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**VOLUME 5 ISSUE 12**

**Sept. 01, 2023 - Sept. 08, 2023**

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**GOVERNMENT  
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The Cutella Talbot-run Amani Youth Foundation in Collaboration with Lovesmart Inc. staged two Young Ladies Empowerment Workshops, one event on Grand Turk and the other on Providenciales. The Providenciales event was held on Monday, August 28 at the Edward Gartland Young Centre in Providenciales. The Grand Turk event was held on Friday August 25th at the HJ Robinson High School



A section of the audience at the Edward Gartland Youth Centre

Motivational speaker Valerie Williams was the guest presenter

First Lady of the Turks and Caicos Islands Delthia Russell-Misick, who was one of the speaker of the event, reacts to one of the speakers

Convener of the workshop Dr. Cutella Talbot addresses the audience

Main speaker Valerie Williams engages members of the audience to participate in a demonstration

Miss Grand Turk Teen Danya Russell, daughter of the TCI's First Lady, Delthia Russell-Misick, was one of the speakers

Dean-gelo McLeod aka 'Soulful D' renders an item

The Grand Turk participants share a photo moment with the organisers of the event



# Informal Settlements Threaten Tourism



SIMONS: "Some of those same people are the ones that cook in the hotels, clean the rooms, serve at the tables."

Lightbourne: "Government is anxious and ready to develop and improve the facilities and infrastructure, but to do so at the moment is inappropriate."



Informal settlements in the Turks and Caicos Islands are posing one of the greatest threats to tourism, according to Director of the Informal Settlement Unit, Retire Justice Carlos Simons.

Justice Simons, in a recent media briefing to bring the members of the press up to speed as to where the recently launched entity was with its operation, said such communities were hotbeds for all sorts of communicable diseases such as cholera.

The government lists informal settlements as constructions done outside of the planings, land ownership, public health laws. According to ISU Director, those communities are not equipped with proper sewerage, garbage, and other waste disposals, thus create threats of epidemics.

"We don't want people discharging raw sewage from the surface land, or in any wells that should be used for washing or irrigating plants...it is unsafe, it's an epidemic waiting to happen," the ISU Director said. "One outbreak of cholera, for example, God forbid, can ruin our tourism industry.

He pointed out that many persons who live in informal settlements – which are normally dense – work at the resorts, and interact with guests, and as a result could pass on a communicable ailment.

"Some of those same people are the ones that cook in the hotels, clean the rooms, serve at the tables. If it was to happen, we would be severely criticized, and rightly so, for not doing anything about it," Simons stated, stating also that the source of electricity in those communities, for the most part, was a recipe for electrocution.

"We don't want people getting electricity by a plug-in from the neighbor...it is unsafe," he stated.

While some residents in those communities, including Dock Yard, the mother of all informal settlements in the Turks and Caicos Islands, who claimed that made representation to government for proper roads and other infrastructure, Simons said governments wants to improve those settlements, but the layout was prohibitive.

"The government wants to do that, as a matter of fact, the government disparately wants to do that," Simons declared.

Permanent Secretary at the National Security Council, Tito Lightbourne backed up Simons' claim, pointing out that that he was in a Security Council Meeting, where Premier Hon. Washington Misick was asking what ways, government could enter into those communities to lay formal infrastructure.

"I was at a particular meeting regarding the informal settlements with the premier, and he was asking, 'how can we go into these communities and build road?' How can we put infrastructure? How can we put lights? How can we cut back on the debris and the bush to make the community safer?," Lightbourne said, pointing out also that outside of the fact that Dock Yard was densely populated, settlement was constructed on private property.

"We understand that Dock Yard is private land...all private land. There is no Crown Land there. And so, until we understand and resolve some of the land concerns in Dock Yard, it would be difficult for government to go in and cut roads.

"But government is anxious and ready to develop and improve the facilities and infrastructure, but to do so at the moment is inappropriate," Lightbourne noted, stating that government wanted to provide basic amenities that people in communities need, but stated that there are larger issues that first must be addressed.

In the meantime, Simons noted that there are areas in Dock Yard where the police must exercise extreme caution when entering, which he said could not be good in any civilized society.

"We also know, the police knows that there are areas in that community where law-enforcement are not welcome. There are areas in that community where emergency services do not have access if there was a fire, and the fire engine has to go there. If someone has to be taken to the hospital in an ambulance there would be no access," the ISU director disclosed.

He said in many cases the informal construction of houses in that community came out of necessity, while in other cases it was a direct flouting of the law.



# Despite Global Teacher Shortage, TCI Schools To Be Fully Staffed For New School Year



"Teachers are becoming more business minded and are using their skills to market themselves in order to facilitate their livelihoods."

The new school will likely not catch the government with its pants down, as the Ministry of Education is reporting that majority of public schools are fully staffed.

During a news conference, held on Thursday and hosted by Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor, to announce the state of readiness for the new school year, Deputy Director of Education Mark Garland said almost public schools had their full complement of teachers, while institutions which were not fully staffed are filled with temporary experienced teachers.

