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**FORTIS FUEL
FACTOR
ELECTRICITY
RATES NOSEDIVED
IN AUGUST
PG10**



**HAITIANS, JAMAICANS
AMONG 212
UNDOCUMENTED
MIGRANTS
APPREHENDED BY LOCAL
AUTHORITIES - PG11**

APARTMENT BOOM COMING

Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure
Development Hon. Jamell Robinson

- **Physical Planning Department Approves Several Apartment Developments**
- **Greater number of Apartment Developments in Queue**

SEE PAGE 5



TCIAA Hosted 20 Summer Interns

The Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA), during the summer, hosted 20 Interns in different areas of operation. Eighteen of the interns were stationed at the Howard Hamilton International Airport and the Walter E. Cox Administration Building, one intern joined the team at JAGS McCartney International Airport on Grand Turk and another at the Norman B Saunders International Airport in South Caicos. August 16th marked the completion of this program for most of TCIAA's interns who each walked away with gift baskets and certificates at the end of the programme.



Rooted In Community

Growing Together...

Experience Turks and Caicos is the premier destination management and marketing organization dedicated to showcasing the unparalleled beauty and cultural richness of the Turks and Caicos Islands. As stewards of our nation's tourism, we are committed to:

- **Supporting Local Businesses**
- **Marketing the Destination**
- **Promoting Sustainable Travel**
- **Enhancing Visitor Experiences**

Building a brighter future for the Turks and Caicos Together



Experience Turks and Caicos

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Experience Turks and Caicos dedicated to developing the tourism industry for all

As the Destination Management and Marketing Organisation of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Experience Turks and Caicos is poised to lead the Turks and Caicos Islands into a new era of tourism excellence.

By focusing on sustainable tourism development, community engagement across all of the islands, data collection, and product enhancement, the organisation is committed to building a vibrant and resilient tourism industry that benefits both visitors and residents.

Our strategic plans will ensure that the Turks and Caicos Islands remain a top destination for travelers seeking unparalleled beauty, rich cultural heritage, and unforgettable experiences.

Established in June 2023, Experience Turks and Caicos, a public/private partnership, is based on three key pillars - Sustainable Development, Inclusive Growth and Competitiveness.

Through Sustainable Development, Experience Turks and Caicos will ensure the protection and enhancement of all tourism assets and benefits for residents and visitors alike. Based on this pillar, we will establish national and international partnerships that will encourage the private, public, and civil sectors work together to make the tourism industry more sustainable and beneficial to all.

As we market the Turks and Caicos Islands as a multi-island destination, Experience Turks and Caicos is seeking to ensure that all communities benefit from the tourism industry. Inclusive Growth speaks to that mission. Tourism is the main industry, the lifeblood and heartbeat of this country and as we invite visitors to explore our islands, we are expanding, improving and diversifying our products to reap maximum spend and improve the livelihoods of all.

While the Turks and Caicos is one of the top premier luxury destinations in the Caribbean, we cannot rest on our laurels. Staying competitive requires us to collaborate and seek partnerships with stakeholders to ensure the product we offer remains at a quality one for the affluent, high-end market we target. Our competitiveness is a key pillar to the survival and continued success of our tourism industry.

To stay true to these pillars, here are just some initiatives that Experience Turks and Caicos will undergo this year.

- **Local Campaign:** “Rooted in Community, Growing Together” is the slogan of Experience Turks and Caicos local campaign designed to foster and develop a close relationship between the DMMO and communities around the Turks and Caicos Islands. The campaign will include school visits, revival of tourism clubs in schools, showcasing of local entrepreneurs and artisans and the celebration of national heroes.
- **Community Connect Meetings:** Experience Turks and Caicos launched its community meetings in North and Middle Caicos in April and will continue in the other islands as well with tourism stakeholders. The meetings aim to educate everyone about the organisation, plans and to understand the needs of the tourism stakeholders and where we can provide support.
- **Exquisite Turks and Caicos:** Through our Strategic Development Unit, we are seeking to develop immersive experiences for our visitors. We will be working with businesses in the tourism sector to enhance their offerings through grants up to \$5000 to assist them with the development needed.
- **Product Development:** From hashtag signs and the enhancement of trails to the creation of new products and the promotion of the weekly Fish Fry, we will be working closely with communities and stakeholders to ensure there are products to draw visitors around the islands.
- **Collaboration with stakeholders:** Forging strategic partnerships with airlines, travel agents, tour operators, and international tourism organisations will expand reach and attract more visitors. By working together with industry stakeholders, the organisation will create compelling travel packages, promote special offers, and participate in global tourism events and trade shows. These partnerships will also help stay informed about industry trends and best practices, ensuring that strategies remain relevant and effective.
- **Data Collection:** As a SMART DMO, Experience Turks and Caicos has invested in cutting edge data management platforms that will enable us to curate necessary and crucial data to guide the industry and inform marketing efforts.
- **Event Sponsorship:** To strengthen our relationship with the local community, Experience Turks and Caicos will support events across the nation. To date we have sponsored the Valentine’s Day Cup in Middle Caicos, the South Caicos Regatta, the Sunkiss Festival, Rake and Scrape Festival and Best of the Best Festival.

To keep in touch with Experience Turks and Caicos, follow us on our social media platforms:

Facebook: My Experience TCI – Local and Turks & Caicos: My Experience TCI – Global

Instagram: Myexperiencetci and Experienceturksandcaicos

LinkedIn: Experience Turks and Caicos

Tik Tok: myexperiencetci

APARTMENT BOOM COMING

The Turks and Caicos Islands Physical Planning Department has given the green light to slew of apartment construction applications at its latest meeting, signalling an apartment boom in short term.

In recent times the country has been experiencing a wave of construction, especially in the hotel industry. With that reality comes the concern for housing as the country prepares to invite foreign workers to help satisfy the demand in a country already experiencing a chronic housing shortage.

Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Jamell Robinson, during a media luncheon earlier this year, said government was aware of the housing shortage and was both pushing for community housing, mainly for locals, as well as apartment developments.

The number of approvals at the latest Planning Board Meeting, apparently highlights a broad spectrum of residential, commercial, and infrastructure developments that are set to reshape the country's landscape, especially on Providenciales.

Sun N Sand Ltd. has received conditional approval for the next phases of a multi-town home development on Parcel 60905/181. This project will add 46 three-bedroom townhouses, swimming pools, and a pool lounge to the island's housing stock, catering to the demand for high-quality residential options.

One of the most ambitious projects currently

in the pipeline is by Saakin Ltd., which involves the construction of a massive housing development comprising 456 units, along with retail and commercial spaces. This development, which also includes community facilities such as a basketball court, a gazebo, and a pool, represents a significant investment in the island's future. Although this project has been deferred to the next meeting, its scale and scope make it a potential game-changer for Providenciales. Ajay Govind Tolani has been approved to construct three buildings, each containing a duplex, laundry facilities, and ancillary amenities on Parcels 60702/322 & 323.

Another noteworthy project involves the modification of an existing building by Blue Conch Holdings. Located on Parcel 60900/387, the modification will increase the number of bedrooms from 192 to 205, replace a previously approved townhouse, and relocate a tennis court, along with the addition of two paddleball courts. The parking facilities will also be amended to accommodate the changes. This project, once completed, is expected to offer enhanced amenities for both residents and tourists.

Additionally, Haus Wind Limited has received approval to build a four-story apartment complex on Parcel 60717/140. This building will house five two-bedroom units and four one-bedroom units, complete with ancillary facilities. The project is indicative of the increasing demand for both luxury and affordable

housing on Providenciales.

Alwood Wendel Gardiner has been approved to develop a residential development on Parcel 61113/226/1. The project includes two studio units, a guest unit, a gym, a swimming pool, and a deck, along with other ancillary facilities, promising to enhance the living standards in Providenciales. Those are just some of the projects either approved or before the Physical Planning Department for approval.

Beyond residential developments, the island is also seeing improvements in its infrastructure and commercial sectors. For example, L and V Castaway Ltd. has been approved to construct a seawall and carry out beach restoration work on Parcel 60506/63. This project is essential for protecting the island's coastline and ensuring sustainable development in the face of climate change and rising sea levels.

Additionally, Grace Investments Ltd. received approval for the construction of two sun decks on Parcel 61113/431, adding to the recreational facilities available to residents and visitors alike. These sun decks will likely become popular spots for relaxation, contributing to the island's appeal as a tourist destination.

The flurry of conditional approvals granted by the planning authorities underscores a period of rapid development and growth for Providenciales. From luxury apartments and housing developments to infrastructure projects and large-scale commercial ventures, the island is poised for a significant transformation.

Digicel upgraded By Moody's but under pressure

Digicel

The financial performance of telecoms Digicel Group has stabilised, with its operations generating over US\$14 million in cash for the year, leading to a rating upgrade by Moody's.

Digicel has been alleviated by some of its debt burden. However, challenges persist in vulnerable markets for the company that was taken over by its creditors and put under new management.

"The company's cash flows have been under pressure due to tough operating environment in markets such as Haiti," said Moody's while the situation is more stable now, its consumer environment remains fragile," rating agency Moody's.

Moody's recently upgraded Digicel International Finance Limited's 'corporate family rating' to B3, along with its senior secured bank credit facility ratings. Digicel Group was previously at level Caa2 prior to its rating being ceased by Moody's.

This positive shift is a direct result of Digicel's enhanced liquidity and capital structure, post the debt restructuring it underwent, the rating agency said. Digicel is now expected to maintain core earnings or EBITDA margin above 40 per cent because of its strong competitive position. Digicel's cash balance amounted to US\$200 million up to March. No comparative figure was provided for 2023.

"Digicel remains exposed to certain risks, including economic instability in key markets like Haiti, which accounts for approximately 18 per cent of its revenue," stated Moody's. The rating agency also highlighted the impact of governance considerations in the upgrade.

"The ratings could be upgraded if the company continues building a positive operating track record," Moody's stated, adding that failure to manage liquidity or refinance its US\$2.3 billion debt, due in May 2027, could lead to a downgrade.

Digicel Group Limited, a provider of Internet, cable and phone services across 30 markets including the Turks and Caicos Islands, was founded by former chairman Denis O'Brien. The Irish billionaire became a minority owner under the

restructuring, but remains on the board.

In January, the private equity firms that took over Digicel in a debt swap, appointed technology guru Rajeev Suri to replace O'Brien as chairman.

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The alpha and omega of civil rights



Ben Jealous

The modern civil rights movement hit a new peak last week in Illinois. It marked the movement coming full circle, in a way, back to the state of its birth more than a century ago.

Illinois is the unsung “alpha and omega” of the movement.

It was the 1908 Springfield, Illinois, Race Riot that sparked the creation of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). That marked the beginning of what would become the modern civil rights movement that evolved through the 1950s and 60s and is still evolving today.

And last week, Illinois hosted the nomination of one of America’s major parties’ candidate for president who has broken barriers her entire career, who comes from a family of bold civil rights activists, who could be our first woman president, our first president of Asian descent, and only our second black president.

If Springfield was the civil rights movement’s alpha,

then this year’s Democratic National Convention in Chicago and Vice-President Kamala Harris’s campaign are, to date, its “omega”. Barely more than a month ago nobody knew this was going to be Harris’s convention. Yet the history of the civil rights movement makes poetry of the fact that she accepted her party’s nomination in Illinois.

The city of Chicago itself has played a crucial role in this history. In the wake of the Springfield Riot, the anti-lynching crusader and Chicagoan Ida B Wells-Barnett was a leading national voice against that racial violence and one of the original co-founder, six months later, of the NAACP. And Chicago played host to a key civil rights moment featuring another NAACP co-founder, WEB Du Bois.

In 1929, it was where Du Bois dispatched white supremacist Lothrop Stoddard’s toxic eugenics clap-trap, arguing for racial equality in what was billed at the time as “one of the greatest debates ever held”. It is the home of Mayor Harold Washington and Jesse Jackson. Reverend Jackson’s presidential campaigns offered me one of my own first experiences in political organising. I was captivated by his campaigns and led my county’s arm of Youth for Jackson when I was 14.

Those black leaders’ groundbreaking campaigns helped create a tailwind for black candidates across the country to make history in the 1980s. Doug Wilder became the first African American elected statewide in Virginia as lieutenant governor in 1985. Wilder then become the first-ever elected black governor in the United States in 1989, and David Dinkins elected the first black mayor of New York City.

I had this epiphany about Illinois’ special place in the civil rights movement right before travelling to Chicago to take part in various events held during this year’s Democratic convention. It was at the White House, of all places.

