest profiles and work closely with Director of Reservations, Grace Bay Resorts and Vice President of Sales and Marketing to manage inventory, rates and promotions that ensure resort revenue budgets are met monthly.</p> <p>Job Specification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be trained on all Grace Bay Resorts properties in order to cross sell as needed including Grace Bay Club, Point Grace, West Bay Club, Rock House and Private Villa Collection • Maintain efficient sales office procedures and ensures the maintenance of accurate and updated account files and follow-up procedures • Maintain all sales systems, such as sales records and reports, conference calendar, travel calendar and database and any other systems that are in place or are added • Assist in designing new sales promotions and campaigns to drive additional sales from various markets • Identify and analyze competition in both local and regional markets • Periodic international travel as may be required <p>Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong established relationship with key partners: Virtuoso, Signature, Ensemble, Leading Hotels of The World, and American Express Fine Hotels & Resorts • Working knowledge of Synxis and Opera is required and interfaces • Proficient in setting room rate structures within GDS and PMS • Third party extranet partner sites experience • Previous working knowledge of Preferred Hotels & Resorts extranet site <p>Reports: Director of Rooms Salary: \$37,941 per annum</p>
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- Spa Supervisor
- Spa Therapist

Job Specification:

- Asking questions to uncover clients' preferences and identify any medical concerns or allergies
- Explaining the steps of therapies and answering questions before, during and after services
- Administering therapies, such as massages and facials
- Notating client records with services performed and any important reminders for future services
- Thoroughly cleaning equipment and changing sheets before each appointment
- Updating inventory when removing supplies from storage
- Handling client complaints and reporting injuries or illnesses to management
- Recommending additional products and services that may benefit the client.

Reports: Guest Service Director
Salary: \$18,304 per annum

- Head Butler
- Junior Butler

Job Specification:

- Meet guests when they arrive and getting them settled in their rooms
- Anticipate guests' needs by learning their preferences, allergies, dislikes, etc.
- Have a thorough understanding of all spirits and specialty foods in stock
- Assess and restock wine and spirit collections as necessary
- Serve meals and pour drinks for guests
- Communicate with housekeeping to ensure rooms are cleaned at the most convenient time for guests
- Run errands for guests when necessary
- Ensure guests' rooms are clean and tidy up when necessary

Qualifications:

- Experience as a Butler or similar role in the hospitality industry
- Strong multi-tasking skills
- Excellent organizational skills

Reports: Director of Guest Services
Salary: \$45,000 per annum

Housekeeping Department:

- Executive Housekeeper
- Room Stylist Attendants (room, public area, laundry Attendants)
- Houseman
- Housekeeper

Job Specification:

- Reports to work on time, with a clean uniform, neatly groomed and in accordance with company guidelines.
- Follows hotel grooming and position dress standards, including name tag and proper shoes.
- Proceeds to Housekeeping Office immediately and follows procedures for signing/clocking in.
- Following department guidelines, collects assignment worksheets and keys as required. Take careful note of special requests including, early make ups, checkouts and arrival, late departure and arrivals.
- Take due note of announcements on Notice Board and actively seek out information relevant to daily departmental and hotel operations.
- Attend pre-shift briefings as directed.
- Remove cart, equipment and work supplies from storage area.
- Inventory all supplies on cart before proceeding to work station. Report discrepancies to Supervisor or Section leader immediately.
- Daily management for all engineering operations including building and plant maintenance and protection, maintenance of guest rooms, public spaces and energy conservation.
- Long term asset protection and effective Capex management

Reports: General Manager
Salary: \$120,000 per annum

Qualifications:

- High School diploma is a must but an Associate's degree in Hospitality, Tourism or Business Administration is preferred
- Experience working at luxury hotel standards
- Good organizational and time management skills with the ability to work under pressure and to multiple deadlines.
- Ability to work independently as well as on a team
- Ability to read and write English proficiently and perform basic arithmetic
- Must possess and demonstrate excellent time management skills and ability to manage resources and prioritize and organize work efficiently and effectively.
- Possess and demonstrate a keen eye for details
- Must be an extremely honest person with high levels of integrity

Reports: Director of Rooms
Salary: \$64,304 per annum

Engineering Department:

- Director of Engineering
- Assistant Director of Engineering
- Engineering Supervisor
- Technician

The general purpose of the Director of Engineering is managing the mixed use of the Resort's Engineering Department, including all related activities including participation in executive committee meetings; hire and maintain an effective work force appropriate for upscale private villas; establish and maintain preventative maintenance programs for all equipment, systems, guestrooms and public areas/ general maintenance; participate in effective safety programs; coordinate and implement capital improvement projects; establish, maintain and manage department budgets and monthly forecasts protecting the Resort and the Owners from losses, claims, and liabilities. Responsible for all aspects of the Engineering Department, including but not limited to, maintaining all facilities, equipment, furniture, fixtures, systems and landscaping at the highest quality standards.

Job Specification:

- Hire, train and direct all department personnel
- Provide timely performance appraisals
- Conducts walk-through and visually assesses the safe and efficient maintenance and operation of the physical structures of the Resort, all mechanical, electrical, HVAC systems, vehicles and any other related equipment.
- Manage adequate inventory of parts, supplies, tools and material for the department
- Enforce Hotel / Resort and Company policies and procedures
- Must be able to respond to emergency situations, such as fire alarms, and other life-safety situations
- Maintain files per department guidelines. Schedule and conduct monthly department meetings.
- Maintain a working knowledge of all local laws, codes, and regulations.
- Assure proper certification of all employee mechanics and technicians, as required.
- Solicit and administer all sub-contract work.
- Analyze bids and verify quantities, as appropriate.
- Negotiate, prepare, and administer agreements and contracts with consultants and contractors.
- Liaise with governmental agencies and manage the procurement and compliance with entitlements, permits, inspections, notices, and other requirements.
- Produce annual operating budget for payroll, expenses, utilities, and capital improvements.
- Operate all areas within budgeted guidelines.

Qualifications:

- BS and/ or MS Degree in Engineering/ equivalent and related field required
- Work experience as a director of engineering or in a similar senior-level position at an engineering department
- Proven experience in a similar medium to large hotel environment
- Experience in listed buildings and luxury hotel standards

These positions are currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2.