"For 2023-2024 new academic school year, the majority of our schools are fully staffed and where there are vacancies, these vacancies are being filled with suitably qualified teachers who are employed on a temporary basis," Garland said. "Our temporary teachers serve for a period of six months and during this time effort is made to fill the vacancy on a permanent basis." He added: "For us in the Department of Education, staffing plays a crucial role in ensuring the smooth operation of our schools. From the Primary School cohort of teachers to the High School cohort of teachers, our teachers provide essential services that directly impact the learning environment of our schools."

He pointed out, however, that the recruitment of teachers from countries outside of the Turks and Caicos Islands and especially from within the country was becoming more challenging, basically for two main reasons.

"Firstly, there is a global shortage of teachers. In fact, The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) estimates that 69 million teachers are needed globally to provide universal basic education by 2030.

"Secondly teachers are becoming more business minded and are using their skills to market themselves in order to facilitate their livelihoods. For example, an industrial arts teacher is likely to leave teaching to pursue a career in the construction industry and a Home Economics Teacher is likely to leave teaching to operate their own restaurant, and so it is for reasons such as these why recruiting and retaining teachers have become more difficult," Garland lamented.

He said during August a total of eight teachers resigned from the TCI school system. Among them, two were English A and B teachers, two were Mathematics Teacher, and one Chemistry Teacher. He said also there was also a resignation from the principal of the Louise Garland Thomas High School, noting also that the number also included one Upper Primary School Teacher Grade (4-6) and one History/Geography Teacher.

"These are all resignations which we did not anticipate, and therefore, it would have been near impossible to fill these positions before school resumes next week. However, the recruitment process for these vacancies have already begun and we expect to have these vacancies filled by the third week in September barring any setbacks," Garland assured.

He pointed out also that a number of teachers have been recruited for the new school year. They include three Guidance Counsellors for Schools on North Caicos/CHHS/Iris Stubbs/Marjorie Basden; two Industrial Arts Teachers for the Clement Howell /HJ Robinson High Schools; two Business Teachers for Raymond Gardiner High School; one Visual Arts teacher for HJ Rob-

inson High School; two Music Teachers for the Ianthe Pratt and Enid Capron Primary schools; three Early Childhood Teacher for the Oseta Jolly Primary; one Upper Primary Teacher for the Iris Stubbs Primary School; one Mathematics Teacher for the Raymond Gardiner High School; and two English A/B Teacher for the Clement Howell High School.

"Now, we had recruited more graduate Primary School Teachers for upper and lower levels, but unfortunately, they turned down the offers," Garland explained.

## Math Specialists

Garland told the news conference that a unique feature to the Education Department's staffing this year and going forward will be the addition of a Mathematics Specialist assigned to every school. He pointed that Over the years, data revealed that the internal and external examinations results in Mathematics have been poor, which warranted the implementation of a Mathematic Specialist as a proactive attempt by the Ministry of Education to improve students' overall performance at the Primary and Secondary level.

"Now, it is important to know that the Mathematics Specialist is not replacing the Mathematics Teacher. The mathematics teachers will continue to focus on teaching students' the mathematical concepts and skills that are appropriate for their age and developmental level. "However, the Mathematics Specialist will assist the Mathematics Teachers in developing new curriculums and teaching strategies so that the students can fully grasp critical concepts. And based on the testimonies I have read; this approach has proven to improve students' performance in Mathematics in other countries and I am sure that our students will also benefit from such an approach," Garland further noted.

He added: "In summary, the mathematics specialist will help address challenges by providing students with the opportunity to make sense of problems and deeply engage with mathematics content; share, listen to, understand, and respond to the ideas of others; and build new learning by drawing on prior experiences from their lives, both in and out of school."

## Special Education

In the meantime, Garland told the media that Special Education remains a priority for government, and effort was being made to ensure that each school is equip with a Special Education Teacher, and two special education teachers and for larger schools.

"By mid-September, all schools will be equipped with Special Education Teachers, or will have access to a special education teacher or special education services," Garland announced.

"Why is it important to have special education teachers assigned to schools? The Special Education Teachers will help to ensure that students with disabilities or special needs receive quality education. And so, parents, if you have a child who requires special attention, speak to the principal of your school, and if the problem cannot be addressed at the school level, then a referral will be made so that your child receives the necessary assistance," Garland promised.

# Government Furious With Local Banks



"I think this is the only jurisdiction where the private sector, particularly the financial services sector, prefers to take a wait-and-see approach, while the government lead from the front

Government and banks operating locally appear to be on a collision course over lack of overdue deliverables that the Washington Misick administration feels those institutions have been dragging their feet on.

A tough-talking Minister of Finance, Investment and Trade Hon. E. Jay Saunders revealed that government was frustrated with the financial institutions' tardiness on several services but particularly their inability to make good on the promise to deliver a local Automated Clearing House (ACH), a system which allows for customers to make real time money transfer between local banks even on their phone.

He pointed out that the local banks, for the better part of two years have been promising to deliver the ACH, but so far, their utterances have been merely hot air.