I had the privilege of being in the Oval Office for President Joe Biden’s dedication of the site of the 1908 Springfield Race Riot as our country’s newest national monument. Among the crowd were some of Illinois’ top political leaders. And one of them mentioned that Illinois currently does not have a

Civil Rights Trail.

I thought about that as I was walking out and a photograph on display in the Oval Office caught my eye. It was President Biden with his mother and then-President-elect Barack Obama on election night in 2008 in Chicago’s Grant Park.

I remembered that night and was immediately awash in memories close to my heart and my sense of patriotism. I was in Springfield when President Obama launched his campaign for president there in 2007. I have always remembered that campaign kick-off vividly because of its historical significance and because of how cold it was. It will be forever even more deeply ingrained in my memory because one of my crew that day, who I stood with during the rally, was my friend Kamala Harris, then the district attorney of San Francisco.

Springfield was the home of Abraham Lincoln. When the NAACP was formed in 1909, six months after the Springfield Race Riot, it was on what would have been Abraham Lincoln’s 100th birthday. Then in 2007, nearly 100 years after that, Springfield was where Illinois Senator President Obama chose to begin his presidential journey. Once again, it was that pattern of things continuing coming full circle back to Illinois in our nation’s long march towards freedom and justice.

Clearly, Illinois deserves to have several Civil Rights Trail-recognised sites.

Last week’s convention was one for the ages: the speeches, the optimism, the energy, and yes, the joy. It was also just the latest of Chicago’s and the state of Illinois’ immense contributions to America’s progress towards the day when the rights and dignity of all people are fully realised.

On Monday, August 26, the US celebrated Women’s Equality Day. It was the anniversary of women gaining the right to vote with the adoption of the 19th Amendment in 1920. As our country sits poised to elect its first woman as president, it is also fitting to remember that Illinois was part of the very first group of states (along with Wisconsin and Michigan on the same day) to ratify that amendment.

Ben Jealous is the Executive Director of the Sierra Club and a Professor of Practice at the University of Pennsylvania.



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



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- ◆ Night Manager
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- ◆ Bellman

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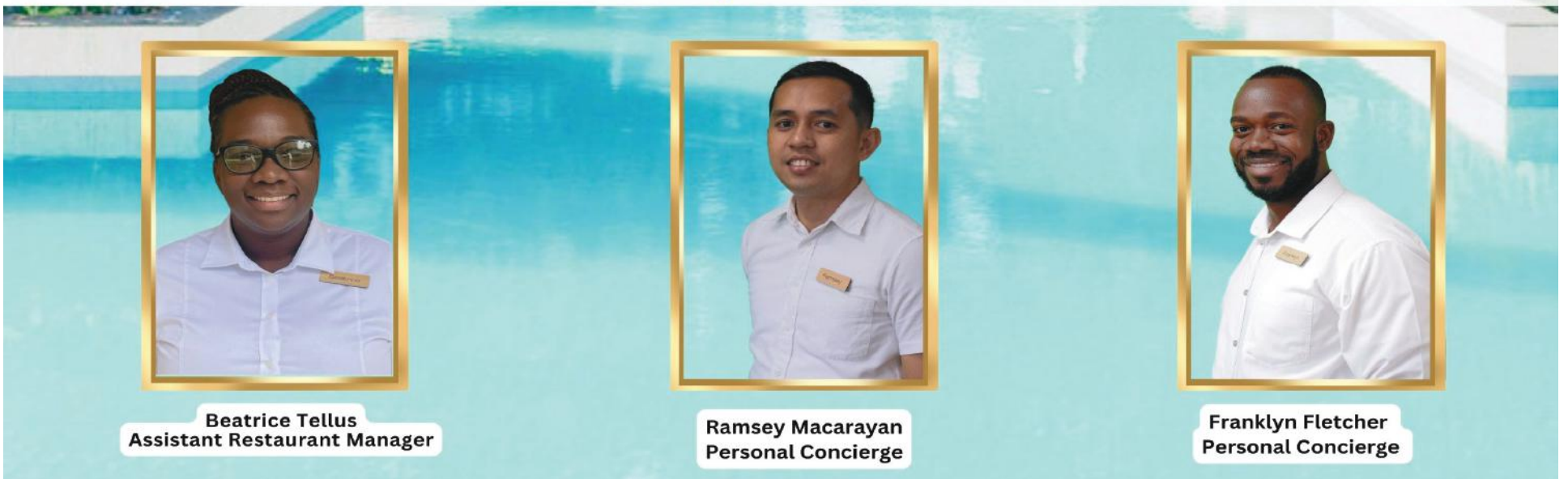
Send your resume to: careers@thestrاندtci.com

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Congratulations *Employees, Supervisors and Leaders of Quarter 2* *Winners*



Congratulations *Race for the Gold* *Winners for Quarter 2*



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GRACE BAY RESORTS

Employees Nominees of Quarter 2



Supervisors Nominees of Quarter 2



Managers Nominees of Quarter 2



Fortis Fuel Factor Electricity Rates Nosedived In August



President and CEO of Fortis TCI Ruth Gardiner

In a welcome development for residents, fuel factor rates on August electricity bills have decreased significantly, reflecting the fluctuating market fuel prices.

The decreases vary across different service territories, providing some relief for customers amid the ongoing volatility in fuel costs.

For customers in Providenciales, North Caicos, and Middle Caicos, the fuel factor rate has dropped by 13.6%, from \$0.1890 to \$0.1634 per kilowatt hour (kWh) compared to the previous month. Similarly, Grand Turk and Salt Cay resi-

dents will see an 11% reduction, with their rate decreasing from \$0.1835 to \$0.1636 per kWh.

While the new rate for South Caicos is not yet available, last month's rate had already seen a 10% reduction, decreasing from \$0.1962 to \$0.1768 per kWh. These adjustments come as part of the regular fluctuation in fuel factor rates, which are directly tied to the global market prices for fuel. The reductions will likely be a relief for consumers, helping to slightly lower the overall cost of electricity during a time of unpredictable fuel pricing.



THE STRAND
TURKS & CAICOS

Steward

Job Specification:

- Greeting customers, guiding them to tables and delivering drinks from the bartender.
- Clearing, cleaning and setting tables.
- Ensuring serving stations are stocked with cutlery, napkins, trays, and condiments.
- Sweeping and mopping floors in the restaurant, bar, and kitchen.
- Scraping food plates, pans, and pots.
- Moving used linen in and out of housekeeping

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have experience in cleaning kitchens and understanding basic cleaning standards
- Must be 2 years as a
- Must be able to work in a kitchen environment; stand for long hours and work efficiently under pressure

Salary expectations - \$9.00 - \$10.00 per hour

Gardener/Landscaper

Job Specification:

- Install and maintain seasonal plants
- Mow, trim and fertilize green spaces
- Mulch, edge and weed gardens
- Prune and trim trees and bushes
- Maintain all gardening equipment and machinery, like mowers, trimmers and leaf blowers
- Monitor and maintain the health of plants
- Deal with pest problems that could damage plants
- Keep gardens and green spaces clear of debris and litter

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience as a Gardener
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$9.00 - \$10.00 per hour

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Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

Interested applicants should also send a copy of your resume to the Labour Department located Downtown, Airport Road, Providenciales

Houseman

Job Specification:

- Assisting with housekeeping and deep cleaning carpets and upholstery, polishing brass, mirrors, glass, light fixtures, and chandeliers.
- Waxing all floors or hard cleaning of floors. Cleaning and laying fireplaces, restocking wood, emptying bins.
- Changing light bulbs, fuses, checking boiler pressure, bleeding radiators, checking security and alarm systems and performing minor household repairs.
- Assisting with laundry and ironing, cooking, laying tables, caring for children and pets.
- Maintaining gardens, mowing, watering plants, cleaning windows, paths and steps.
- Raking gravel and leaves, jet spraying exterior walls, sills and outdoor furniture.
- Valeting cars, driving to meetings, shopping, running errands, airport and school runs.
- Assisting to serve at dinners, looking after swimming pools, saunas, gyms and hot tubs.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2- 3 years experience in related field
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.
- Prior experience in housekeeping or related field preferred
- Knowledge of cleaning chemicals, proper storage, and disposal methods
- Ability to follow instructions and procedures
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn

Salary expectation - \$9.00 - \$10.00 per hour

Haitians, Jamaicans among 212 Undocumented Migrants Apprehended by Local Authorities



Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Arlington Musgrove

The Ministry of Immigration and Border Services has revealed that during the weekend of 17th – 19th August 2024, TCI Border Force apprehended 212 illegal migrants following the interception of four vessels and one landing, by the Marine Branch.

The apprehended migrants, who were of Haitian and Jamaican nationalities, were taken into custody and transported to the detention centre for processing.

The authorities pointed out that the successful interceptions have provided valuable intelligence to aid ongoing investigations into human smuggling networks operating in the Turks and Caicos Islands and neighbouring countries.

“Illegal immigration poses a severe threat to the Turks and Caicos Islands, including the potential for increased crime, strain on public resources, and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals,” a statement from the Ministry of Immigration and

Border Services stated. “By preventing clandestine entry, the TCI Border Force plays a crucial role in protecting the integrity of the nation’s immigration system and ensuring the safety and well-being of its residents.”

Additionally, the ministry stated that a large quantity of cannabis was uncovered and seized. “The TCI Border Force strongly warns individuals against entering the Turks and Caicos Islands illegally or importing controlled substances. Under the Customs Ordinance, individuals convicted of drug smuggling face significant penalties, including imprisonment for up to 2 years and/or a fine of up to \$50,000 and the seizure of property,” the ministry further noted.

It added: “The public is also reminded of the severe penalties associated with harbouring illegal migrants or facilitating their entry into the Turks and Caicos Islands under the Immigration Ordinance. Those found guilty of these offences

face fines of up to \$20,000 and imprisonment for up to four years.”

The Ministry of Immigration and Border Services noted that the interceptions were part of a series of recent enforcement actions conducted by TCI Border Force in collaboration with RTCIPF, TCI Regiment, and the country’s international law enforcement partners.

“These efforts demonstrate the TCI Border Force’s ongoing commitment to combating illegal immigration and the trafficking of controlled substances,” the news release added.

Commenting on the events, the Minister of Immigration and Border Services, Hon. Arlington Musgrove, stated, “We commend the efforts of the TCI Border Force along with RTCIPF, TCI Regiment, and our international law enforcement partners, namely the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and the US Coast Guard’s involvement in these crucial operations. This joint law enforcement activity demonstrates the importance of securing our borders and keeping our communities safe”.

“This successful operation is a clear reminder that illegal activities that threaten the peace and security of our islands will not be tolerated. Due to the hard work and vigilance of my officers, there will be 212 less illegal immigrants roaming the borders of the Turks and Caicos Islands.”

Musgrove further emphasised that the TCI Border Force’s dominance is a cornerstone of the nation’s defence.

“Our strength as a nation depends on the vigilance and superiority of the TCI Border Force, whose proactive approach continues to safeguard our people. We will not relent to defend our shores from those seeking to breach our laws,” he added.

The Director General in the Ministry of Immigration and Border Services has commended the Border Force officers for what he described as their professionalism and dedication to duty. He pointed out that their actions have demonstrated the country’s vision of “Safeguarding our Borders and the Nation’s Prosperity.”

Job Vacancy: Module Installation Project Manager

Molo Hotels (Turks & Caicos) Ltd. is embarking on our newest hotel development in the Turks and Caicos Islands. As part of the new project, we require a Project Manager experienced in project management of Modular Installation and management of skilled modular installation employees

Role Summary:

The Specialist Modular Project Manager is a critical role in our construction team, responsible for the management of the installation of prefabricated steel modules that will form the core structure of our new hotels.

Key Responsibilities:

- Ensuring the Installation steel modules according to detailed blueprints and plans.
- Ensure all construction meets high-quality standards and adheres to local building codes.
- Work closely with other construction professionals to ensure timely and efficient completion of tasks.
- Uphold safety protocols and maintain a safe working environment.

Required Qualifications:

- Minimum 5 years’ experience in the project management of installing steel modular pre-

fabricated buildings.