Interested qualified candidates may submit their resume by April 15, 2025 2024 to Director of Human Resources South Bank, Long Bay Marina.
Email address: stbhr@gracebayresorts.com

Gut health: Heal-nourish-energise



YOUR GUT is your gastrointestinal system and includes your stomach, intestines and colon. It digests and absorbs nutrients from food and excretes waste.

About 200 different species of bacteria, viruses and fungi live in your large intestine. The bacteria and other microorganisms in your gut are known as your gut microbiome. The bacteria help to break down food, turning it into nutrients your body can use.

Certain types of bacteria in your gut may contribute to some diseases. Some microorganisms are harmful to our health, but many are beneficial and necessary for a healthy body. We are learning that the variety of bacteria in your gut is an important indicator of the health of your microbiome. The health of your gut can impact both your physical and mental health.

According to Dr Rivane Chybar-Virgo, medical doctor and health and wellness coach, many factors, including the foods you eat, can impact the type of bacteria found in your digestive tract. What we eat can have short-term and long-term effects on our gut microbiome environment.

"Gut health plays an essential role when it comes to digestion and nutrient absorption or waste elimination, which is the common thing. When we think about digestive system or digestive health overall, we think about mainly digesting food, absorbing nutrients and eliminating waste. But our gut health actually goes beyond just digestion. It communicates directly with our brain, sending signals that influences our mood or alertness or behaviour," Dr Chybar-Virgo said.

Your gut is the foundation of every-

thing. It aids in the digestion of the foods you eat, and absorbs nutrients, which it uses to fuel and maintain your body. So, if your gut is imbalanced and your immune system is not working properly, your serotonin and hormones will not work either, making it more challenging to stay healthy. Your gut is also where your body gets rid of metabolic waste and toxins.

"If you have an unhealthy gut, your body will struggle to rid itself of those toxins. If this occurs, it can cause many issues, including chronic fatigue, chronic illnesses and inflammation throughout the body. That is why people experience symptoms such as brain fog, diarrhoea, constipation, gas, and joint pain, etc. You may not realise it, but the brain is the second gut; therefore, if your gut is not working, your brain is struggling too," Dr Chybar-Virgo said.

When we consume food, our bodies break it down into macronutrients, proteins, fats, and carbohydrates that are essential for energy production. A well-functioning digestive system ensures that these nutrients are absorbed efficiently. If our gut health is compromised, it can lead to malabsorption, meaning our bodies do not receive the energy they need. This can result in feelings of fatigue and lethargy.

Knowing the signs that poor digestion may affect your energy can help you take steps to improve it. Here are some common indicators:

• DIGESTIVE DISCOMFORT:

Experiencing symptoms like bloating, gas, or irregular bowel movements can signal that your digestive system is not functioning optimally. These issues can hinder nutrient absorption, leading to fatigue.

• FOOD SENSITIVITIES:

If you notice that certain foods trigger discomfort or fatigue, it might indicate an underlying digestive issue. Common culprits include gluten, dairy, and high-fructose foods. They can cause inflammation and energy depletion.

• CHRONIC FATIGUE:

If you feel tired despite getting enough sleep, your digestion might be to blame. Conditions like irritable bowel syndrome (IBS) and leaky gut syndrome can disrupt nutrient absorption and lead to chronic fatigue.

FACTORS THAT COMPROMISE DIGESTIVE HEALTH:

Lifestyle and dietary habits play a significant role in gut health and energy levels. By identifying and addressing these factors, you can take meaningful steps to improve both your digestion and overall vitality.

• POOR DIET CHOICES:

A diet high in processed foods, sugars, and unhealthy fats can disrupt the balance of beneficial gut bacteria. Instead, focusing on whole foods rich in fibre, such as fruits, vegetables, and whole grains, can promote a healthier gut microbiome.

• STRESS AND MENTAL HEALTH:

Stress can wreak havoc on our digestive system. When we experience stress, our bodies release hormones that can alter gut function and lead to inflammation. Finding effective stress management techniques, such as mindfulness or yoga, can help support digestive health.

• LACK OF PHYSICAL ACTIVITY:

Regular exercise plays a vital role in maintaining digestive health. It can boost gut motility, help prevent constipation, and promote a healthy microbiome. Aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise each week.

What every woman should know about ureaplasma infections

Dr Ryan Halsall



MAINTAINING vaginal health is a delicate balance, and some conditions like ureaplasma infections can leave many women feeling confused or concerned.

What exactly is ureaplasma, and should you be worried about it? Here's what every Jamaican woman should know.

Ureaplasma is a tiny bacterium that's commonly found in the reproductive systems of many healthy women. It's considered a commensal organism, meaning it naturally exists in the body without causing harm. However, in some cases, it can shift from being harmless to a potential cause of discomfort or complications.

It's what we call a pathogen of uncertain potential, meaning sometimes it causes no symptoms, while other times it's linked to conditions like pelvic pain, abnormal discharge, or complications in pregnancy.

When does ureaplasma become a problem?

Not everyone with ureaplasma will develop symptoms or need treatment. But there are situations where this bacterium might become problematic, such as:

- During pregnancy, where it may be associated with pre-term labour.
- In individuals with weakened im-

mune systems.

- When there's an imbalance in vaginal bacteria.

Think of ureaplasma like ackee — it's harmless and even beneficial when handled properly, but under the wrong conditions, it can cause trouble.

Treatment options and cultural insights

In Jamaica, women often turn to traditional remedies for vaginal discomfort, such as bush teas or herbal washes. While these may offer temporary relief, addressing potential infections like ureaplasma often requires medical intervention. Testing is straightforward, typically involving a vaginal/cervical swab or urine sample, and if treatment is needed, antibiotics are usually effective.

It's also worth noting that ureaplasma is not always treated. If there are no symptoms or complications, your doctor may recommend simply monitor-

ing it rather than intervening.