"I have been waiting for this ACH for two years, and that's for those who are not aware, it (ACH) is the equipment that allows the bank to transfer money to another bank in an instant," Saunders, who is also the deputy premier pointed out.

He asserted that seamless money transfer from one bank to another in the United States has been operational for years, and since coming to office, his government has been impressing on the banks to implement a similar system, which he said would make the lives of members of the public much easier. However, he said all he got so far was promises.

"For years now, I have seen the United States where they take a picture with their phone, of

a check, the money goes to the bank account. And I find it very difficult that today in the Turks and Caicos Islands, 2023, that we are still having to wire money outside of the jurisdiction, or at least it appears to be going outside of the jurisdiction, to come back in and go to another domestic bank," the deputy premier lamented. He pointed out that since the banks appear to be lagging, government has been harboring the thought of sidestepping those institutions to implement the system itself for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"I have said it over, and over, and over again, I have pulled my hair out, I threatened the banks. I would say this though, and I am not trying to threaten anyone, but sometimes I get a little bit impatient. I wake up in the mornings, I said, 'You know what? I have given them two years; we are going to move unilaterally on these things.' So, I would really like to encourage you that while we can all work together, to please, it is in the banks' hands to roll out the ACH, to allow the monies to be transferred," he urged.

He added: "If we are going to grow this financial sector, we really need the ability to be able to transfer money. You guys (banks) are really close. If you could give it to me as Christmas Gift, I would really appreciate it."

**Financial Sector Not Pulling Its Weight**

The minister also chided the financial sector on its sideline-standing stance, while watching government bearing the tab for the promotion of that industry.

"The Turks and Caicos Islands is probably the

only country that the private sector, particularly the financial industry, instead of financially partnering with government, has opted take a wait-and-see approach," Saunders asserted.

Government always ensured that that sector received requested funds to grow their industry but would take a back seat when asked to come up with a fraction of the sector's promotional sum.

"They kept on coming back to me and said they wanted more money, and I would go to cabinet and extract this money from cabinet. And every time I go to cabinet, I would say, 'The private sector is going to contribute.' And so, I got to the point that I would say the ratio of 75 to 25 percent, where the government contributes 75 percent of the budget and the private sector would contribute 25 percent of the budget is fair, probably less than fair, but we would take the brunt of it," the finance minister noted, stating that at times he would send a representative from the TCI Finance Ltd – a quasi-promotional body dedicated to growing the sector – to get the local financial institutions to come up with 25 percent of the funds. However, he pointed out that instead of trying to help, those institutions opted to sit on their hands.

"I asked them (TCI Finance Ltd) to speak to the private sector about the 25 percent, and it came back that the private sector took the position that the private sector usually took...they didn't open their wallets...they want to take a wait-and-see approach.

"And so, while I got the private sector in the room, I asked David Stewart (TCI Finance Ltd) to go back to them with a little bit more urgency and forcefulness and to tell them that we are expecting of them to contribute their 25 percent. Because we have been putting a lot of money behind the industry, marketing the industry.

"I am a little disappointed...actually I am very disappointed that the private sector has taken the position that they want to stay on the sidelines and to take a wait-and-see approach. David is the liaison between TCI Finance Ltd and the private sector, and I want you to know that when David comes, he does not exaggerate the point that I would expect that the private sector would help-out the industry and the government.

"I think this is the only jurisdiction where the private sector, particularly the financial services sector, prefers to take a wait-and-see approach, while the government lead from the front

I don't expect the private sector to lead from behind, I expect for us to be partners in this journey towards growing the financial services sector," an exasperating Saunders affirmed.



# Biden Trump - An impossible choice?

With Labour Day in the US fast approaching and a new election season looming, most American voters should have already been educating themselves about the choices they will have to make in the election. It is important that they understand the issues and the policies of the parties so that they can make decisions as informed voters.

Voters ought to consider the following:

A) A vote for former President Donald Trump (Republican) is a vote for civil war. The voting population is evenly divided along party lines and Trump is dangerous and not a proper fit to lead the country. In order to satisfy his authoritarian instincts and in pursuit of self-aggrandisement, he is quite happy to bypass the laws of the constitution on which our democracy is built.

In the Republican primary, according to all the poll, Trump is leading by over 30 per cent and in all probability will be the nominee.

B) A vote for President Joe Biden (Democrat) is a vote for a third world war.

The Democratic National Committee is not having debates and seems willing to obstruct anyone who tries to challenge President Biden. The only possible exception is if President Biden withdraws from the race, but he has already announced his intention to seek re-election. If a sitting president wants a second term the protocol is not to challenge him.

The Democratic Party has become the party of war. In the last spending Bill all the Democrats in the House supported the US\$847 billion for the military, while only nine Republicans voted for it. In the US Senate it was supported by 29 Republicans and by all the Democrats.

The purpose of the 'Biden war' in the Ukraine is to hurt Russia and to isolate it from the rest of Europe. But this has backfired and led to a closer union between Russia and China. Add the natural resources of Russia to the capital and technology of China and you get a more formidable and stronger opponent.