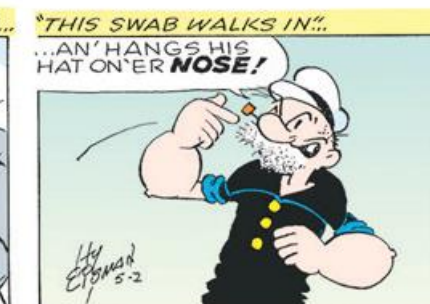
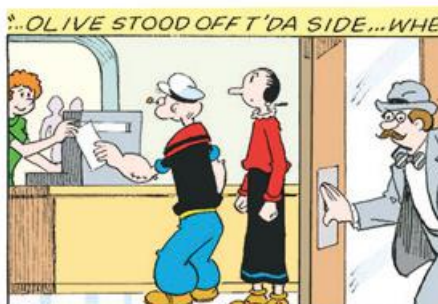
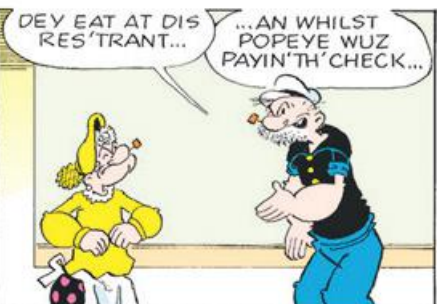
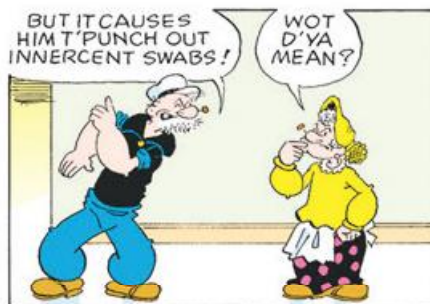
- Technical education in construction, engineering, or a related field would be advantageous
- Strong teamwork and communication skills.
- Physical fitness and ability to work in various environmental conditions.
- Certifications in relevant areas are advantageous.

Salary commensurate with experience. Interested and qualified persons may forward their resume and supporting documents to careers@catalystconsultingtci.com

HENRY SCARDELLI CRAIG BOLDMAN Archie

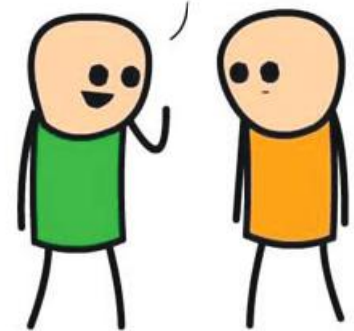


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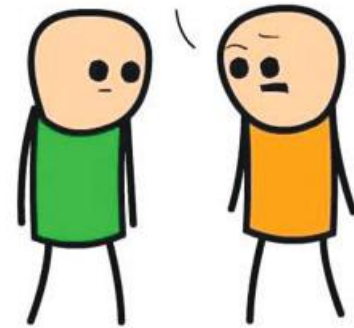


NEWSLINE COMICS

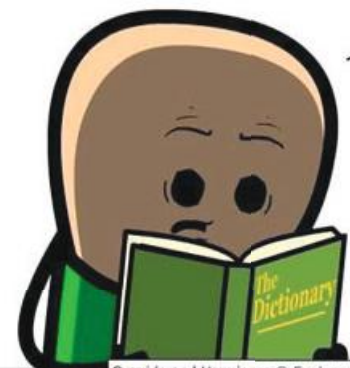
HEY, NICE TO MEET YOU! MY NAME'S SULLY.



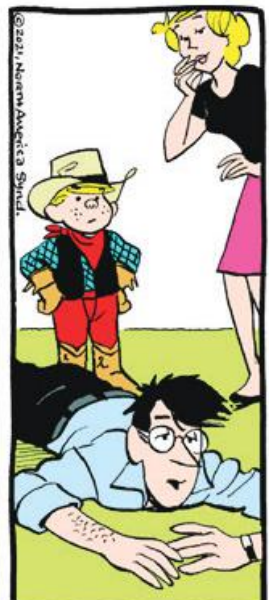
DOESN'T "SULLY" MEAN SOMETHING BAD?



THEY'VE SULLIED MY GOOD NAME...



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"I'VE FALLEN... AND I CAN'T GIDDY-UP."

jojo the dolphin

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HERITAGE



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

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

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

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

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

Sources:

DolphinsFilm

YourVillaDelMar

VisitTCI

Beaches Turks and Caicos Plays Significant Role in Successful 2024 Lit'l Chef Staging



Lit'l Chefs 2024 judges doing their examination of the Lit'l Chefs and their respective dishes at the competition at the Beaches Turks and Caicos' Kimonos restaurant recently

The Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) recently hosted its much-anticipated Jr. Lit'l Chef and Junior Chef competitions, drawing young culinary talents from across the islands.

The competitions involved youths aged 12-14 and 15-19, respectively, with each phase running for a week. The grand cook-off allowed participants to demonstrate their culinary prowess. Participants of both competitions were challenged to prepare a three-course meal consisting of appetizer, an entrée, and dessert.

Executive Chef of Beaches Turks and Caicos, Craig Nazareth helped to manage and captain the teams along with Edwin Gallardo, Executive Chef of Seven Stars. The participants received training at several prestigious resorts, including The Palms, Grace Bay Club, Blue Haven, Ritz Carlton, and Seven Stars.

The Jr. Lit'l Chef camp culminated with an exciting cook-off at Kimonos Restaurant, Beaches Turks and Caicos. The young chefs showcased their skills, guided by esteemed chefs such as Eric "Cookie" Johnson, and Daniel Pryce from

BTC.

The finale of the Lit'l Chef competition was hosted at Sol E Mare Villa. The Lit'l Chefs competition not only crowns champions but also selects a representative for the Turks and Caicos Islands international culinary team.

Celebrating Culinary Talent:

The Jr. Lit'l Chefs competition featured teams with creative names reflecting their fun spirit: Three Musketeers, Little Chefs, Taste Titans, Honey Pot, and Le Bouchon de Manger. Emerging as champions were Le Bouchon de Manger, represented by Adrian Penn and Roneiko Rowe. Little Chefs, with members Sheliyah Wilson and Nkechi Lewis, secured second place.

Adrian Penn, beaming with pride, shared, "I know my parents are going to be very proud. I am very happy to relive the experience of winning the competition again."

Roneiko Rowe added, "I know my parents will be happy, especially my dad because he is a chef as well. This is my first time in the competition. Adrian and I play soccer together, but it was our first time working together in the kitchen."

Crowning the Lit'l Chef Champion:

Ashley Gardiner was named the Lit'l Chef Champion for 2024, marking her second consecutive win. She will travel to Florida to represent the TCI at the Caribbean Junior Duelling Challenge (CJDC) at Carifest XIII in November. Shining Star, Gabrielle Martin, is the runner-up who will accompany Gardiner as a reserve.

A conversation with 17-year-old Ashley formerly of the A. Louise Garland Thomas High School and Edwin Allen High School in Clarendon, Jamaica, revealed her passion for the culinary arts and her appreciation of the mentorship she received from chefs at Beaches Turks and Caicos. She is also grateful for the opportunities garnered from the TCHTA.

"It was truly an honor to be chosen as the winner of the competition for two consecutive years with Chef Cookie

from the Beaches resort being our mentor on both occasions. It is with his guidance, complimented by other chefs, that I was able to be successful. I will forever be grateful for the programme, the chefs and the resorts that support this initiative through the TCHTA," Gardiner said.

Chef Nazareth had high praises for the young chefs.

"I was most impressed by the commitment they demonstrated, how much they have learnt and grown as individuals, and their ability to work together," he said.

He also emphasized the significance of the camp in securing the future success of the hospitality industry in the Turks and Caicos Islands. "Hospitality is the number one industry here, so it is very important that we invest heavily in our young people who are desirous of entering the sector."

Words of Wisdom

Nazareth advised the budding chefs, "learn from mistakes and keep growing."

Stacy Cox, CEO of the TCHTA, echoed this sentiment, commending the participants, "this was an amazing experience. I had an opportunity to see what the kids did all throughout the week as they brought it all together in the Black Box Competition, which is the grand finale of their week of training. They followed their tutors' instructions. They had the cuts, they had the flavors. Their presentations were phenomenal. It was hard to judge because everyone did such an amazing job."

Highlighting the local flavours and seasonings, Cox noted, "they tried to get a lot of the island flavors in, using a lot of jerk and creole seasonings. The textures were pretty good for the most part." She added, "there is always room for improvement, which is why we have the camps on an annual basis so that they can get an opportunity to return and develop their skills."

The Jr. Lit'l Chef and Junior Chef competitions have once again showcased the promising culinary talent of the Turks and Caicos Islands, helping to ensure a bright future for the local hospitality industry.





Food & Beverage Positions

◆ Food & Beverage Manager

Job Specification:

- Achieves restaurant operational objectives by contributing information and recommendations to strategic plans and reviews; preparing and completing action plans; implementing production, productivity, quality, and customer-service standards; resolving problems; completing audits; identifying trends; determining system improvements; and implementing change.
- Meets restaurant financial objectives by forecasting requirements, preparing an annual budget, scheduling expenditures, analyzing variances, and initiating corrective actions.
- Plans menus by consulting with chefs, estimating food costs and profits, and adjusting menus.
- Controls costs by reviewing portion control and quantities of preparation; minimizing waste; and ensuring high quality of preparation.
- Maximizes bar profitability by ensuring portion control and monitoring accuracy of charges.
- Publicizes the restaurant by designing and placing advertisements; inviting food editors to review the restaurant; contacting local, regional, and national magazines with feature ideas; and encouraging local businesses to hold social events at the restaurant.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 3-5 years as a Restaurant Manager + management certifications
- Must have a good experience in managing diverse teams in various restaurant cuisines.
- Must be able to work in a restaurant; stand for long hours and work efficiently under pressure

Salary expectations - \$57,000 - \$66,000 per annum

◆ Executive Chef

Job Specification:

- Creates creative recipes and menus.
- Manages and motivates the kitchen staff.
- Works well in a fast-paced kitchen.
- Demonstrates strong business acumen.
- Excels at project management and is organized.
- Collaborates effectively and has strong interpersonal skills.
- Hires, trains, and manages kitchen staff.
- Sets the staffing schedule.
- Leads pre-shift meetings.
- Develops recipes and menus.
- Determines plating and presentation plans.
- Orders and evaluates the quality of new food.
- Stocks the kitchen with necessary supplies.
- Helps with financial planning and budgeting.
- Handles and resolves customer complaints.
- Makes sure the kitchen staff follows all food safety laws.
- Sees and implements the kitchen policies and procedures.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 3-5 years experience as an Executive Chef
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Must be able to work in a restaurant and kitchen environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$95,000 - \$100,000 per annum

APPLY NOW!

Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

Interested applicants should also send a copy of your resume to the Labour Department located Downtown, Airport Road, Providenciales

◆ Guest Service Expert/Server/Waiter

Job Specification:

- Serves guest/owners with food and beverages in a positive and friendly manner.
- Provides information to help food and beverage selections.
- Presents ordered choices in a prompt and efficient manner.
- Maintains dining ambiance with a vibrant and enthusiastic attitude.
- Prepares restaurant for dining by clothing tables and setting decor, condiments, candles, napkins, service plates, and utensils.
- Protects establishment and guests by adhering to sanitation, safety, and alcohol beverage control policies.
- Helps guests select food and beverages by suggesting courses, explaining the chef's specialties, identifying appropriate beverage pairings, and answering food preparation questions.
- Transmits orders to bar and kitchen by recording guests choices and identifying guests' special dietary needs and special requests.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2- 3 years experience in related field
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$20,596 - \$25,167 per annum

Life Line



FEATURED CHURCH

In this edition of NewslineTCI Featured Church, we welcome New Birth Agape Fellowship International, under the auspices of Apostle Cindy Jarrett, founder, Minister, Teacher, Prophetess, Preacher & Apostle.

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

A Pentecostal Ministry, New Birth Agape Ministries International believes in the Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

The ministry started in 2009, at a location along Old Airport Road in the country's capital, Grand Turk, but in 2015, transitioned to Providenciales at 233 Millennium Highway (situated in a yellow building with red roofing at the left side of the roadway, passing the Maranatha Academy and heading towards the Millennium Heights Housing settlement).

There are several weekly opportunities at the ministry. On Sunday at 11a.m. is Sunday Morning Service; on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm is Prayer Meeting; and on Fridays at 7pm is Youth Meeting.

You can contact New Birth Agape Ministries International at +1 (649) 245-9807 and leave a message or email at newbirthagapefellowshipintl@gmail.com.

Apostle Cindy Jarrett,
Pastor for New Birth Agape
Ministries International



NEW BIRTH AGAPE MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

LIFE LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Christ is the Answer Ministry,
George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales
Tel: 241-8030

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

Harvest Bible Chapel TCI,
Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales.
Tel: 1649 333-2009
Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com.
<https://www.harvesttci.tc>.