Protecting your vaginal health

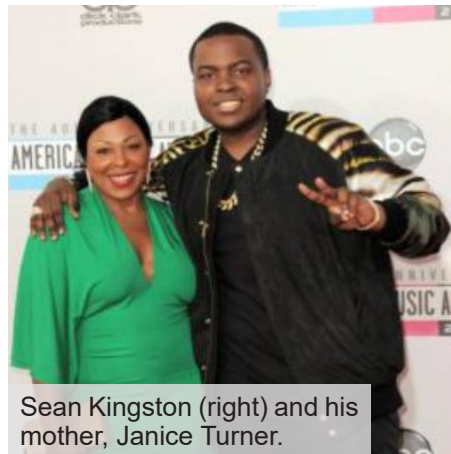
Prevention is always better than cure. Maintaining good vaginal hygiene, eating a balanced diet, and staying hydrated are essential for overall health. If you experience persistent symptoms like pain, unusual discharge, or discomfort, it's important to consult a knowledgeable obstetrician-gynaecologist. Regular check-ups can help identify and manage conditions like ureaplasma before they become bigger concerns.

Your health is your wealth, and having the right information is the first step toward protecting it. Don't hesitate to seek professional guidance if something feels off — your peace of mind is worth it.

Together, we can ensure your health stays on the right track.

Dr Ryan Halsall, MBBS DMOG FACOG FMAS, is an OBGYN | Minimally Invasive Surgeon.

Sean Kingston, mother to be sentenced July 11 after guilty verdict



Sean Kingston (right) and his mother, Janice Turner.

Rapper Sean Kingston and his mother, Janice Turner, were found guilty in their federal trial in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on Friday.

Kingston, 35, and Turner, 61, were convicted on four counts of wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, The Washington Times reported.

The US Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Florida said in a July 2024 release that Kingston, whose real name is Kisean Anderson, and Turner were involved in a

scheme to defraud sellers of high-end speciality vehicles, jewellery, and other goods through the use of fraudulent documents.

They both face up to 20 years in prison on each count.

According to the indictment Kingston and Turner obtained in excess of US\$1 million in property under false pretences, claiming they made bank transfers or wire payments that they didn't actually make.

The Washington Times said Turn-

er was immediately taken into custody following the verdict on Friday, Kingston's sister offered US\$200,000 in bail, with his aunt proffering her home as collateral. He will be kept on house arrest, according to CBS News.

Kingston's official Instagram hailed Turner in a post to Stories, calling her "My only queen forever". The post continued, "Love you!!! I promise you this is not the end". The mother and son are due for sentencing on July 11.

Reggae music can unite the world, says Japanese producer



Record producer Eisaku Yamaguchi, also known as Selector A, was born in Kanagawa, Japan, but now resides in the US. He is excited about his newest project, 'Reggae Loves Africa Vol. 2' which will be released in July.

Record producer Eisaku Yamaguchi, also known as Selector A, was born in Kanagawa, Japan, but now resides in the US. He is excited

about his newest project, 'Reggae Loves Africa Vol. 2' which will be released in July.

Yamaguchi's love affair with reg-

gae music dates back to the early 1990s when he migrated to the USA.

"I was playing reggae music in night clubs in the New York area as far back as the 1990s which is how I got the name Selector A. I released my first commercial album, Reggae Loves Africa, in 2014. I have since released several conscious reggae albums," Yamaguchi told The Gleaner.

"I believe in the power of reggae music to heal and unite the world. I truly believe that reggae is one of the greatest musical genres in the world. That's why I want to fully convey my message through Jamaican reggae," he added.

He said that he was drawn to reggae and the influence that Jamaican people have across the globe. Yamaguchi is cognisant of the important role that reggae played in the 1980s and '90s when the music took aim at South Africa's apartheid system. He is also aware of the pivotal work of Rastafarian reggae recorders like Freddie McGregor, Dennis Brown, Burning Spear, Peter Tosh, Bob Marley and Black Uhuru, who released protests songs that hammered the Pretoria regime and the pivotal role the music played in securing the release of South African anti-apartheid activist and politician leader Nelson Mandela.

"Mandela's unwavering belief in justice and equality continues to resonate with people around the world. Through this album, Reg-

gae Loves Africa Vol. 2, I hope to carry on that message and inspire not just Africans in Africa, but people from all corners of the world to come together to build a stronger, better Africa," Yamaguchi explained.

The album will feature 10 hard-hitting reggae songs, including Africa is Calling, by Frankie Paul; African Liberty (Luciano); Africa (The Mighty Diamonds); Black Gold (Duane Stephenson); Music is The Rod (Garnet Silk); Black Woman & Child (Sizzla) and Black Like a Tar (Richie Spice).

"The songs on this album were chosen to reflect Africa ... its beauty, rich history, and incredible people, as well as the challenges it continues to face. Some of the songs express the message that within Africa, there are issues we must address together to rebuild and heal. This reflects the need for a collective effort to overcome internal challenges. I focus on music that tells the story of Africa's past, its culture, and the ongoing struggles it faces today," he shared. Yamaguchi hasn't been to Africa as yet, but confessed that he would love to visit one day.

"I don't want to experience Africa just as a tourist. I have a bigger mission. I believe all of humanity originally spread from the continent, and this connection is vital to understanding our shared future," he stated.

The album will be released on July 18 on the VP Records label.

Venice confirms hosting Jeff Bezos wedding



Lauren Sánchez and Jeff Bezos arrive at the Vanity Fair Oscar Party at the Wallis Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts in Beverly Hills, California, on March 2.

The city of Venice confirmed Saturday it will host the wedding of multi-billionaire Jeff Bezos and

fiancée Lauren Sanchez, denying reports the famous Italian city would be invaded by hundreds of celeb-

rities and possible disruptions for citizens and tourists.

The city in a short statement didn't give a date for the wedding. Italian media have reported it will be between June 24 and 26, with a few days of celebrations.

"The many speculations and fake news circulating about Jeff Bezos' wedding are completely unfounded," the statement said.

Bezos is the owner of The Washington Post, and founder and largest individual shareholder of Amazon. The city said only 200 guests would be invited, a number easily accommodated without any disruption to the city, its residents and visitors. It noted that it has broad experience handling international events "much larger than this".

"Venice is used to being the stage for events and shows every week, without significant impacts," the city said, citing G20 and G7 sum-

mits, the Architecture and Cinema Biennales, as well as private events and VIP weddings.

Several reports in Italian and international media suggested that Bezos' wedding organisers had already booked rooms at Venice's main luxury hotels and reserved for a few days in late June large numbers of gondolas and water taxis, which are mainly used by locals and tourists for daily transportation.