The best solution for the war is to opt for peace and not to stoke the bear, but President Biden

seems to prefer the latter.

President Biden has revived the old 'policy' of Western leaders wanting to destroy Russia, a vast country with an abundance of natural resources. He has taken the US to the brink of a nuclear war with Russia, which has the most nuclear weapons, and the proxy war in the Ukraine could become nuclear at any time.

History is laden with stories about the corpses of previous world leaders who had similar ambitions, namely, Adolf Hitler, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Western leaders who attacked Russia after the 1917 revolution.

The Biden Administration has made the world a more dangerous place. It has managed to create a world of adversaries, divided on military and economic lines, namely the US and Europe on one side and on the other, Russia, China, North Korea, Africa, and Brazil, with each striving to develop along separate paths.

The likelihood is that the coming presidential election will be rematch between Biden and Trump. In either case, the people will lose.

C) A vote for either of the two parties is not a vote for real leaders, because the two parties are mere puppets of big business and are beholden to them. It is tantamount to legalised bribery.

The real leaders are a small clique of warmongers who put the interests of their donors first and the welfare of ordinary people are of secondary importance. They have already spent over US\$120 billion of American taxpayers' money on health care and other benefits for Ukrainians, while Americans are without.

D) In addition to the people, democracy also loses. In the case of the Republicans, at least they will have the option to choose their presidential nominee. But in the case of the Democrats, their nominee will be coronated without their input.

An Associated Press-National Opinion Research Center April 13-17 poll shows that 52 per cent of Democrats do not want President Biden to run. Some candidates are now chosen, not democratically in a primary as in the case of Biden,

but indirectly by indictment of the opponent.

In the case of Trump, an Economist-YouGov poll, dated June 10-13, shows that 56 per cent of all voters are against his candidacy.

If people want to change the status quo, the system is self-perpetuating and will not change itself. Voters will have to vote to oust the Democrats and Republicans and not keep voting for the same leaders repeatedly.

Political leaders will take people for granted. It took President Biden over a week to address the recent wildfire tragedy in Hawaii, where over 100 people died and over 1,000 are missing. Is it a coincidence that Hawaii is a solid blue state? It will be interesting to see how they vote in 2024? If people choose to vote in the next election, they must vote for candidates who represent their interests. Vote third party or stay at home.

The thought of having to live for another four years under a Biden or Trump regime is a daunting prospect. The political system has failed to respond to the needs of ordinary people. In my opinion, it is causing the breakdown of American civilisation and way of life and explains the recent and rapid rise in crime, wokeism, and other forms of madness in society.

It is caused by the stranglehold that the Military Industrial Complex and other corporate elites have over the two political parties. And there is no other party strong enough to challenge their authority. This is why they strive so hard to prevent the rise of any other source of information or power.

Marianne Williamson, a presidential candidate is right to argue that the answer to this leadership crisis is restoration of moral leadership and a spiritual renaissance.

In the meantime, the clock is ticking and may God have mercy on us and on the republic.

Victor Dixon is an author and a political scientist who lives in Boynton Beach, Florida.



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



# FSC Annual Industry Meeting Attracts Widespread Attendance



Premier Hon. Washington Misick



Her Excellency Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam



The Commission's Managing Director, Niguel Streete

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission, the regulator of financial service businesses in the TCI, held its Annual Industry Meeting on 25 August 2023, at the Shore Club Hotel on Providenciales.

This meeting brought together over 110 financial services practitioners and industry stakeholders, in addition to online attendees, under the theme: "Navigating Change".

The meeting saw active participation and engagement with presenters, which included Her Excellency Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam, Hon Premier Misick, Hon Deputy Premier Saunders and Mrs Cindy Scotland, Managing Director of the Cayman Islands Monetary Authority who delivered the feature address.

A panel of local and international experts provided an engaging, informative and policy focused discussion on positioning the TCI to respond adequately and appropri-

ately to the dynamic changes taking place in the financial services sector locally and internationally.

The Premier in acknowledging the financial services as critical to the growth of the economy charged 'private sector actors' to find more opportunities to expand the industry proportionate to the growth of the economy. He committed to ensuring that the Commission is provided with the resources necessary to effectively regulate the industry.

The Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance emphasised the urgency in developing the financial services industry. He pointed to the government's support for the industry through the creation of an agency dedicated to the promotion and growth of the industry.

The Commission's Managing Director, Niguel Streete, noted the pace of change in the financial services sector and encouraged stakeholders to play their part in ensur-

ing that the TCI remains a credible, well regulated and stable financial centre.

He highlighted the need to nurture the interest of the next generation in the sector and confirmed that the financial sector was stable with the ability to absorb elevated short-term risk.

Commissioner Susan Francois, as a panellist, referenced the growth and widespread use of crypto currencies as a phenomenon that should receive urgent attention. She admonished the TCI to urgently respond to the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) Recommendation 15, which specifically requires countries to legislate either to permit or prevent virtual assets.