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

Mount Mariah Baptist Church,
Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205

New Beginning Harvest Ministry,
Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759

New Testament Church of God
Orea Alley
P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales
Tel: 946-1255
Airport Road, South Caicos
Tel:231-2402

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

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

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

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

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

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

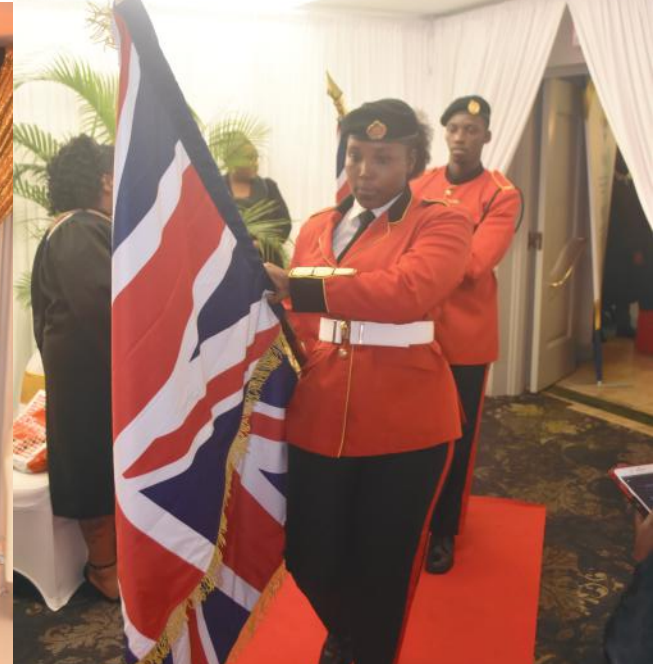
United Pentecostal Church,
Brown's Plaza, Leeward Highway,
Providenciales Tel: 956-5852

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

Editor's Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at:contact@newslineTCI.com

TCI Community College Inaugural Presidential Investiture

In celebration of its 30th year in existence, the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College staged its Inaugural Presidential Investiture, officially installing Dr. Candice Williams as the President of the college. The event was held at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort Villages and Spa. Among the attendees were Acting Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams and Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor. NewslineTCI was on hand to capture the event.







Grace Jones

The fashion muse with Caribbean roots

Grace Jones. Model. Designer. Muse. Popstar. Actress.

Grace Jones is a touchstone when it comes to enduring fashion influence. For decades, she served as a muse for designers and fashion connoisseurs who wished to channel androgyny and fearlessness.

With her Grecian-like figure and androgynous look, she was first signed as a model in the '60s.

Not only is Jones a fashion icon, she also serves as a cultural icon, being born on the small island of Jamaica but being raised in the New York, her fashion very clearly reflects her appreciation of growing up in 2 cultures. Grace also served as a cultural icon by becoming the first black woman who appeared in the 'James Bond' franchise in a significant role. She portrayed May Day in *A View to Kill*.

Jones is known for defying gender norms and embracing androgyny. Some of her most memorable and striking images has her hair in a flattop cut, while her cheekbones and jawline are sharply contoured, and her clothing tailored in the most angular way possible. Clearly ahead of her time, Jones, in a 1984 interview stated, "the future is no sex. You can be a boy, a girl, whatever you want."

Her evolved style sense is a far cry from her very religious upbringing.

A true individualist, trying to fit this icon into a singular box is difficult.

'I wanted to focus on her masculinity – to use what other people thought an embarrassment, and turn it to her advantage.' Grace Jones, blue-black in black on brown, New York, 1981. © Jean-Paul Goude



Experience Turks and Caicos Hails Successful UK Roadshow

Experience Turks and Caicos Acting CEO Mr. Alvin Hegner plays a round of golf at The Belfry with UK partners ITC, their private clients and celebrities such as Tony Jacklin and English Actor Danny Walters.



golf and croquet and over high tea was essential to our brand exposure,” said Mr. Hegner. Activities during the Roadshow included the hosting of a golf day in partnership with Luxury Travel Partner Inspirational Travel Company (ITC) and the Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Course that attracted the likes of footballer Clayton Blackmore, cricketer Matthew Hoggard MBE, actor Paul Jones, actor Danny Walters and former Rugby player Rory Underwood MBE which was followed by three-course dinner, music, and entertainment. There was also an afternoon tea in partnership with tour operator Destinology based at their head office. In addition to their reservations staff, Destinology brought in a number of their homeworkers for the event and Experience Turks and Caicos were also joined by their marketing teams. A wine tasting experi-



Mr. Alvin Hegner and Ms. Victoria Cranmer (left) with travel advisors from tour operator partner Destinology. A core mission of the Roadshow was to train and educate travel advisors about the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, 28th August 2024 - Experience Turks and Caicos is hailing its recent Roadshow in the United Kingdom as a success.

Experience Turks and Caicos was represented by Chairman Mr. Alvin Hegner and Ms. Victoria Cranmer for the Roadshow which took place from July 27th to August 2nd, 2024, in Twyford, The Cotswolds and Birmingham.

The primary objective of the Roadshow was to train, educate, and inspire the travel trade. In the short-term, Experience Turks and Caicos goals revolve around equipping and engaging professionals in the industry to ensure they are well-prepared and enthusiastic to sell the Turks and Caicos Islands to the UK market. By providing comprehensive training and educational resources, Experience Turks and Caicos aim to elevate the standards and expertise within the travel trade sector.

For the long-term, Experience Turks and Caicos is focused on increasing bookings from the UK and European markets and broadening the range of stays to include the sister islands. “The UK market is a very important market for the Turks and Caicos Islands, and we have seen an increase in visitors from that market and Europe this year. There is a lot of opportunity for us to increase our brand in the market and developing a close relationship with the luxury travel advisors is key to that,” said Minister of Tourism, the Hon Josephine Connolly. “The UK Roadshow was a success in that we were able to attract a lot of interest from those travel advisors who sell to the luxury market, which is our target audience. The training with tour operators, travel advisors, reservations and marketing teams was well-received and being able to network with celebrities and prominent businesspeople with a game of

ence took place in the affluent village of Twyford in the borough of Wokingham in Berkshire at Stanlake Park Vinyard, and a 24-hour Travel Agent Retreat held in The Cotswolds focused on showcasing the Turks and Caicos Islands to Luxury Travel Agents in partnership with tour operator Caribtours who also showcased images from their recent team retreat in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Training sessions included presentations on hotel partners such as The Sands, The Palms and The Shore Club. Ms. Julie Boulet from H2O Lifestyle Resort was present to talk about the resort and its attraction to kitesurfers while Ms. Anna Wells did a presentation on the soon to be opened Salterra Resort and Spa in South Caicos. Wymara Resorts and Villas, COMO Parrot Cay and Beaches were among the hotel partners supporting the Roadshow.

Exquisite

TURKS AND CAICOS

The Strategic Development Unit (SDU) at Experience Turks and Caicos has conceptualised Exquisite Turks and Caicos, an immersive tourism programme that collaborates closely with industry partners to curate and deliver on niche product offerings and services that enhance the overall traveller's experience.

Programme Mission:

- Focusing on deepening a traveller's connection to the Turks and Caicos Islands by adding significant value in terms of education, culture, history, eco-friendliness, entertainment and engagement.
- Captivate tourists by providing them with a more profound and memorable encounter with the Destination.
- Promotion of new partnerships.
- Concentrate on improving the innovativeness, quality, safety, and sustainability of existing tourism products, whilst developing and implementing new tourism products to strengthen and diversify the current tourism offer.

Priority Areas:

- Land Based Immersive
- Turquoise Immersive
- Cultural Arts
- Immersive Wildlife Encounters
- Food Tourism
- Native Island Salt
- Immersive Sustainable Safaris
- Indigenous Plant Elixirs
- Immersive Guided Tours
- Local Artisan Workshops
- Immersive Beach Experiences
- Yoga and Wellness Retreats
- Historical Homestead Visits
- Agriculture Immersive

Any eligible micro or small tourism business or start-up can apply to Experience Turks and Caicos seeking to be part of the Exquisite Turks and Caicos programme. Successful applicants will receive Technical Assistance Awards up to USD\$5,000 for different types of support.

Technical Assistance Includes the various services:

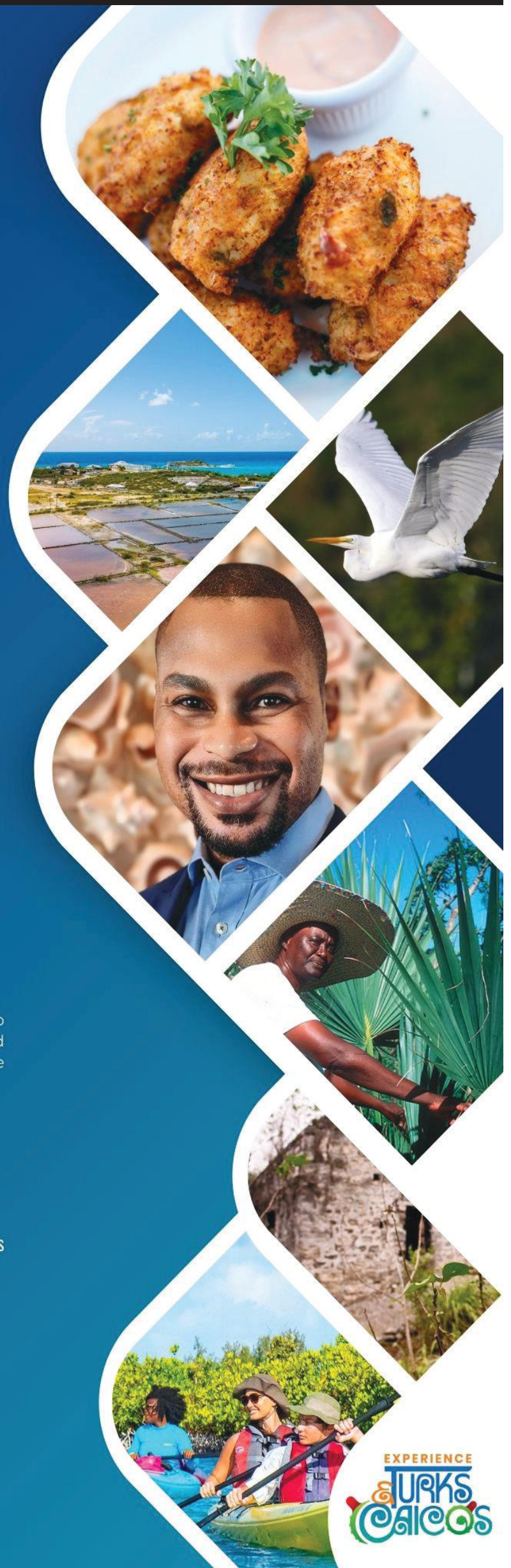
- Attorney Business Support Services
- Business Development Literacy
- Financial & Accounting Literacy Support
- Marketing and Branding
- Training & Educationals

Be part of creating unique experiences and service offerings for travellers and residents alike, and new revenue streams, for you!