The city denied those reports, saying it "is their utmost priority to make sure the city functions as normal, for all, with no abnormal disruption to anyone".

"We are mutually working and supporting the organisers, to ensure that the event will be absolutely respectful of the fragility and uniqueness of the city," Mayor Luigi Brugnaro said.

Sean Combs Sexual Assault Lawsuit Dismissed After Jane Doe Chooses to Not Reveal Identity



Sean "Diddy" Combs

One of the numerous sexual assault lawsuits filed against Sean "Diddy" Combs was dismissed on Monday.

The Jane Doe had claimed the disgraced music mogul attempted to sexually assault her during a 1995 party in New York City, and that

Combs hit her when she refused his advances. Her attorney, Tony Buzbee, who filed her suit in October 2024, filed for the woman to proceed anonymously in January but was denied by the court earlier this month.

"The very gravity of the charges,

combined with the fact that Plaintiff has presented no evidence of specific and concrete harm from disclosure of her identity and the severe prejudice to Defendants from

keeping that identity confidential, undermine her claim to proceed anonymously," U.S. District Judge Lewis Liman wrote in an order.

The woman had until March 20 to file an amended complaint with her real name, but failed to do so.

"As a result, all pending motions were terminated, and the case has been formally closed," read the order of dismissal filed Monday.

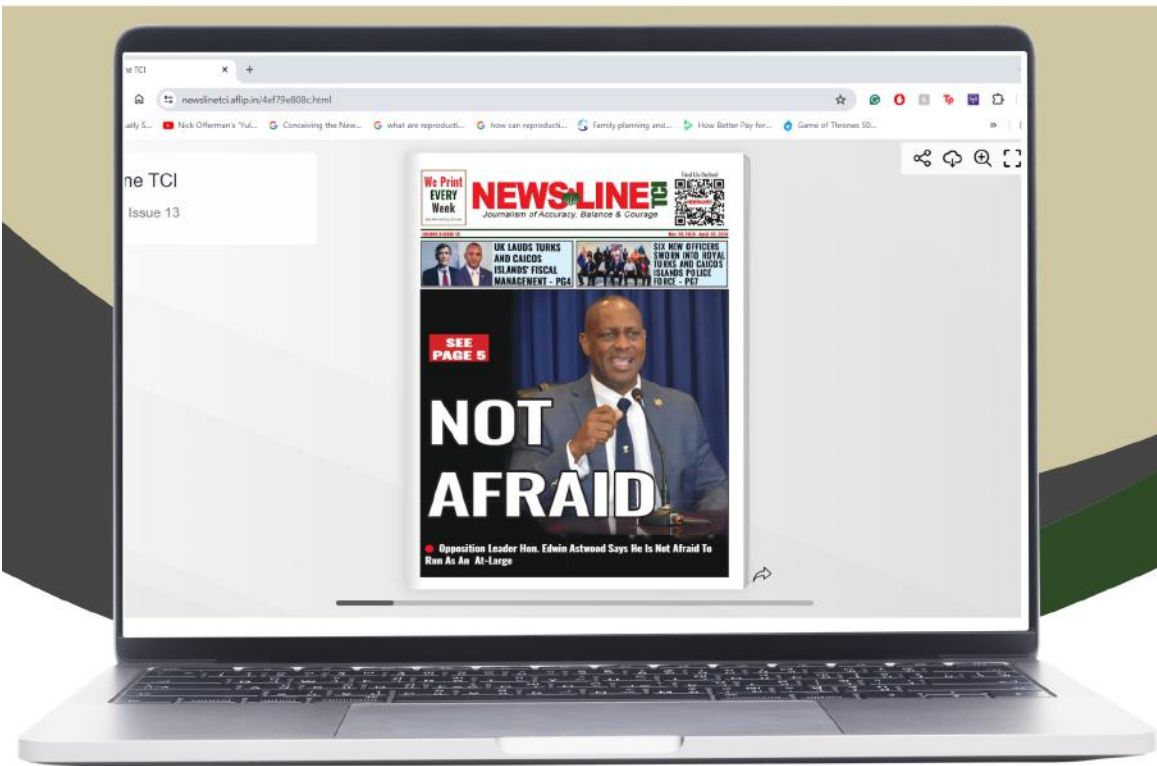
"This was expected. In this particular case, Jane Doe opted not to proceed. There is a lot of fear amongst these plaintiffs. I thus can't blame her," Buzbee told Rolling Stone in a statement. "These are tough cases and they are many times re-traumatizing for those who pursue them. Each case stands on its own merit. This woman chose not to proceed and subject herself to the media circus and the perceived danger she felt. We have to respect that."

Combs' legal team issued a statement following the news. "Today a federal judge dismissed a lawsuit filed against Mr. Combs by Texas attorney Anthony Buzbee and his local counsel Antigone Curis on

behalf of an anonymized plaintiff," wrote his attorney. "This is now the second case brought by these attorneys against Mr. Combs that has been dismissed in its entirety. It will not be the last. For months, we have seen case after case filed by individuals hiding behind anonymity, pushed forward by attorneys more focused on media headlines than legal merit. The other claims, like the one dismissed today, also will not hold up in a court of law."

Earlier this month, a federal judge dismissed civil racketeering and breach of contract claims filed against him by his former music producer Rodney "Lil Rod" Jones. However, much of Jones' lawsuit survived the dismissal motion brought by Combs, his company, and his chief of staff, Kristina Khorram.

Combs has been sued by more than 50 plaintiffs alleging sexual misconduct following the bombshell rape and sex-trafficking lawsuit filed by his ex-girlfriend Casandra "Cassie" Ventura in November 2023. Combs is currently charged with sex trafficking, racketeering conspiracy, and transportation to engage in prostitution. If convicted, he faces 15 years to life in prison. His trial is set for May 5.