The meeting followed a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and will continue as an important annual event on the Commission's calendar.

## Heads Of United Way Meet, Discuss Community Impact in Australia, TCI



Chairman of United Way TCI, Mark Fulford, on a recent visit to Sydney Australia, used the opportunity to meet with fellow Australian United Way Chair, Liz Dibbs and CEO Clayton Noble to discuss common areas of interest and challenges facing the not for profit organization operating in their respective countries.

Fulford was given a tour of the United Way Australia's office located in Sydney where he met staff and volunteers of the organization, thanking them for their service to community.

Discussions between the two chairs spanned from how to spark increased interest in volunteerism, fund raising initiatives and encouraging greater involvement and par-

ticipation from board members and the community.

Similarly, the key areas of focus for the sister organizations are identical, concentrating on early childhood reading introduction and literacy.

United Way Australia is comprised of all the Australian chapters of UW. According to Chair Dibbs, "Our key initiative, READ LEARN SUCCEED, operates across many geographically and culturally diverse communities. Early literacy skills and school readiness is supported through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and youth employment and career development is promoted through school and business partnerships".

United Way Australia is led by a 20-strong team, located

in Sydney and greater NSW and is dedicated to creating community and systems change to break the cycle of disadvantage. UWTCI is also led by a board of 12 directors and supported by over 100 registered volunteers dedicated to impacting the community through reading and youth job placement.

According to Fulford, "United Way TCI's number one area of focus is literacy. We have been able to introduce our "Yes I Can Read" intervention program which is a growing success. We have hosted several reading events to motivate and encourage children to read and have impacted the lives over 500 children through our various initiatives, including our summer enrichment program which was oversubscribed and a huge success."

He further expanded, that "the future of the Turks & Caicos Islands looks bright, but there is so much more work to be done and we would appreciate the full support of all partners, inclusive of our communities and those that love to visit our beautiful islands be it via volunteerism or donation towards one of our many programs, we need community involvement."

United Way serves more than 1,100 communities across 37 countries and territories worldwide. United Way brings people together to build stronger, more equitable communities where everyone can thrive. With 11.5M volunteers, 6.8M donors, 29K community partners and 45K corporate partners, UW is strengthening education, economic mobility, and access to health.

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering and serving your community in a meaningful way, contact [info@unitedwaytci.com](mailto:info@unitedwaytci.com)



# Natural Disasters In Distant Countries Could Affect Insurance Coverage In TCI



Oakden: "And I hate to say it, but forest fires in Greece could result in higher premiums in Turks and Caicos."

Natural Disasters in faraway countries can affect insurance coverage in the Turks and Caicos Islands, this according to Dr. David Oakden, the Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (FSC) Chairman.

Oakden, who was addressing the 2023 FSC Industry Meeting at the Shore Club Resort on Providenciales on Friday, August 25, the advent of climate change can result in how international insurers thinking twice on what to cover in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"Climate change is much more than higher temperatures," Oakden outlined. "We will have more severe hurricanes than we usually have. We will have more flooding, more wildfires, and I could go on with many more extreme events." He continued: "And what these extreme events have in common is these extreme events and funding for these extreme events end up in the

hands of global international reinsurers through the hands of domestic reinsurance companies.

"But what is more important for Turks and Caicos is our high independence on these international reinsurers. If you live in Turks and Caicos and own property and you have insurance, most of the premium you are paying is not going to the local insurance company although it is, but most of it is going off to large global insurers. Now, as a result of climate change, they are going to be facing higher losses but also more volatility."

He stated that these higher losses would result in higher premiums. As a result, Oakden urged local insurance companies to expand the number of their reinsurers to minimize the risk.

"And I hate to say it, but forest fires in Greece could result in higher premiums in Turks and Caicos. But it gets a little worse than that, and

I think from a regulatory perspective, when the insurance companies are facing higher cost for reinsurance, they tend to reduce the amount of reinsurance that they are buying so as to not exposing them to increased risks, which makes the job of a regulator much more difficult.

"But also, the increase volatility and increased losses, and some of them can be huge, I think would put the additional risk on the large international reinsurers. So, in addition to reinsuring the risk, I think the local companies must take a greater care in diversifying the number of reinsurers that they use so that the risk is spread around and not dependent.

"As regulators, I think we would have to encourage this process. I must also add that if worse comes to worst and some of these claims cannot be paid, the banks holding mortgages will also be impacted. So, this goes beyond the just the insurance sector," the FSC chairman warned. Turning to the topic of Fintech (Financial technology), Oakden expressed cautioned on the challenges that can be resulted if not regulated. Fintech is used to describe new technology that seeks to improve and automate the delivery and use of financial services. At its core, fintech is utilized to help companies, business owners, and consumers better manage their financial operations, processes, and lives. It is composed of specialized software and algorithms that are used on computers and smartphones.

"As far as I am aware Fintech is the number of financial institutions taking advantage of inefficiencies in the financial system or maybe efficiencies in the computer systems to provide very limited services often connected with money transfer.