GET IN TOUCH:

For more information and/or to schedule an appointment, kindly contact:

Mr Courtney Robinson
Strategic Development Manager
Email: crobinson@MyExperienceTCI.com
Telephone: (+1) 649 946 4970
Address: Ventura House, Grace Bay, Providenciales
Website: www.TurksAndCaicosTourism.com
Socials: FB, IG, TW: @TCITourism



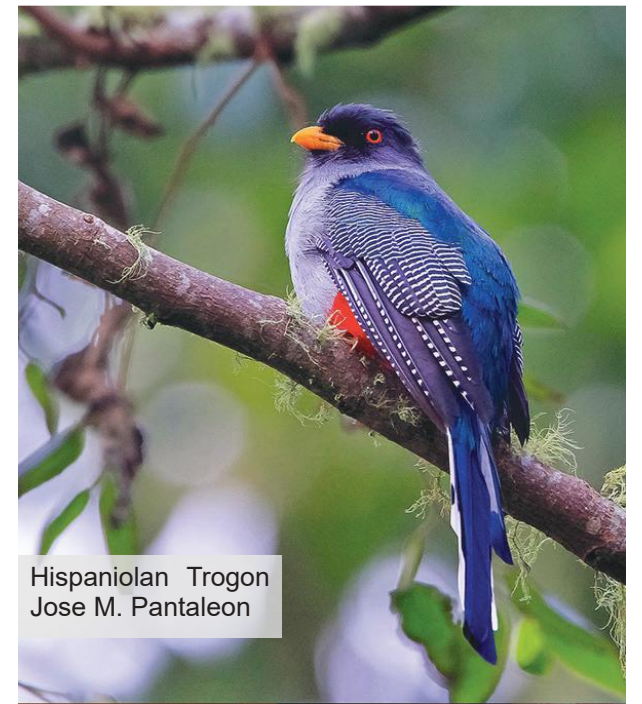
Scientists and Conservationists Unite to Save Caribbean Bird Diversity at BirdsCaribbean Conference



Opening Ceremony Group Shot

The 24th BirdsCaribbean International Conference, held in Santo Domingo from July 18th to 22nd in collaboration with Grupo Jaragua, brought together over 335 wildlife professionals, ornithologists, educators, and ecotourism leaders from 30+ countries. As the largest bird conservation gathering in the Caribbean, the conference was a vital platform for regional collaboration, emphasizing the urgent need to protect the region's extraordinary avian biodiversity amidst escalating conservation challenges. "The Dominican Republic, home to 33 endemic bird species, provided an ideal setting and inspired our theme, From Mangroves to Mountains—Safeguarding our Avian Treasures," stated Dr. Lisa Sorenson, Executive Director of BirdsCaribbean. "The Caribbean is a biodiversity hotspot with over 700 species of birds, including 180 species found nowhere else in the world. Pressures like climate change and habitat loss have put these species at unprecedented risk." A key focus of the conference was collaboration and empowering local communities in conservation efforts, a mission shared by BirdsCaribbean and partners across the region. "In the Caribbean, conservation is often driven by dedicated citizens who create change through community mobilization," Dr. Sorenson highlighted. "From birdwatching clubs that help curb illegal wild bird trade in Cuba to monitoring endangered forest birds in St. Vincent and the Grenadines, the conference showcased impactful grassroots work." The conference also highlighted the untapped economic potential of bird tourism for the region. Birdwatching is a rapidly growing US\$600 billion+ global industry, yet avitourism remains underdeveloped in the Caribbean. Protecting habitats is crucial not only for conservation, but also to unlock this significant economic opportunity. During the Caribbean Birding Trail symposium, delegates explored strategies to grow avitourism in a way that supports both economic development and environmental preservation. Seven world-renowned keynote speakers, including Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Dr. Terry Root, and

award-winning British broadcaster and writer, David Lindo, enriched the conference with diverse perspectives, covering topics like ecological restoration, the impacts of climate change, and the value of urban birdwatching. Altogether, the dynamic program addressed the most pressing issues in Caribbean bird conservation—providing a forum for delegates to share the latest science, education, and on-the-ground conservation initiatives, and to gain invaluable insights and practical skills to support conservation efforts at home. At the Opening Ceremony, Vice Minister of Protected Areas of the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, Federico Franco, praised the conference's timeliness, emphasizing that biodiversity protection is one of the most important challenges of our era. "We are in a critical moment for Caribbean biodiversity... but we are also in a unique position to make change," he asserted. "When we share science and knowledge—we create opportunities to learn, connect, and develop solutions." In addition to knowledge sharing, the conference fostered crucial collaboration amongst Caribbean conservationists. A Mentor-Mentee lunch connected emerging professionals with seasoned experts, and field trips to key birdwatching destinations, like Sierra de Bahoruco and Ébano Verde, allowed delegates to discuss shared conservation goals amidst the rich biodiversity of the Dominican Republic. These interactions laid the groundwork for increased collaboration, renewed dedication, and strengthened conservation capacity across the region. "The conference provided a vibrant platform for learning, networking, and collaboration. We were honored to be part of discussions on the latest research and conservation efforts, which have invigorated our own initiatives back home," enthused Trinidadian delegate Giselle Ragoonanan, Co-founder of the Trinidad and Tobago Bird Observatory and Research Centre. As the conference concluded, the vital role of the Ca-



Hispaniolan Trogon
Jose M. Pantaleon

ibbean as a global biodiversity hotspot was underscored more than ever. Collaboration is imperative to protect the region's avian treasures, and we urge stakeholders at all levels to unite in safeguarding our vast natural heritage for generations to come. The conference was made possible by many sponsors, including the Rufford Foundation, US Forest Service International Programs, Teleuniverso, American Bird Conservancy, National Audubon, Banco Popular, Caribbean Biodiversity Fund/Fondo MARENA, Cúa Conservation Agency, Vortex Optics, Vermont Center for Ecostudies, Naturalist Journeys, Mass Audubon, Rare Species Conservatory Foundation, Ford Puerto Rico, Explora EcoTours, OVA Trails, Spirit Mountain Coffee, Fundacion Punta Cana, Cúa Birding Tours, ZOODOM, Grupo Acción Ecológica, CAD, Ministerio de Medio Ambiente y Recursos Naturales, Ministerio de Turismo, Jardín Botánico Nacional, Fundación Progressio, CapsToYou, and Solimisa.

Sahara Adventures TC

Hiring a female Boat attendant

Duties

- Serve and assist guest onboard
- Clean and maintain boat
- Inventory and log of boat materials
- Daily inspection of boat safety equipment

Salary 1200\$ biweekly

Education

- High school diploma
- CPR. Certification
- Basic swimming skills and boat rope knotting skills is ideal, training will be available

Keeping kids' eyes safe from blue light



Studies estimate that children and teenagers (ages eight-18 years) spend more than seven hours a day consuming electronic media.

As parents, we understand the importance of protecting our children's eyes from the sun's harmful rays, but what about the harmful effects of blue light? Blue light, a colour in the visible light spectrum, is everywhere. Believe it or not, sunlight is actually the main source of blue light, and being outdoors during daylight is where most of us get most of our exposure to it. However, there are also many man-made, indoor sources of blue light, including fluorescent and LED lighting, and flat-screen televisions. Most notably, due to the increase in the daily use of technology in our everyday lives, we are exposed to the display screens of computers, smartphones, and other digital devices for several hours at a time. These screens emit significant amounts of blue light. Studies suggest that over time, exposure to excessive blue light exacerbated by technology could cause serious, long-term damage to eyes and general health.

THE IMPACT OF BLUE LIGHT ON CHILDREN

Digital eye strain has overtaken carpal tunnel syndrome (repetitive wrist strain from typing and mouse use) as the number one computer-related issue, and children are particularly vulnerable.

Today's children use digital tools more than ever before, including tablets, smartphones, e-readers, and video games. Studies estimate that children and teenagers (ages eight-18 years) spend more than seven hours a day consuming electronic media.

Dr Aron Wohl, CEO and lead optometrist at Eye Q Optical, emphasises, "With the increasing use of digital devices in education, it's crucial to take steps to reduce blue light exposure. These interventions, though simple, are effective in maintaining your child's health and well-being."

TIPS TO PROTECT CHILDREN'S EYES

To safeguard your child's eyes from blue light

and fatigue, consider these practical tips:

1. Follow the 20-20-20 rule: Encourage children to take a break every 20 minutes by looking at something 20 feet away for at least 20 seconds—essentially, take frequent short breaks looking away from your screen.
 2. Use artificial tears or eye drops and blink often: Refresh their eyes when they feel dry from prolonged screen time and remind them to blink more frequently, as staring at screens can reduce blinking.
 3. Adjust screen brightness: Keep screens at the minimum brightness necessary to see comfortably.
 4. Consider photochromic lenses: These lenses offer seamless protection from both UV and blue light, both indoors and outdoors, darkening automatically in response to UV rays.
 5. Install blue light filters on devices: Use screen protectors like Eyesafe and iLLumiShield to reduce blue light exposure from digital devices.
 6. Add anti-glare coatings: Anti-glare coatings on glasses can reduce glare, improve vision and provide protection from blue light.
 7. Wear blue light filter eyewear: Invest in blue light filtering glasses, which can be non-prescription if they don't need vision correction, or can be compatible with their contact lenses, but ensure that the lenses are optical quality.
- Dr Wohl reiterates the importance of taking precaution when it comes to protecting children's eyes, "As the adage goes, 'prevention is better than cure,' and incorporating simple habits and protective measures, such as using blue light filters either on the devices or prescribed eyeglasses from your trusted eyewear provider, can significantly reduce the risks associated with prolonged blue light exposure. Regular eye exams are crucial for detecting potential eye problems early on and determining

the appropriate level of ultraviolet and blue light protection needed. Given the increasing reliance on digital devices among today's youth, addressing blue light and sun exposure is paramount to safeguarding their ocular health and overall well-being."

Protecting your child's eyes from blue light is essential for their overall eye health and well-being. By implementing these measures, you can help protect your children's eyes from the potentially harmful effects of blue light, ensuring they maintain healthy vision as they head back into school.

Heartlyn Forbes

is seeking to employ a

Domestic Worker

this position is currently held by a work permit holder.

Responsibilities of this position include:

- To perform household chores, Daily cooking, cleaning, washing, folding clothes and ironing.

SALARY: \$8.00 per hour

Please submit an application no later than Friday, September 06, 2024 to: kornell@misickstanbrook.tc

Pregnant Cardi B Denies Baby No. 3 Is Named Hurricane



Cardi B with her kids Wave and Kulture. Cardi B/X

Cardi B's third baby will not be named Hurricane. On Sunday, Sept. 1, the "Enough" rapper, 31, addressed online chatter after fans speculated they knew what she would name the baby once its born. "Cardi shares ultra sound pic of baby 'Hurricane,'" a fan page on X captioned the image, which came from Cardi B's Sept. 1 Instagram post.

"Who???" the Grammy winner replied, adding crying emojis. In Cardi B's Instagram post, which included three images, she wrote, "I wanna meet my little boo boo soo bad already 🥺." The first two showed the expectant mother posing on a motorcycle, baring her growing belly. The final image was

her ultrasound. Cardi is already mom to daughter Kulture Kiari Cephus, 6, and son Wave Set Cephus, who turns 3 on Sept. 4. She shares them with estranged husband Offset. The Migos rapper is also a father to Jordan Cephus, 14, Kody Cephus, 9, and Kalea Marie Cephus, 9, from previous relationships. The Invasion of Privacy rapper revealed her third pregnancy via social media on Aug. 1. She made the announcement on the same day that she filed for divorce from Offset, 32, after six years of marriage. "With every ending comes a new beginning!" Cardi wrote on Instagram. "Reminded me that I can have it all! You've reminded me that I never have to choose between life, love, and my passion!" she continued. "I love you so much and can not wait for you to witness what you helped me accomplish, what you pushed me to do! It's so much easier taking life's twists, turns and test laying down, but you, your brother and your sister have shown me why it's worth it to push through!" Despite her recent divorce filing, Cardi and Offset were both present and seemingly in good spirits for Wave Set's 3rd birthday. The airplane-themed celebration saw the toddler with his parents and siblings in clips that both Cardi and Offset shared to their Instagram Stories on Aug. 31, a few days before Wave's actual birthday. Cardi uploaded a video of Wave dancing with his dad during the party. Meanwhile, Offset shared a video of Cardi holding the birthday boy while wearing a cropped T-shirt that showed off her growing baby bump.

Join our team

THE STRAND
TURKS & CAICOS

Cook 1

Job Specification:

- Assists with preparing, cooking, and serving soups, sauces, meats, eggs, dairy products, hot foods, sandwiches, vegetables, salads, salad dressing, fruits, pastries, desserts, breads and beverages.
- Relieves the Cook II of routine operations including watching, turning, and stirring food etc.
- Performs grill work, as needed.
- Preparing beverages by adding dry mixes, syrups, carbonation, water, and restocking milk and other beverage machines;
- Cleans and maintains culinary utensils and equipment and the working area with the assistance of helpers.
- Washes dishes and eating utensils; cleans tables; and maintains the cleanliness and stocking of food and other items in preparation areas, guest areas and workstations, as needed.
- May supervise the work of Foodservices Assistants/Cashiers as required.
- Follows and re-enforces policies and procedures regarding the proper handling, sanitation, and dispensing of food and beverage products.
- Responsible for other duties as assigned

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have experience working in a restaurant kitchen
- Must have 2+ years as a Cook 1
- Certifications
- Must be able to work in a kitchen environment; stand for long hours and work efficiently under pressure

Salary expectations - \$10.00 - 12.00 per hour

Sous Chef

Job Specification:

- Manage the culinary department, employees, and operations within the facility
- Collaborates with the head chef to direct food preparation.
- Helps design the food and drink menu.
- Produces high-quality plates, considering both design and taste.
- Oversees and supervises the kitchen staff.
- Assists with menu planning, inventory, and supply management.
- Keeps stations clean and complies with food safety standards.
- Monitors and maintains kitchen equipment.
- Provides exceptional foods when grilling and smoking meat
- Offers suggestions and creative ideas that can improve upon the kitchen's performance.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 3- 5 years experience as a Sous Chef
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Must be able to use a grill & smoker
- Must have experience managing culinary teams
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$45,000 - \$48,000 per annum

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Chef de Partie

Job Specification:

- Setting up the kitchen prior to a restaurant's opening
- Preparing a particular kitchen station by bringing all food containers to that point in the line
- Cooking a specific portion of each plated meal
- Assisting with marinating, cutting and pre-cooking foods
- Cleaning the kitchen before the restaurant closes
- Cleaning and sanitising their area with warm water and soap
- Wrapping unused items and storing them in proper areas at the end of a shift
- Plating food creatively and maximizing customer experience

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2- 3 years experience as a Chef de Partie
- Must be able to work in a restaurant kitchen environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure
- Advance certifications and qualifications
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn

Salary expectation - \$30,000 - \$36,000 per annum

Julian Marley, Alexx Antaeus hope to 'break new ground' at Grammys



Reggae legend Julian Marley (right) and artiste-producer Alexx Antaeus are eyeing the 'Best Remixed Recording category in Pop & Dance/Electronic' with their entry, 'The Jah Sees Them – Amapiano Remix'.