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Cory Booker breaks record for longest ever Senate speech as he calls for resistance to Trump



It was fitting that Cory Booker was recounting a story about the late civil rights leader John Lewis as he entered the 19th minute and 24th hour of a historic speech to the Senate on Tuesday evening. In that moment, the first Black Senator for New Jersey broke a record for the longest speech ever made in Congress, one that was set 67 years ago by the segregationist Democrat Strom Thurmond, who spoke for a day and a night in opposition to the Civil Rights Act. Overcome with emotion, Booker looked up to the ceiling and touched his heart as his fellow Democrats in the chamber applauded his effort. "All right, I want to go a little bit past this and then I'm going to deal with some of the biological emergencies I'm feeling," he said. Booker, an avuncular 55-year-old who ran for president in 2020, in-

voked civil rights leaders throughout his marathon speech that he called in protest against the policies of Donald Trump, calling for greater resistance to his unprecedented second term. "I don't know what John Lewis would say right now... but John Lewis would say something, he would do something. He wouldn't treat this moral moment like it was normal," Booker said. Booker began his speech in the Senate chamber at 7 pm the night before, promising to talk "for as long as I am physically able." In what he described as "America's moral moment," Booker criticized the Trump administration for its "complete disregard for the rule of law, the Constitution, and the needs of the American people." Booker was still there Tuesday morning, looking tired and wired but still engaged in his suit and

black tie, pacing around the podium with his glasses in his hand. "I've got fuel in the tank man," he insisted at 10 a.m., some 15 hours in. In his wide-ranging but targeted speech, the senator painted a picture of an administration that was corrupt, venal and chaotic. Pulling facts and figures from binders prepared by his staff, separated by issue, he laid into Trump's close advisor and tech billionaire Elon Musk, and the "oligarchy" that surrounded Trump, warning of looming cuts to Social Security and Medicaid that would hit the country's poorest. "Our spending powers, our budgetary powers, the power to establish agencies like the Department of Education and USAID, it's under assault by a president that doesn't respect this document," he continued. More than 60,000 people were tuned into his livestream of the speech on TikTok at one point. The video was liked more than 200 million times. He quoted poetry, Bible verses, song lyrics and senators and generals to keep control of the floor. He drew from speeches by iconic American figures such as Harriet Tubman, John McCain and John Lewis. The longer he continued, the more alliterative he became. Booker read personal stories of people impacted by Trump's poli-

cies — among them a long account by a Canadian woman who was detained by immigration authorities for 12 days. His voice broke occasionally as he read those stories of hardship. "These are not normal times in America, and they should not be treated as such," he said. Booker did not leave the chamber the entire time, even for a bathroom break. His only respite from speaking was to hear questions from fellow Democrats, who lined up to show support for Booker's protest and join the condemnation of Trump. Chuck Schumer, the top Senate Democrat, was among them. "Your strength, your fortitude, your clarity, has just been nothing short of amazing, and all of America is paying attention to what you're saying," he told Booker. It was Schumer, who returned again when the record had been broken, to break the news to Booker. "Do you know you have just broken the record? Do you know how proud this caucus is of you? Do you know how proud America is of you," he said. While not technically a filibuster — a form of protest in which a lawmaker holds the floor of the legislative chamber in order to delay a vote — Booker's speech did disrupt the work of the Senate, which was due to convene at midday.

King Charles back to work after 'minor bump' in cancer treatment



King Charles III on Tuesday carried out his first public engagement since a short spell in hospital last week for side effects from his cancer treatment. Charles, 76, on Thursday postponed all his appointments for the rest of the day and for Friday

on doctors' advice after suffering some temporary symptoms, Buckingham Palace said. Officials regarded the short hospital stay of a few hours as a "minor bump" in his medical journey. In the first of his engagements for this week, Charles was all smiles as

he handed out honours at Windsor Castle west of London to leading figures including reigning world heptathlon champion Katarina Johnson-Thompson who was recognised with an Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) for her services to athletics. Johnson-Thompson said afterwards the monarch "seemed in good spirits. You know it's long, all day, because so many people are getting honoured today. "So he seems in really good spirits and I'm happy to see that he's fit and well." Gardner and broadcaster Alan Titchmarsh, who received a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), also praised Charles's "boundless energy". Other engagements later in the week will include the king's weekly meeting with Prime Minister Keir Starmer.

A small number of appointments, however, had been rescheduled ahead of a state visit that Charles and his wife Queen Camilla will make to Italy next week. Charles announced he had been diagnosed with an unspecified cancer in February last year. He returned to work within two-and-a-half months and gradually ramped up his duties during the rest of 2024, including making several foreign trips which took him as far as Australia and Samoa. Just six weeks after Charles's cancer announcement came the news that his daughter-in-law Catherine, Princess of Wales, had also been diagnosed with cancer and had begun chemotherapy. Catherine, who is married to heir to Charles's eldest son Prince William, said in January that she was now in remission.

Haitian authorities say they have regained control of a town near the capital



Protesters in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, react while tyres burn in the street during a demonstration following news of the planned resignation of its Prime Minister Ariel Henry in March 2024

The Haitian National Police (PNH) said they had regained control of the town of Mirebalais, 30 miles northeast of the capital, after heavily armed members of the “Viv an sanm” gang burnt several houses and vehicles, and fired automatic weapons indiscriminately killing and injuring several residents. PNH deputy spokesperson, Lionel

Lazarre, said that the gang members had on Monday attacked the police station, forcing the understaffed police officers to flee and setting fire to the premises. He said they also stormed the Mirebalais civil prison and opened all the cells, resulting in the escape of more than 500 prisoners. In a video posted on social media,

a man is seen hoisting an automatic rifle as people around him yelled, “We broke out the prisoners!” Soon after, they began chanting, “They can’t stop us!”

The action of the gang members caused widespread panic, forcing many families to flee to neighbouring towns, including Lascahobas, Boucan-Carré and Hinche. The action forced the closure of schools, shops, public markets, and supermarkets. Public transportation was also paralysed.

The PNH said that faced with this offensive, members of a local resistance group, supported by the police, attempted to repel the attackers but ultimately retreated due to the bandits’ firepower.

Lazarre said that SWAT units and members of the elite Research and Intervention Brigade (BRI) were transported by helicopter to Mirebalais and were able to repel the attackers.

He said the police station and the civilian prison were recaptured and that several of the gang members were killed. Firearms and ammunition were also recovered by the PNH.

Lazarre confirmed that the town of Mirebalais is now under control and that several specialised PNH units have been deployed to the area.

Criminal gangs have been seeking to overthrow the government ever since the July 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moise.