"But people are scratching the surface and people are coming up with all sorts of applications for financial technology...at some point we are going to hit the breakthrough and Fintech is going take off, it is going to be significant. And I can't see how this is going to work out, but I can see something happening.

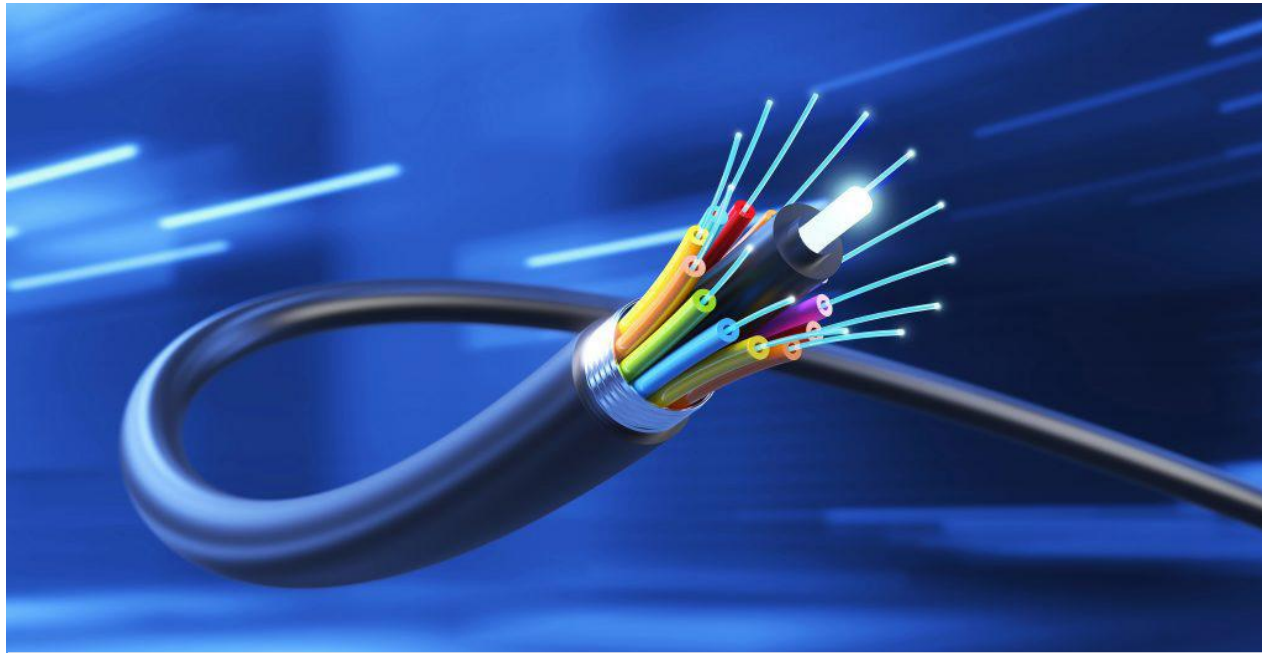
"And when this happens, we are going to have an industry that is not regulated that we would have to rapidly try come up with some kind of regulation for. But in addition, the existing financial industry is going to suffer severe reduction in business because of the Fintech competitors, and that's going to have its own adverse consequences, which our regulators are going to be vigilant to," Oakden stated.

During his presentation Oakden also touched on Crypto Currency, which he described as a system which creates an avenue for persons to extort money from others. He pointed out that Crypto needs to be regulation so that its operation is above board.

He also briefly addressed International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS), which are a set of accounting standards that govern how particular types of transactions and events should be reported in financial statements.



# \$25M State-Of-The-Art Fibre Optic Network For TCI



Outfitting the Turks and Caicos Islands with a domestic fibre optic network, would give the financial service sector the ability, speed and the efficiency expected from industry players.

The Washington Misick Administration has committed to build a fibre optic cable network linking all the islands within the Turks and Caicos chain that could cost between \$15million to \$25million.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, Investment and Trade Hon. E. Jay Saunders made the announcement while delivering a speech at the Financial Services Commission's (FSC) Industry Meeting, held at the Shore Club Resort on Friday, August 25.

"We are investing in worldclass technologies. We are committed and we have already started the work to build a state-of-the-art fibre optic cable, linking Provo to North, to Middle, to South, to Grand Turk. And I think with just a little bit more we are going to try to make that from Grand Turk to the Dominican Republic, so we can have a complete redundancy for the

Turks and Caicos Islands and have multiple players coming in," the minister outlined.

Saunders revealed that the preliminary work to construct the fibre optic network has already been put in motion, pointing out that the consultants were already in receipt of the draft plans, noting that those plans should come to cabinet shortly for perusal and ultimate approval.

He said outfitting the Turks and Caicos Islands with a domestic fibre optic network, would give the financial service sector the ability, speed and the efficiency expected from industry players.

He pointed out that to become best in class and stay best in class, the sector has to adopt modern regulations.