Being no stranger to the Grammys, 2024 Best Reggae Album Grammy winners Alexx Antaeus and Julian Marley decide to 'rally back' on the upcoming 67th staging of the award show to challenge themselves on the Grammy's new category for the 'Best Remixed Recording category in the Pop and Dance/Electronic Field'.

In an interview with The Gleaner, the 'Reggae Royalty' Julian Marley said winning this category would set a different standard for himself and his team.

"Winning this Grammy would validate our team's dedication to breaking new ground and pushing the envelope. The Amapiano Remix of Jah Sees Them reflects my passion for music that transcends the boundaries of genre. It's a dynamic fusion that connects cultures and sounds. Music is music. Music knows no limits," shared a passionate Julian.

As for renowned producer Antaeus, he said entering this category was destined to create an additional market for his artiste, Julian, adding to his unique sound on their Grammy-winning album, Colors of Royal, that has already created "a rich blend of Latin, African, Caribbean, and Electronic music elements, all united by Julian's iconic reggae vocals".

"Creating the Amapiano Remix was a natural progression, especially since it introduces Julian to a broader audience. Amapiano, [is] a genre rooted in South Africa, emerged in the mid-2010s, blending deep house, jazz, and soul music with distinctive percussive drum basslines. Adding reggae to this mix creates a fresh and innovative sound that truly deserves recognition," Antaeus said.

He added that, "Jah Sees Them was originally laid down as a reggae track, and it gradually evolved into

a fusion of reggae and electronic sounds, co-produced by me and Sean Alaric. However, it still has the unquestionable Juju vibe".

On that note, Julian said he believes the track should win in the 'Best Remixed Recording category' because it's not just a song, it's a philosophical work of art with a timely and timeless message.

"The lyrics of Jah Sees Them are profound and carry a significant message – 'Jah nah sleep, yuh [nuh]'. [He's] constantly watching the injustices committed by those in power. The 'Best Remixed Recording' category is about creatively reimagining existing songs. Our team transformed a down-tempo reggae/electronic track into an energetic, high-tempo club hit that resonates with the vibrant Amapiano rhythm of South African townships," the Systems artiste opined.

The upcoming Grammy award ceremony is set to take place on February 4, 2025.

Fresh off his "successful" European tour, the reggae stalwart is set to undertake an upcoming Legacy US Tour, with 'The Marley Brothers' – Ziggy, Stephen, Ky-mani and Damian Marley, which will kick-start later this year on September 5. Julian described this "long-awaited reunion" as "a unique experience celebrating our father [Bob Marley's] music, influence, and legacy".

THE STRAND
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Executive Housekeeper

Job Specification:

- Responsible for cleanliness, orderliness, and appearance of the entire property
- Ensure that rooms are made as per company standards.
- Prepare Annual Housekeeping Budget.
- Maintain par stock of guest supplies, cleaning supplies, linen, and laundry items.
- Organize inventories with Accounts and General Store for linen, laundry items and fixed assets.
- Pay particular attention while organizing pest eradication activities.
- Develop and implement Housekeeping systems and procedures
- Prepare reports for management information.
- Assist the Purchase department in selecting suppliers for items related to Housekeeping.
- Attending and resolving guest complaints.
- Organize on-the-job training and evaluate its effectiveness.
- Approval of the Functional Manual of the department.
- Recommend recruitment of new personnel.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have experience managing a laundry operation
- Must have 3+ years as an Exec Housekeeper + demonstrate management certifications
- Must have a good experience in managing diverse teams.
- Must be able to work in a housekeeping environment; stand for long hours and work efficiently under pressure

Salary expectations - \$57,000 - \$66,000 per annum

Housekeeping Supervisor

Job Specification:

- Manage the housekeeping department, employees, and operations within the facility
- Manage department budget and resources
- Manage inventory supplies and equipment
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation within the facility
- Ensure all housekeeping employees follow the appropriate protocols
- Delegate housekeeping tasks to employees as needed
- Provide feedback to employees to improve performance
- Provide feedback to management on employee performance
- Supervise and oversee the performance of housekeeping employees
- Provide feedback to management on employee performance
- Oversee daily operation of the housekeeping department

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience as a Supervisor
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$35,000 - \$41,100 per annum

Guest Environment Exert/Room Attendant

Job Specification:

- Clean and tidy guest rooms, bathrooms, and common areas
- Change bed linens and make beds
- Replenish guest room supplies, such as toiletries and towels
- Dust and polish furniture and fixtures
- Vacuum and sweep floors
- Report any maintenance issues to the appropriate department
- Assist guests with any requests or needs they may have
- Follow all safety and sanitation policies and procedures

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2- 3 years experience in related field
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.
- Prior experience in housekeeping or related field preferred
- Knowledge of cleaning chemicals, proper storage, and disposal methods
- Ability to follow instructions and procedures
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn

Salary expectation - \$20,596 - \$22,880 per annum

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Over 300 travel advisors descend on Sandals Royal Curacao



A section of the audience.



Curacao's Minister of Economic Development, Traffic, Transportation and Urban Planning Charles E Cooper (right) sits next to Gary C Sadler, executive vice-president of sales and industry relations at Unique Vacations Inc — an affiliate of the worldwide representatives of Sandals and Breaches Resorts — at the opening session of the American Society of Travel Advisors Caribbean Showcase 2024, hosted by Sandals Royal Curacao.

MORE than 300 members of the 18,000-strong American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA), tourism leaders, and trade media last week converged on Dutch-speaking Curacao, courtesy of Sandals Royal Curacao, for their annual Caribbean Showcase.

The back story to the get-together was that in two years since the opening of the resort, tourism in Curacao had grown by a whopping 172 per cent, according to General Manager Daniel Waters.

It was ASTA's third-annual Caribbean Showcase, part of a package of 10 across the Sandals resort chain, which brings the travel advisors to the region to engage in advanced training with over 40 local suppliers, tour operators, and destination management companies.

"The Caribbean Showcase has grown significantly since we first launched the programme,

with more travel advisors attending each year — reflecting the increasing demand and passion for Caribbean travel among their clients," said Zane Kerby, the ASTA president and CEO.

"With the Caribbean nearly neck and neck with Europe as a top destination, this coveted annual event provides travel professionals the opportunity to deepen their connections and expand their first-hand knowledge of the region. This dedication to enhancing their business sets travel advisors apart," said Kerby.

Education seminars gave way to enlightening data bolstering travel to the Caribbean, with more than 80 per cent of travel advisors reporting bookings to the region this year. According to ASTA's recent member survey, the Caribbean currently ranks as the second most popular destination among travellers, trailing Europe by only one per cent.

This year participants had the opportunity to discover Sandals Royal Curaçao, one of the newest Sandals hotels and already developing a reputation for its beautifully appointed accommodations, expansive ocean vistas, prime location within the island, and unique offerings that celebrate the local culture.

"Partnering with ASTA to host the Caribbean Showcase for its third year is an incredible honour for the Sandals brand," said Gary C Sadler, the Jamaican-born executive vice-president of sales and industry relations at Miami-based Unique Vacations Inc, an affiliate of the worldwide representatives for Sandals Resorts and Beaches® Resorts.

"We're shaking the tree so that you can pick up the fruits," declared Sadler. "This event is not just about highlighting the beauty and diversity of the Caribbean — a region Sandals proudly calls home — but also about empowering the travel advisors who play such a crucial role in bringing these destinations to life for travellers. "Travel advisors can count on the brand's unwavering support, with the full strength of the organisation behind them to ensure they have every possible resource to design unforgettable journeys for their clients — including immersive weekends such as this one — in turn thriving in their respective businesses."

The travel advisors, formerly referred to as travel agents, were captivated by Curaçao's rich culture and breathtaking landscapes through experiences curated by Sandals Royal Curaçao and Island Routes Adventure Tours. Highlights included open-air city bus tours, culinary explorations, and a Caracas Bay snorkel and catamaran cruise that each brought forward the destination's beauty and charm.

Following a weekend of excitement, ASTA announced dates for next year's ASTA Caribbean Showcase, which will be held at Sandals Ochi in Ocho Rios, Jamaica, from August 23-27, 2025, and invited travel advisors to register now to take advantage of discounted early registration rates.

Warsaw marks 85th anniversary of World War II Nazi invasion



People lay a wreath at the monument to the 1939 heroic defence of the Westerplatte peninsula outpost during solemn observances of the 85th anniversary of the outbreak of World War II, at Westerplatte, on the Baltic Sea, Poland.

Poland's leaders stressed the need for a strong defence in the face of war in neighbouring Ukraine and redress as they led solemn ceremonies early Sunday to mark the 85th anniversary of German Nazi forces invading and bombing Polish territory at the start of World War II.

Sirens wailed and a memorial bell tolled as President Andrzej Duda and Deputy Ambassador of Germany Robert Rohde attended an observance in the town of Wielun, the first civilian target of German bombing in the small hours of September 1, 1939. Some 1,200 people were killed in the attack

which, witnesses say, began at 4:40 a.m.

"We can say that we have forgiven even though we remember, even though the pain is persisting, and even though there are still tens of thousands of those who have been directly hurt by the Germans," Duda said. He also called on Berlin to make amends.

Meanwhile, at a monument on the Baltic Sea's Westerplatte peninsula, where a military outpost was shelled by a German warship just minutes after Wielun was attacked, Prime Minister Donald Tusk and Defence Minister Wladyslaw Kosiniak-Kamysz laid wreaths and attended a memorial roll call for fallen soldiers. At the time, the outpost's outnumbered troops fought for seven days before surrendering to the Germans, becoming a symbol of heroism and patriotism.

Tusk said war was present again in the region as the Russian invasion of Ukraine, which began in 2022, grinds on.

He said, in a clear reference to Germany, it wasn't enough to speak about "reconciliation" or to "bend your head in a sense of guilt", adding that the best sign of lessons learnt from the past is "the readiness to organise the entire Western world, Europe and NATO for the defence against aggression that we are witnessing today in the battlefields of Ukraine".

NEVER AGAIN

"Today we will not say 'Neven again.' Today we must say 'Never again alone,'" the prime minister said.

Tusk also said Poland was building "the most mod-

ern army in Europe, one of the strongest in Europe" to actively contribute to the unity and strength of the NATO defence alliance and the European continent, and "to defend our civilisation" and "never again expose our homeland to any risks".

German Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock posted on X, saying she wished Poles and Germans become "completely normal" towards one another, adding it was the desire of former Polish Foreign Minister Wladyslaw Bartoszewski, who survived the German invasion.

She also wrote that it was their responsibility, "while bearing our past in mind", to constantly work to keep their friendship alive.

In more than five years of World War II and the brutal German occupation, Poland lost six million citizens, or a sixth of its population, of which three million were Jewish. The country also suffered huge losses to its infrastructure, industry and agriculture.

Poland's previous right-wing government demanded \$1.3 trillion in damages from Germany. Tusk's current Cabinet has toned the demand down to some form of compensation that could serve to strengthen the ties between the two neighbours. Germany insists the matter is closed, as it had paid damages to the Moscow-led East Bloc after the war. Warsaw says it did not get any share of it.

Addressing attendees at the Wielun observance, the Polish president said: "Forgiveness and the admission of guilt is one thing, but compensation for the damage caused is another thing. And this issue has not been settled yet."

Donald Trump Says He Had 'Every Right' to Interfere in 2020 Presidential Election



Former President and Candidate for the 2024 United States Presidential Election Donald Trump

Donald Trump may be facing federal and state charges for allegedly trying to interfere with the 2020 presidential election, but he believes his actions were justified.

The twice-impeached former president, who lost the 2020 election to President Joe Biden, said in an interview on Fox News' Life, Liberty & Levin on Sunday, Sept. 1, that he had "every right" to interfere with the presidential race.