The United Nations Security Council in 2023 passed a resolution for the Kenya-led Multinational Security Support (MSS) mission, aimed at combating gang violence and restoring stability in the country. Criminal gangs are seeking to take complete control of the capital, Port au Prince, and have launched several attacks, killing women and children among others.

St Vincent PM Gonsalves wants sixth term



St Vincent and the Grenadines Prime Minister, Dr Ralph Gonsalves

Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines and leader of the ruling Unity Labour Party (ULP), Ralph Gonsalves, at the party’s 24th anniversary last weekend, urged supporters to ensure that the party wins a sixth consecutive term in power.

“First of all, I want to affirm that this rally, this celebratory rally, is not about us in the leadership of the party. It is not about Comrade Ralph,” Gonsalves told the event, adding “This rally is to celebrate the faithful love and support of the people of St Vincent and the Grenadines, who are gathered here in the largest political rally in the his-

tory of this country to celebrate and commemorate 24 years of tremendous achievements.”

The rally, which included performances by local and regional artistes, served to praise Gonsalves, who turns 79 in August, and who is expected to lead the party in its re-election bid.

“This is not about any one individual. This labour family, this family of St Vincent and the Grenadines, we are in solidarity with one another.

“Like in all families, from time to time, we may have disagreements, we may have grumbles, but as the Good Lord taught Moses, grumble not. Fear not. Love and let us go forth,” Gonsalves said, adding that the achievements of his government over the last 24 years are “absolutely historic; impressive”.

“We have transformed St Vincent and the Grenadines for the better by far...All what we have achieved would not have been possible without us working together.”

The prime minister said some people do not share “the glory of the perspectives of the people-centred vision of our philosophy, our policies and programmes and they will try to tear us down”.

“But you see tonight, as we begin a pre-campaign, which is a celebra-

tion and itself, moving forward to the sixth term, do not be afraid. Do not be dismayed. Do not allow anybody to kaffuffle your mind.

“And above all, I ask you not to try to be a Samson and pull the temple down on everybody’s head, including you, because doing that will not create, in our context, the opportunities for further development.”

Gonsalves said that those seeking a chance at government should play a lottery game, saying, “You don’t take chance with your country. You don’t take chance with your future. You don’t take chance with your children’s future. You don’t take chance with your constituency future.”

He said his government has done “All the big strategic things right, and every time a large strategic issue has arisen, the NDP (New Democratic Party) has found itself on the wrong side.”

Gonsalves said that during its 17 years in office, the NDP did not build a secondary school at Sandy Bay, adding “that is the height of wickedness,” claiming also that the NDP government also did not build a bridge at Rabacca.

“They did not even raise the question. They didn’t raise it, not because of any technical incapacity,

but because of the absence of love and justice.

The ULP will be fielding a new candidate, Hospital Administrator, Grave Walters in North Windward. She is replacing former deputy prime minister, Montgomery Daniel, who is retiring from electoral politics after five five-year terms as the parliamentary representative for the area.

“He has built 14 bridges in this constituency, and he’s working on five major ones right now, 19 in all,” Gonsalves said of Daniel.

“This is a man with love and justice. This is a party, and this is a government with love and justice,” he said, adding that Walters had delivered “a fantastic speech” at the rally.

“And you are clear that Gomery has taken us safe thus far and grace will lead us,” Gonsalves said.

In her speech, the second since becoming the ULP candidate in February, Walters found herself on the defensive for her absence from North Windward during the eruption of La Soufriere.

Walters explained that she was performing her duties as the hospital administrator, including preparing for possible mass casualty incidents as a result of the evacuation.

ITS ENIID CAPRON



Five Cays School Crowned 2025 Champions of the National Primary Championships

See Story on Page 32

NBA and FIBA in talks with European soccer teams over new basketball league



NBA Commissioner Adam Silver addresses the media during a press conference in April 2024.

CNN is reporting the NBA and the International Basketball Federation (FIBA), global basketball's governing body, are in talks with European soccer clubs about a potential new hoops league on the continent.

The two organizations announced the possible joint venture at a press conference in New York following an NBA Board of Governors meeting on Thursday.

"(The partnership) would bring the sport to more European fans and accelerate the game's growth across the continent," a joint statement said.

"The NBA and FIBA will continue dis-

cussions that began more than a year ago with prospective investors, teams, arena developers and commercial partners."

FIBA Secretary General Andreas Zagklis said European basketball is primed to expand its reach.

"The European basketball community is proud of its seven-decade history of international club competitions and the elite talent it develops, yet given the sport's popularity and the success of national team competitions, there is untapped potential in European club basketball," Zagklis said.

NBA commissioner Adam Silver echoed

Zagklis' message.

"The NBA and FIBA are uniquely positioned to build on the rich tradition of European basketball. We look forward to collaborating with FIBA to explore the creation of a new league for fans across the continent," Silver added.

The NBA has held talks with Paris Saint-Germain (PSG) and Manchester City regarding backing for new teams, Bloomberg reported on Wednesday.

A spokesperson for Qatar Sports Investment (QSI), the Qatari-government operated organization that owns PSG, confirmed to CNN that it has been "approached with regards to a basketball franchise in Paris in relation to which we have expressed an interest."

"At this week's NBA Board of Governors meeting, the league will report on its exploration of a new men's basketball league in Europe, in partnership with FIBA," an NBA spokesperson said in a statement to Reuters.

CNN has reached out to Manchester City for comment.

The new league, which would rival Europe's leading basketball competition, the EuroLeague, would involve around eight franchises being launched for an initial fee of \$500 million each, Bloomberg reported, adding the NBA could still opt out of launching the potential competition.

The EuroLeague currently features several teams linked to famous soccer clubs, including Real Madrid, Barcelona,

Bayern Munich and Fenerbahçe.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver presents Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets with the Michael Jordan MVP trophy in May 2024.

NBA Commissioner Adam Silver presents Nikola Jokic of the Denver Nuggets with the Michael Jordan MVP trophy in May 2024. Matthew Stockman/Getty Images

The NBA has already successfully launched one league abroad, the Basketball Africa League, which was founded in 2019.