"By doing so, we will ensure that our financial services sector is reliable, transparent, and able

to withstand global shocks. We are committed to build a robust digital infrastructure, and in the era of digital currencies, online banking, AI-driven financial solutions, a modern financial services sector is unimaginable without a robust digital infrastructure," he suggested.

The minister pointed out also that government has been committed to take the lead on educational skills development.

"As we are all aware, a robust financial sector is built upon skilled individuals. I can see a day where everyone within the financial services sector be at least ACAMS (Association of Certified Anti-Money Laundering Specialists) certified, because we want to make sure that the workers in our industry are best in class.

"But we want to foster the talent right here the Turks and Caicos Islands, and it is our government's goal that the Ministry of Education in collaboration with private institutions to develop the requisite training programmes. And the focus should be on creating courses, workshops and training sessions tailored to revolve around the financial services sector.

The finance minister said government also plans to engage with international stakeholders to foster greater collaboration to strengthen relationships in that sector.

"...Because, as we are all aware, respected jurisdictions are built on trust and collaboration, and we must strive to strengthen our relationships with international regulators, foreign governments, and global financial institutions. This will show that we are not only compliant with international standards and best practices, but also, it is my hope and dream that the Turks and Caicos Islands will pull a seat up at the table and help to shape the best practice standards," he said.

Saunders also urged those in the sector to, in addition to speaking internationally, begin to find ways to help shape the regional and international financial sectors.

## SAND FOR FILLING OF SANDBAGS DURING HURRICANE SEASON



The Department of Environment & Coastal Resources (DECR) would like to remind the public that sand, for the filling of sand bags during storm and / or hurricane preparations, may be collected at the following locations:

Providenciales: National Environmental Centre, DECR, Lower Bight Road  
Grand Turk: Central Processing Unit (CPU) Yard  
South Caicos: Across from the new Government complex on Fourth Street  
North Caicos: Bottle Creek - at the old District Commissioner's Office; Kew - Schoolyard or at Benevolent Hall;

Middle Caicos: Sand pile at Bambara Rock  
Salt Cay: Please contact the District Commissioner for information.

Each household is limited to a maximum of 10 sand bags to be filled, and please ensure that shovels are brought along to load the bags with sand. Shovels will not be provided.

Please contact your nearest Red Cross branch to determine when and where sand bags may be collected.

Should you have any further questions or concerns, please contact the DECR at 338-4170 or [environment@gov.tc](mailto:environment@gov.tc).



# Sean Astwood Returns To Frontline Politics



Sean Astwood former Deputy Leader of the country and also of his party the Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM) is returning to frontline politics as an island-wide (At-Large) candidate. Astwood, who once held the Five Cays Constituency, which later landed him the Minister of Immigration Portfolio, said his main reasons for reentering elective politics having to do with the degradation plummet and the mounting voices from members of the public to get back into the ring.

He made his return formal by submitting his candidacy to the party on Wednesday. The following is the full statement from Astwood regarding his impending return:

My fellow Turks and Caicos Islanders, I am of the mindset that one can serve one's country in other ways apart from holding a political office. Therefore, In the years since I last held public office, I have continued to be involved in our community, working with local organizations, and volunteering my time to help those in need. During this time, I have worked closely with the leadership of the PDM assisting where needed. My desire for making a positive

impact in our community has never wavered. During these years, and even moreso recently, I am constantly approached by our people expressing their wishes for me to re-enter frontline politics. They have expressed their extreme disappointment in the direction of which our country is headed with a government that is completely out of touch.

Unfortunately, these past two and a half plus years under the current government have been disastrous for our country. With a record number of murders, mostly our young men, unprecedented number of sloop arrivals, an influx of illegal immigrants reaching our shores and a government that has proven that they cannot stop the sloops. We are also seeing record numbers of Turks & Caicos Islanders relocating to other countries and an increased numbers of our students not interested in returning home after finishing their studies.

Our healthcare system is in shambles and continues to deteriorate, there has been no real progress on the delivery of E-Government, a labour policy that has not been strengthened which has Turks and Caicos Islanders feeling

more marginalized than they have ever felt before. We have a myriad of problems, and our Country is in a downward spiral. Unfortunately, our current Government's approach to all the chaos occurring in our country is to remain silent, bury their heads in the sand and hope these issues either resolve themselves or the people get tired of voicing their concerns.

I am deeply committed to the values that have always guided my political career: integrity, transparency, and a dedication to the common good. I believe that we are even more now in need of leaders who are willing to put Turks and Caicos Islanders first. With a fully resourced focus effort to solve the pressing challenges facing our people. Despite the result of the last elections, I have a proven record of delivering results throughout the ministries and departments under my management and an unparalleled record of visionary representation, transformation, and redevelopment as the representative for Five Cays, South Dock & Chalk Sound Constituency.

As we embark on this new phase of developing our country, I am more committed than ever to bringing people together and finding common ground. There is much work to be done, from addressing crime, immigration reform, the housing crisis and improving access to healthcare, to advancing economic opportunity for our citizens, implementation of E-Government across the public sector, true constitutional advancement and most of all restoring hope to our people.