"It's so crazy, that my poll numbers go up. Whoever heard you get indicted for interfering with a presidential election, where you have every right to do it, you get indicted, and your poll numbers go up,"

said Trump, 78, per The Hill. "When people get indicted, your poll numbers go down."

In August 2023, Trump, who is accused of attempting to reverse his 2020 election loss in Georgia, was indicted on four criminal counts by a federal grand jury investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, Capitol riot and the 2020 election.

That same month, the state of Georgia also presented a 41-count, 98-page indictment against Trump and 18 other defendants related to the case. Although the former president initially faced 13 felony counts, including racketeering (violation of the Georgia RICO Act), Fulton County Judge Scott McAfee threw out three of the charges in March. Trump went on to say during his appearance on Fox News' Life, Liberty & Levin that "this is the worst case of election interference that anyone's ever seen, certainly in our country."

"They do this in Third World countries; they have some of it in South America, but they don't do it a lot, believe it or not. But they do it," he said, according to The Hill.

"And it's such a bad precedent because people are going to think about it differently, and they're going to think about it differently," he continued.

"And it's very sad, actually."

In March, Trump secured more than half of the GOP delegates, officially becoming the Republican nominee for president in 2024. He will face off against Democratic nominee Kamala Harris in November. Sarafina Chitika, a Kamala Harris campaign spokesperson, responded to Trump's interview in a news release on Monday, Sept. 2.

"Everything Donald Trump has promised on the campaign trail — from 'terminating' the Constitution, to imprisoning his political opponents and promising to rule as a dictator on 'day one' — makes it clear that he believes he is above the law," her statement read. "Now, Trump is claiming he had 'every right' to interfere in the 2020 election. He did not."

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"While Donald Trump is pushing his false history about the past, the American people are ready for a new forward," the statement continued. "They know Vice President Harris is the tough-as-nails prosecutor we need to turn the page on chaos, fear, and division, and uphold the rule of law."

As Haitians flee the capital, fears rise that the gangs will follow



A mother and daughter sat in a displacement camp in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, on Aug. 14. Ongoing gang violence has displaced over 600,000 people in the Caribbean nation.

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Unrelenting gang warfare in Port-au-Prince is fueling an exodus of people from Haiti's capital, overwhelming already impoverished cities and towns and sparking fears that the gangs will follow. More than 578,000 Haitians, or 5 percent of the population, have fled their homes since 2021, according to the UN migration agency. The number jumped 60 percent from March through May this year alone, the International Organization for Migration reported, as heavily armed paramilitary gangs attacked the international airport and the main seaport, busted prisons open, and rampaged through the capital. With the Dominican border closed to Haitians and regional neighbors intercepting boats, the vast majority of people fleeing the mayhem in Port-au-Prince are heading for the south, where they are cramming in with relatives or strangers.

Their arrival is transforming communities that have been suffering their own crises. A new school year, delayed a month by security concerns, begins in October with shortages of teachers and classrooms. Health care, water, and waste systems, already under strain, are struggling with the new burden.

"People are relying on solidarity, receiving neighbors," said Claire Daphné France, mayor of the southern city of Les Cayes. "But this complicates their lives. We already had a population problem, but now all our problems are multiplied by four."

France estimates that the port city of 125,000, a top destination for the displaced, is now hosting at least another 30,000. As a result, she said, Les Cayes and the surrounding area are seeing more "cases of insecurity and violence," raising concern that the capital's gang violence is metastasizing.

"We have a lot of children on the streets," she said. "Many come from gang-controlled areas and did not arrive with their parents. ... Many are in transit, and I'm afraid they'll become gang members without proper guidance."

Paramilitaries control 80 percent of Port-au-Prince, the UN office here has estimated, and were already pushing into the countryside. The UN-approved, Kenyan-led security force that started arriving here in June has so far shown little effect.

Nearly 1,400 people were wounded or killed in Haiti from April through June, the UN office said in its most recent report. A quarter of them were women or children.

Most were victims of indiscriminate gang attacks, the office said. Others were killed in clashes between gangs and the vigilante groups that are increasingly confronting them. Killings were down from the previous quarter, but kidnappings and rapes by gang members jumped. Haiti's presidency has been vacant since the still-unresolved 2021 assassination of President Jovenel Moïse. The National Assembly has been empty since the last lawmakers' terms expired at the beginning of 2023.

The Caribbean nation of 12 million is now governed by an interim council and prime minister.

UN humanitarian official Edem Wosornu said she was moved during a July visit "by the generosity of the Haitian people who are splitting and sharing their bread — literally."

Still, she said, local officials stressed to her that they "cannot deal with this level of crisis."

"They're used to dealing with earthquakes," said Wosornu, the global director of operations for the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. "They were able to deal with Hurricane Matthew. They were able to deal with all sorts of natural disasters. But this new wave of violence is harming a lot of people and the local authorities are simply overwhelmed."

Guyana Makes Historic Cocaine Bust



Some of the drug seized by the Guyana Authorities

As Guyana recorded its largest seizure of cocaine on Saturday in Matthews Ridge, Region One questions remain about where the drug originated, how exactly it was to be transported to its final destination and how long the network has been in place.

The operation was headed by the Customs Anti-Narcotic Unit (CANU) with collaboration from the US Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) and the Guyana Defence Force (GDF). One suspect was apprehended but his nationality and name are being withheld by the authorities for the while.

Before journalists were transported to the site where the massive amount of cocaine was discovered, they were all clueless as to what the assignment was. The Ministry of Home Affairs facilitated transporting journalists to the location to witness the discovery.

Shortly after the aircraft landed at the Matthews Ridge airstrip, a CANU team landed and was dispatched to an unknown location. While journalists were still unaware of the assignment, a taxi driver who transported them into the village commented that it was the first time he had seen CANU in the village.



Bright Football Future for TCI

Both National Coach and Team Captain Excited about the talented crop of new players coming through

South Carolina Basketball Star Ashlyn Watkins Arrested on Assault and Kidnapping Charges

Ashlyn Watkin



University of South Carolina women's basketball

star Ashlyn Watkins was arrested on assault and kidnapping charges on Saturday, Aug. 31.

Watkins was arrested in Columbia, South Carolina following a warrant, filed by the University of South Carolina Police Department and obtained by PEOPLE, stating that Watkins allegedly assaulted the victim by "forcefully grabbing her face, pulling her arms and pushing."

The warrant includes claims that Watkins picked up the victim against her will and "grabbed the victim's head and forced her to walk down the hall, thus controlling her movement while preventing her from leaving."

The victim was able to escape and pulled a fire alarm, per the warrant. Local police and fire officials then arrived on the scene and the victim was treated for non life-threatening injuries.

Following her arrest, Watkins was released on a \$30,000 personal recognizance bond and ordered to have no direct or indirect contact with the victim.

Her next court appearance is set for Oct. 25. In the meantime, Watkins will be able to travel with the team for out-of-state games and practices.

PEOPLE has contacted South Carolina for comment. The school told local news station WLTX19 that they were aware of Watkins' arrest and gathering information, but has not yet issued a statement or said if Watkins will remain on the team.

Watkins and South Carolina won the NCAA National Championship in March, beating Caitlin Clark and the Iowa Hawkeyes 87-75 to cap off their undefeated season. Watkins played 14 minutes in the win, with 3 points, 1 assist and 5 rebounds.

A junior, Watkins is set to begin her third season with the Gamecocks after averaging 9.2 points and 7.4 rebounds per game last year. The team has their first game on Nov. 10 against North Carolina State.

Mbappe scores first La Liga goals as Real Madrid beat Betis



Real Madrid's French forward #09 Kylian Mbappe celebrates scoring his team's second goal from the penalty spot during the Spanish league football match between Real Real Madrid CF and Real Betis at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid on September 1, 2024.

Kylian Mbappe answered his critics in style as he netted his first La Liga goals to give Real Madrid a 2-0 win over Real Betis at the Santiago Bernabeu on Sunday which sends them second in the table.

Since scoring in the UEFA Super Cup against Atalanta, new signing Mbappe had failed to find the back of the net in Madrid's opening three games in La Liga, prompting criticism in the Spanish press.

Mbappe was made to wait for his goals as he squandered a series of chances, finally finding

the back of the net in the 67th minute, sweeping the ball past the Betis goalkeeper with his left foot after a well-timed back-heel from Fede Valverde.

Eight minutes later the France captain added a second from the penalty spot and was cheered off the field when he was replaced by Luka Modric in the 84th minute.

The smile on Mbappe's face was in contrast to the concern that had been shown since scoring his first goal and winning his first trophy in Warsaw on August 14.

On Saturday, coach Carlo Ancelotti hit back at the criticism, insisting that his star recruit was settling in well.

"It's true that he hasn't scored but he's playing very well and has been very dangerous every time. I don't think he has any problems adapting," said Ancelotti, pointing instead to his team's lack of balance.

Madrid's 2-0 win takes them second in the table with eight points, four behind early leaders Barcelona who eviscerated Real Valladolid 7-0 on Saturday to make it four wins from four in La Liga under new coach Hansi Flick.

Atletico Madrid are third after a late victory in Bilbao on Saturday while Villarreal are fourth, both of them also on eight points.

Girona are fifth after picking up their second win of the season in Seville.

Ivan Martin put Girona ahead in the 41st minute with Abel Ruiz wrapping up a 2-0 win over Sevilla with a penalty in the 73rd minute.

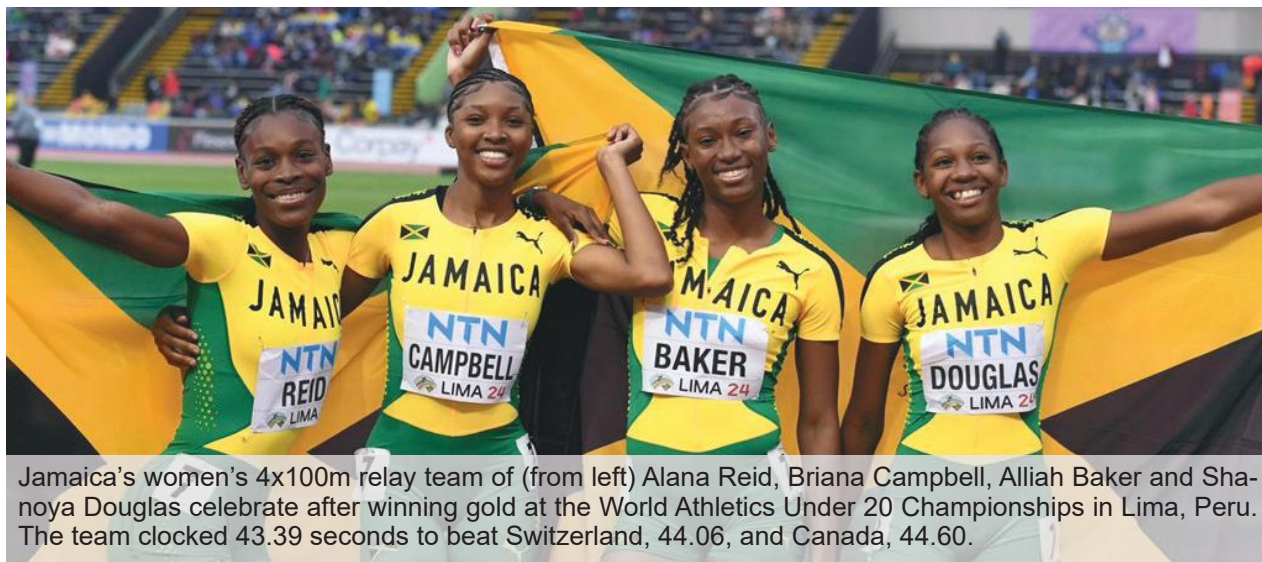
Goals from Carlos Vicente and Luka Romero gave Alaves a 2-0 win over Las Palmas while Osasuna are in seventh after an exciting 3-2 win at home against Celta Vigo.

Ante Budimir teed up Flavien Boyomo to put the home side ahead after 21 minutes but the lead was short-lived as Borja Iglesias levelled for Celta.

A Carlos Dominguez own goal just before the break put Osasuna back in front with Abel Bretones adding a third just after the hour.

Celta were reduced to 10 men when Alfonso Gonzalez was sent off four minutes from time but an own goal from Moi Gomez was small consolation in the last minute.

Jamaicans secure double sprint relay gold to end WU20



Jamaica's women's 4x100m relay team of (from left) Alana Reid, Briana Campbell, Alliah Baker and Sha-noya Douglas celebrate after winning gold at the World Athletics Under 20 Championships in Lima, Peru. The team clocked 43.39 seconds to beat Switzerland, 44.06, and Canada, 44.60.