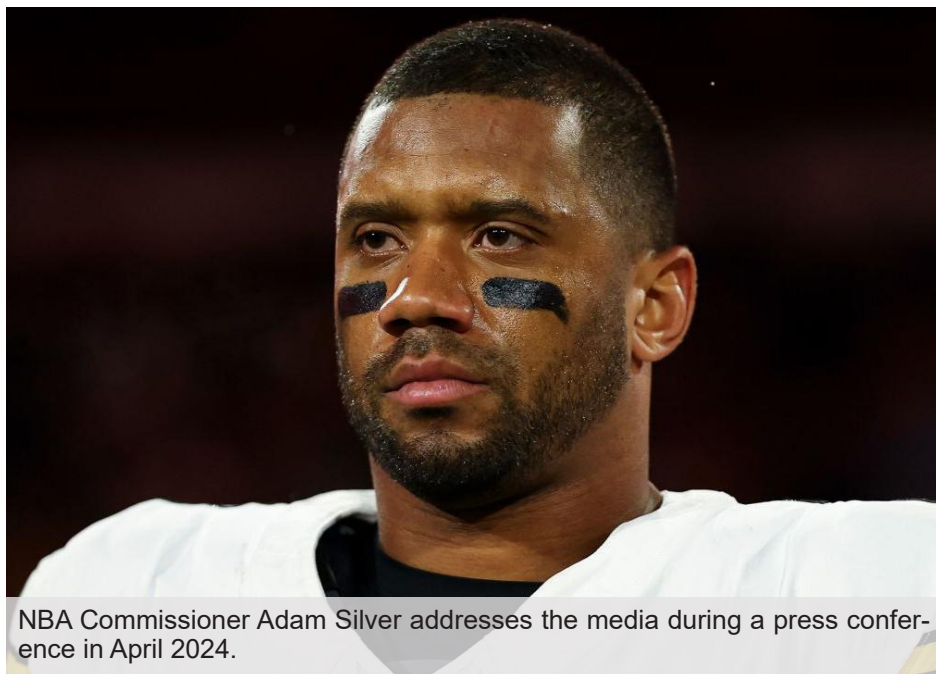
For many years, the NBA has looked to expand its brand around the world, with regular season games hosted outside of the US since 1990. The league has recently hosted regular season games in London, Mexico City and Paris while taking preseason contests to the United Arab Emirates.

Basketball is a hugely popular sport across Europe, especially in Spain, Italy, Germany, Turkey, Greece, Serbia and Lithuania.

Last year, EuroLeague announced that average attendances rose 18% to 10,383, with more than three million people watching games in person.

Europeans are also increasingly leaving their footprints on the NBA, with five of the last six MVP awards going to European players: Nikola Jokić three times and Giannis Antetokounmpo twice, while Cameroonian-born French international Joel Embiid won the other.

New York Giants sign free agent quarterback Russell Wilson



NBA Commissioner Adam Silver addresses the media during a press conference in April 2024.

The New York Giants are signing a Super Bowl-winning free agent

quarterback to the roster. And despite rumors, it's not Aaron Rodg-

ers.

The G-Men signed Russell Wilson, the team announced on Wednesday.

The deal was first reported Tuesday by ESPN's Adam Schefter, who says that Wilson will sign a one-year contract worth up to \$21 million with \$10.5 million guaranteed. Wilson confirmed the news, posting a photograph of MetLife Stadium to X, tagging the Giants with the caption, "Been here before... can't wait to do it again."

The 36-year-old Wilson will be entering his 14th NFL season this fall. Wilson played the first 10 seasons of his career with the Seattle Seahawks, where he was instrumental in leading the Seahawks to their only championship at Super Bowl XLVIII in 2014.

The 10-time Pro-Bowler joined the Denver Broncos prior to the 2022 season, but he couldn't find the success in the Mile High City that he enjoyed in Seattle. With Wilson under center, the Broncos missed the postseason in 2022 and 2023. After the 2023 season, Wilson signed with the Pittsburgh Steelers. He began the season with an injured calf, but took over the starting role in October and led the team to victory in six of his first seven games at quarterback.

The Steelers stumbled down the stretch however, losing four consecutive games to finish the regular season. Pittsburgh still managed to make the playoffs, but were knocked out in the Wild Card round by the rival Baltimore Ravens.

Brathwaite quits as West Indies Test skipper, Hope takes white-ball charge



West Indies Test Captain Kraigg Brathwaite

Kraigg Brathwaite quit as West Indies Test captain on Monday after four years in charge while ODI

skipper Shai Hope was handed leadership of the T20 team, officials said.

The 32-year-old Brathwaite, who is two matches shy of reaching the 100-Test mark, led the team to a first Test victory in Australia in 27 years with an eight-run win in Brisbane last year.

Earlier this season, he was in charge when the West Indies won a Test match in Pakistan for the first time in nearly 35 years.

A dogged and disciplined opening batsman, Brathwaite has accumulated 5,935 runs in Tests with 12 centuries and 31 fifties but at an average of just over 33.

He is also renowned for feats of patience, batting for the best part of 16 hours over two innings to secure a draw with England at Barbados in 2022.

"Kraigg Brathwaite has been an outstanding leader for our Test

team, guiding the squad with discipline, resilience, and a deep understanding of the game," said West Indies director of cricket, Miles Bascombe.

"His contributions have been invaluable, and under his leadership, we have witnessed historic moments that will be remembered for years to come."

Meanwhile, Hope replaces Rovman Powell, in charge since 2023, as T20 captain.

Hope, 31, has played 133 ODIs and 39 T20 internationals, scoring more than 6,000 runs over both formats.

He has 17 centuries in ODI cricket. "Shai Hope's appointment signals a progressive shift for West Indies cricket," said head coach Darren Sammy.

International Gymnastics Federation President Watanabe to visit Jamaica soon



Jamaica Olympic Association (JOA) President Christopher Samuda says International Gymnastics Federation President Morinari Watanabe will visit the island soon.

Samuda, however, would not share details about the nature of the visit or time of arrival, as planning is still underway.

But he said another international sporting body's president will also arrive this year.

Samuda was speaking to the Jamaica Observer at a press conference at JOA headquarters on Monday, where World Boxing President Boris van der Vorst and his wife Ingeborg were the special guests.

These visits also follow International Paralympic Committee President Andrew Parson's, and the Americas Paralympic Committee (APC) Executive Director Michele Formonte and other APC officials' arrivals in February. Jamaica also hosted Thomas Bach in March 2023 during his time as International Olympic Committee president.

Samuda says it is vital that local sporting bodies participate in meaningful dialogue with their international federations (IF).

PAHO issues new epidemiological alert amid rising yellow fever cases in the Americas

"Part of the protocol at the JOA is to welcome our IF presidents – to create an agenda for the transformation of the sport," he said. "Boris is part of that agenda for the transformation of boxing, and of course, the ultimate goal is to transition the talent to the Olympic stage."

"What we have said to our sporting federations is that you can't ignore your association with your international governing body. You have to develop a very strategic association with them and ensure that they understand your development needs and development initiatives to see how best they can help in conjunction with the JOA."

"We have said to our associations that that is the road map to the Olympic Games. We have to have all parties at the negotiating table negotiating that road map for the particular sport and ensuring that people understand, so that they know the role they have to play and what they have to do within a certain time-frame to ensure that the talent transitions to the international stage."

TCIFA Staged FIFA-Supported Girls Festivals



On Saturday March 15th, The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) hosted a vibrant Girls Festival at the TCIFA National Academy in Providenciales, marking a significant milestone in the development of women's football in the region.

Supported by the FIFA Women's Football Campaign, the event attract-

ed over 103 enthusiastic young girls; with the majority of participants being unregistered new players, all eager to hone their skills and embrace the spirit of the game.

This festival is part of a broader initiative. The events are integral to FIFA's global commitment to advancing women's football and creating opportunities for girls to participate in

sports. By supporting local initiatives like the TCIFA Girls Festivals, FIFA aims to inspire the next generation of female athletes and encourage widespread participation in football. The energy and enthusiasm displayed by participants underscored the growing passion for football among young girls in Turks and Caicos.

Building on this success, TCIFA announced upcoming girls festivals across the islands. The next event will be held at the South Caicos Sports Complex on March 29th, followed by another at the Raymond Gardiner High School Grounds in North Caicos on April 5th. These festivals are open to all young girls, providing an opportunity to engage in football, develop their skills, and be part of an inspiring community of athletes.

The festivals not only focus on technical skills and gameplay but also emphasize teamwork, leadership, and personal growth. Interactive sessions are designed to inspire confidence and instill a sense of achievement, ensuring that each participant leaves with more than just improved foot-

ball skills. The camaraderie and joy shared during these gatherings extend beyond the game, leaving a lasting impact on everyone involved.

Local coaches and volunteers play a crucial role in the success of these events. Their dedication and passion for the sport are instrumental in creating a nurturing environment where girls can thrive and pursue their love for football.

"As TCIFA continues to expand its reach and influence through these festivals, the hope is to create a ripple effect. Together, we can build a future where young girls everywhere have equal opportunities to shine in sports, and where football becomes a powerful tool for empowerment and change. This initiative is a testament to the transformative power of sports and the commitment to fostering a vibrant community of young female athletes. Join us in celebrating the power of football to unite and empower young girls across Turks and Caicos," commented TCIFA President, Sonia Fulford.

- **Written by TCIFA**

ENID CAPRON ARE NEW CHAMPIONS

Ona Ginton's Reign Ends as Enid Capron Shines at Primary School Nationals

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



The Enid Capron Primary School athletes celebrate after being presented with the championship trophy by Minister Hon. Rachel Taylor (third from left). At second left is Member of Parliament Sharon Simons, while at left is Jarrett Forbes, Director of Sports at the Sports Commission.

In a stunning display of consistency, passion, and sheer willpower, Enid Capron Primary School have emerged as the new champions of the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission's three-day Primary School National Championships, ending the dominant run of Ona Ginton Primary School, who held the title for three straight years.

The meet which began on Wednesday, April 2, and ended Friday, April 4, saw Enid Capron amassing 335 points to top the leader board at the end of the final day, relegating former champs Ona Ginton into second with 312 points.

From the opening gun on day one, the Five Cays school sent a message to all other competitors — they were not there to participate, they were there to win. Enid Capron grabbed the early lead and never looked back, increasing their point tally each day and holding off every challenge. By the final event, their status as national cham-

pions was sealed, with a score that surpassed even the resilient effort of the former champions.

Ona Ginton, of the country's capital Grand Turk, who had held the crown from 2022 through 2024, struggled to find their footing on the opening day, finishing in fourth place at the close. But like true champions, they clawed their way back to second by the end of day three, showing heart and grit even as their reign came to an end.

At the center of Enid Capron's success was their humble and devoted coach, Christopher Foster, who was quick to deflect the praise to his athletes.

"I don't know how to express myself," he said with emotion after the final race. "But I didn't do the work — I just made the plan. The children did the work. They selected themselves. They said from the beginning, 'I want this.'"

Foster explained that while the physical preparation was sol-

id, the mental aspect was the toughest hurdle.

"Physically, they were ready. But mentally, I had to talk to them every day. I pulled them aside one by one and reminded them why they were here," he added.

The key, he said, was not letting up after taking the lead on day one.

"That was the plan. Just don't let go. I had sleepless nights working through strategies — especially for the relays. Those were crucial. But I kept motivating them, telling them, 'You're here for a reason,'" Foster further noted.

When asked how he planned to celebrate, the Enid Capron coach chuckled. "I'm not one for parties. But the children — they can celebrate. I'll just go relax."

The victory marks the beginning of a new era in inter-primary school athletics and proves that Enid Capron is now the team to beat. Their journey from hopeful contenders to national

champions is one that will be remembered for years to come. In the meantime, the Ona Ginton Coach, Acasia Downer credited her charges for putting on a valiant fight, stressing that they showed great determination to have battled their way from fourth place on day 1, to finishing second at the end of day 3. Final top 10 Points Standings:
10th — Elite School System — 47 points
9th — Community Christian Academy — 89 points
8th — I.N.C. Pratt Primary School — 116 points
7th — Adelaide Oemler Primary School — 126 points
6th — Richmond Hill Preparatory School — 185 points
5th — Thelma Lightbourne Primary School — 202.5 points
4th — Oseta Jolly Primary School — 216 points
3rd — Eliza Simons Primary School — 222.5 points
2nd — Ona Ginton Primary School — 312 points
1st — Enid Capron Primary School — 335.