Back-to-back 4x100m relay gold medals saw Jamaica end the World Athletics Under 20 Championships at Estadio Atletico de la Videna in Lima, Peru, on a high on Saturday as they totalled five medals, including four golds at the five-day championships.

A blistering anchor leg from DeAndre Daley saw the men win their first gold medal in 18 years, while the women won a third straight.

Jamaica ended fourth on the medal table after starting the day in ninth position, with four gold and a bronze, and were seventh on the placing tables with 59 points. The USA topped both tables, getting 16 medals, same as two years ago in Cali, Colombia — eight gold, four silver, and four bronze; Ethiopia were next with six gold, two silver, and two bronze; and China — four gold, four silver, and three bronze.

"The main focus was to not panic," Daley told the Jamaica Observer. "I am used to running from behind and win crucial races, so we did not panic. I told myself focus, run past everybody, we have to get the gold medal." Both Daley, who was fourth in the 100m on Wednesday, and Gary Card, who was also in the final, said the relay gold made up for the disappointment.

"I don't like losing the 100 metres, so I always go out, take it out in the relay, and that is exactly what I did today," Daley added.

The men's team was unchanged from the preliminaries: Jace Witter leading off to Card, Nyrone Wade, and Daley, who got the baton in fourth place and powered his way past all the teams ahead of him, just catching the Great Britain athlete on the line.

Daley brought the crowd to its feet as he ran from fourth place to edge Great Britain's Teddy Wilson on the line as they ended a string of three straight silver medals, all behind the USA.

Great Britain clocked 39.20 seconds and Thailand ran a national Under 20 record, 39.39 seconds for the bronze. Jamaica's women strolled to a third straight 4x100m gold medal after running 43.39 seconds in the final, following wins in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2021 and Cali, Colombia, two years ago.

After replacing Sabrina Dockery on the lead-off leg with 200m bronze medalist Shanoya Douglas, the Jamaican team used smooth baton changes to come from behind with what was essentially an easy win.

Alliah Baker ran the second leg, handing off to Briana

Campbell, with 100m champion Alana Reid cruising home.

Australia had finished second originally but were later disqualified along with the USA team, and Switzerland were promoted to the silver medal position with a national Under 20 record 44.06 seconds and Canada took third with 44.60 seconds.

Reid, who copped her second gold of the championships said afterwards, "It feels good. I also wanted to come out here and let my other teammates feel how it feels to be up there on the podium. I think we did fairly well."

Reid said further, "Last night we told ourselves that today is the last day we want to leave with something that we can look back on. So seeing that we came out here and we did our best, and we both gave our best, and we're both on top, it really means a lot to us. I feel really good. I mean, it's my second World Junior Championships and my last one. And I told myself that each championship that I go, I'm going to make my last one my best one."

The women's 4x400m team of Abrina Wright, Alliah Baker, Anecia Campbell, and Kelly Ann Carr ended eighth in 3:39.30 seconds. USA, who only got into the final after three teams were disqualified in the preliminaries, won with 3:30.74 minutes, ahead of Australia, 3:31.47, and Great Britain, 3:32.80.

Both 400m hurdler Daniel Wright and shot putter Shaiquan Dunn were seventh in their respective events earlier in the day.

Wright had finished eighth after running 51.61 seconds, but the disqualification of Chile's Ramon Fuenzalida saw him move up to seventh place.

American Vance Nilsson won in a world Under 20 leading 49.26 seconds, followed by Michal Rada, who set a Czechia national Under 20 record 49.30 seconds, and Finland's Anti Sainio was third in 49.61 seconds.

Dunn, who came into the championships with the world leading 65.48m, could only muster 59.79m in the final. This was his second final of the week after he had placed ninth in the shot put on Tuesday.

Jade-Ann Dawkins was 10th in the triple jump with 12.91m (0.2m/s).

Ackera Nugent Runs Fourth Fastest Time in History



Ackera Nugent clears the hurdle ahead of his fellow competitors

DESPITE not getting on the podium at the Paris Olympics this summer, Ackera Nugent says she's living the dream after further lowering her national record and registering the fourth-fastest time in the history of the Women's 100m Hurdles.

The 22-year-old executed near to perfection at last Friday's Diamond League in Rome, Italy, clocking a world-leading 12.24 seconds in a slightly negative headwind while beating Olympic Champion Masia Russell who was second in 12.31. Nugent bettered her personal best of 12.28 seconds, set at the JAAA/Puma National Senior Championships in June at the National

Stadium.

"It means a lot to me, just being able to see myself living out the dream that I've always wanted for myself and just seeing everything coming together. It's a great feeling," she said.

"I'm in really good shape. I know that I was in great shape in Paris but you know things happen. I wasn't really at my best there, and that's fine; it's a learning experience for now. It's just about enjoying what I do and coming out here... and just see where it can get me until the end of the season."

The Excelsior High and University of Arkansas graduate made her debut at the Olympics last month and was strongly considered as a medal favourite due to her impressive form throughout the season.

However, she was unable to get on the podium as she didn't finish the final due to a mishap with the hurdles.

Nugent, however, doesn't view this as a disappointment as she believes her moment in glory will come.

"I learned something because I was the youngest in the field — so I was competing against ladies that have been doing it, they know how to show up and all of that stuff — so just being an

Olympian at the age of 22, that's a great feeling," she said.

"It's just me stepping into the future of myself to see that I'm able to do this, so it's just like I have to trust myself and just enjoy — you win some, you lose some. I have so many more years in the sport that I can [use to] develop and grow because I know that the Lord is greater than gold, so when I serve a living God he's going to show up for me when He knows I'm ready to receive stuff so I'll just trust the Lord and just enjoy life." In terms of performances, Nugent is proving to be one of the best sprint hurdlers of all time as she's run sub-12.30 seconds four times this year. The only other women to do so are world record holder Tobi Amusan and former world record holders Kendra Harrison and Yordanka Donkova. She's expected to close out her season at the Diamond League finals in Brussels later this month but she isn't promising any more records for 2024.

"I really don't know. I don't know what else my body can give for the rest of the season but we're just hanging in there. We're just enjoying the different cities; this is my first time going to certain places so it's just living in the moment and just taking the exposure," said Nugent.

Sports Commission Gets Event/Program Coordinators, Sports Officer, Multimedia Specialist



Oronnica Stubbs, Sports Event Coordinator



Lydia Handfield-Martin, Programme Coordinator



Machel Turner as Sports Programme Officer



Tristan Sayao, Multimedia Specialist

The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission has appointed Oronnica Stubbs as its Event Coordinator, Lydia Handfield-Martin as Sports Programme Coordinator, Machel Turner as Sports Officer and Tristan Sayao as Multimedia Specialist.

Stubbs' role entails event planning, interpersonal, and project management skills in the coordination, preparation, and development of sporting events and physical activities on a large scale.

Stubbs possesses an associate's degree in business studies and pending a Bachelor's Degree in Human Resource Management.

The Sports Commission said she has vast experience in the hospitality industry, most recently being the Human Resource Coordinator at the Ritz Carlton Turks and Caicos, which also entailed coordinating events for staff.

On this appointment Stubbs shares, "I am deeply appreciative of the opportunity to join The Turks

and Caicos Sports Commission, as the Sports Events Coordinator. It is an honor to be entrusted with this role, and I am excited to contribute my fresh ideas and energy to assist with developing events and sporting programs. I look forward to being a part of such a distinguished team and working together to create memorable and enjoyable experiences for our athletes and stakeholders alike. 'Great things come from hard work and perseverance. No excuses,' – Kobe Bryant."

Handfield-Martin, as Program Coordinator, will be responsible for planning, organising, and coordinating the daily operation of the Felix Morley Community Centre. She will engage in community and stakeholder outreach strategies to generate interest and increase participation in all opportunities offered at the facility, including sports and physical activities, information technology, and other initiatives, through effective promotion and marketing campaigns.

Handfield-Martin graduated from the HJ Robinson High School and attended the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College. She has over 38 years of international experience working in multiple industries such as Banking and Hospitality.

Handfield-Martin started her journey at the TCI Sports Commission as the Sports Events Coordinator and was later offered the opportunity to become the first Program Coordinator at The Felix Morley Community Center in Five Cays.

On her appointment Mrs. Handfield-Martin shares, "I am grateful to be given such an amazing opportunity to be a part of the TCI Sports Commission. This is an organisation that is helping to make a difference in the lives of our youth through sports and other after-school programs and initiatives. I therefore accept my new role with an eagerness to embrace the changes and opportunities presented to me each day and will do my best to help make the Felix Morley Community Center a safe haven for the youths to patronise. I am a firm believer that anything you put your heart, and mind into with hard work and dedication and God's help can be achieved."

Turner joins the TCI Sports Commission with extensive experience in the sports industry, most recently as the Operations Manager at Professional Football Jamaica Limited, overseeing the execution of the Jamaica Premier League through its post-pandemic

rebranding.

Before that, he gained experience as a Sports Coordinator at the University of Technology, Jamaica, Video Analyst for the Jamaica senior men's national team, and Information & Support Officer with the Sport & Physical Activity team at the Wandsworth Borough Council.

Possessing a Master's Sports Management from the London Metropolitan University and a Bachelor's in Sociology from Davidson College where he was also an NCAA Division 1 student-athlete in football (soccer). Turner also has several sport-related certifications such as 1st4Sport Level 1 Award in coaching basketball and a certificate in Football tactical analysis from the Barça Innovation Hub Universitas.

On this appointment Turner shares, "I look forward to contributing to the growth and development of sport in the Turks & Caicos Islands. The TCI has proven the ability to produce athletes capable of competing on the highest stages of world sport and I am excited to be a part of executing competitions and other activities that will hone the skills of those future international representatives."

As the Multimedia Specialist, Sayao's role will entail conceptualising and producing audio, video, animations, and interactive multimedia for a variety of audiences, platforms, and outcomes.

Sayao has an Associate's degree in Computer Studies from the Turks & Caicos Islands Community College. He has worked in the media field for over 4 years, working in broadcast at People's Television (PTV) and Electronic Field Production at Spotlight Communications.

He is experienced in corporate, lifestyle, documentaries, and sports productions including photography. Sayao's training background also entails cinema work and the use of cameras for action shots including the use of dolly, crane, and stabilised remote heads.

On his appointment, Sayao shares, "I have a big interest in Filmmaking and photography. In my pursuit of my career within the media industry, I have been blessed with the opportunity to work within the Turks & Caicos Islands Sports Commission and I am thankful to God. I look forward to working alongside working professionals & contributing to this valuable organisation with my skillset and experience as the Multimedia Specialist."

GREAT OPTIMISM FOR TCI FOOTBALL FUTURE



Members of the TCI National Football Team

Billy Forbes, Captain of the Turks and Caicos Football Association (TCIFA) Senior Men's Team is excited about the future of football in the country having seen a bunch of young talent forcing their way into the national team. Forbes was giving his reflection in a post-game interview after the Concacaf Nations League Qualifier against Anguilla at the TCIFA Field on Wednesday, September 4, where the local team went down 0-2.

Forbes who is the senior most player on the team, stated that many of the players on now on the team are teenagers and those just who just turned 20.

"Everybody around us are very young players. I think the future is bright because in our line-up we have a goalkeeper (Samuel Harvey) that's 14 years old, we have Maddox (Zaidon) that's 16 years old, and a few other guys (who are teenagers)," Forbes said.

Forbes however, cautioned that though the

team is filled with budding talent, he warned against complacency.

"Most of the guys that came in, they're not over 20. So, I think the future is bright. But I think with Turks, we need to work a little bit harder," Forbes noted.

Young Zaidon, playing out of midfield was very effective on and off the ball. He appears to be a quick thinker, especially when he is in possession of the ball, while when without the ball, always pressuring for possession.

Young Harvey in goal, though allowing two goals in, was impressive between the sticks. He pulled off some brilliant saves during the game, while dictating effectively from the back.

In the meantime, National Coach Aaron Lawrence has echoed Forbes' sentiments about the prospect of the country's football future, as well as what the team needs to do to climb to the next level.

Speaking specifically on the first game against Anguilla, Lawrence pointed out that the team needs to be sharper in attack, pointing out that his midfielders and forwards would need to move with more alacrity to get into the opponents' vinal third to give themselves good scoring chances.

"What went wrong is we're never quick in our offence... to get the ball quicker in our offence. So, we have to work on getting the ball quicker in the offensive part of the game and then see what we can do from there," Lawrence explained.

Speaking on the backline, the national coach pointed out that the backline needs to be more cohesive rather than being fragmented at times in the game.

Defensively, we have to be tighter at the back for those long balls. we have to work on that and see where we can go from there and try to fix what went wrong.