These issues are just some that have been instrumental in me reconsidering returning to frontline politics. Listening to and learning from the diverse perspectives of those of you around our Country who have reached out to me insisting that I return was extremely important in my deliberations. With that, I am happy to announce that I have, as of 1pm today, August 23rd, 2023, submitted my application to the People's Democratic Movement to run in the upcoming elections as an All-Island Candidate.

I am excited and eager to face the challenges ahead and help revolutionize the way our Country is managed. I am prepared to roll up my sleeves and get to work with the next PDM administration, under the Leadership of Hon. Edwin Astwood. I would be honoured to have the opportunity to serve you once again.

When deciding whether I should return to frontline politics one of my favorite quotes came to mind. It was Abraham Lincoln who said, "The best way to predict the future is to create it". I know the current state of affairs in our Country does not reflect the hopes and dreams that our electorate envisioned when they voted on February 19th, 2021. Therefore, if you want to predict a better future it is simply up to you to create it.

I look forward to your continued prayers and support as we together revolutionize the way our Country is ran. It's time to believe again!



# TCI Regiment Gets 11 New Members



Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam (standing on dais) and premier Hon. Washington Misick (left) take the salute of the marines during the march-past



Commanding Officer for the TCI Regiment Lieutenant Colonel Ennis Grant (left) looks on as Minister of Education, Youth and Sport Hon. Rachel Taylor greets one of his charges, during the ceremony



TCI Regiment Marines doing march-past during the passing out ceremony

Eleven marines have been added to the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment following the local military's passing out ceremony at the Louise Garland Thomas High School in Providenciales on Saturday, August 19. The event was attended by Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, Premier Hon. Washington Misick, Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor, and Permanent Secretary at the National Security Secretariat Tito Lightbourne, as well as family and friends of the marines.

Both the governor and the premier, while congratulating the new addition, acknowledged the sacrifice that they have already given to become part of the service. Lieutenant Colonel Ennis Grant, Commanding Officer for the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment, described the passing out ceremony as a very special occasion.

"It is the first time since our three years of existence that we have had training locally and done by our own marines," Grant explained. "And these are marines who would have joined in 2021 and would have received training in Turks and Caicos Islands, Bermuda, and a few of them went to Guyana recently. We have had a number of training inputs from the Royal Navy, virtually, as well as from our Permanent staff instructor

who is from the Royal Force Regiment in the UK, who have been with us for the past seven months."

Grant said the regiment was hoping to graduate more personnel this time around, but some of those who declined to join were looking for a permanent occupation, whereas the regiment is reserve.

"Today we have eleven persons (graduating). We fell short of what we were looking for. We initially were looking for 40 persons. I think what we found out from the recruitment is that most of the persons are looking for permanent positions, whereas we offer reserve positions," Grant further noted.

He pointed out that by 2028, the TCI Regiment is looking to swell its number to at least 150 members from its current 69.

"Currently, with this new cohort, we are at 69, comprising of officers, warrant officers, commissioned officers, and marines. We, we are hoping, by the end of this year to build about 100. The target for about 2027 – 2028, we want to be about 150. And this particularly to deal with the challenges of our border...we don't expect the challenges of our border would go away. We think it would continue to grow.

"So, we have to have a strategic plan, which is well re-

sourced and the personnel and equipment to really meet the future challenges that we might have," Grant continued.

He pointed out that since the TCI Regiment's formation some three years ago, the entity had lost about three to four members.

"We have had some persons who came in and said that they don't think this is what they want to do. Just a few, probably about three or four. But generally, we have a good interest among the marines.

"It is a challenge when you are competing with your full-time job and having to fill a reserved position. Some of the employers have been very supportive, and we are very grateful for that, and that goes a long way for us," he further stated.

In the meantime, the TCI Regiment commanding officer pointed out that joining the TCI Regiment comes with a sense of duty to country, which does not jeopardize one's permanent job.

"As a reserve position, it is about giving service to your country. It is service above yourself. And we only ask that you give about 12 hours per week. So, you do your training, which is once per week, and we have some deployments which is nightly, and which last up to four-five hours.

"Annually, we ask you to complete a summer camp, which is two weeks of training, which could be locally or overseas, and then we have a weekend exercise that we do," Grant further noted.

Meanwhile, Commanding Officer Grant said the top brass of the TCI Regiment is working to make the entity enticing to members of the public by offering some sort of benefits.

"One of things that we have done to get the regiment attractive is that we try to ensure that we pay our stipend. We also offer an accidental death and dismemberment insurance for our marines, so, each of our marines have accidental death and dismemberment coverage.

"So, if they are injured in the course of their duties, whether locally or overseas, and means that they are incapacitated in any way, then they would be able to get some sort of financial incentives.

The insurance also covers a small medical attendance fee, so that is a good thing as well. But it is a tough task to get people into the reserve. It is a commitment especially in these challenging economic times. But nonetheless, we have some committed persons, and we are very grateful," Grant said.







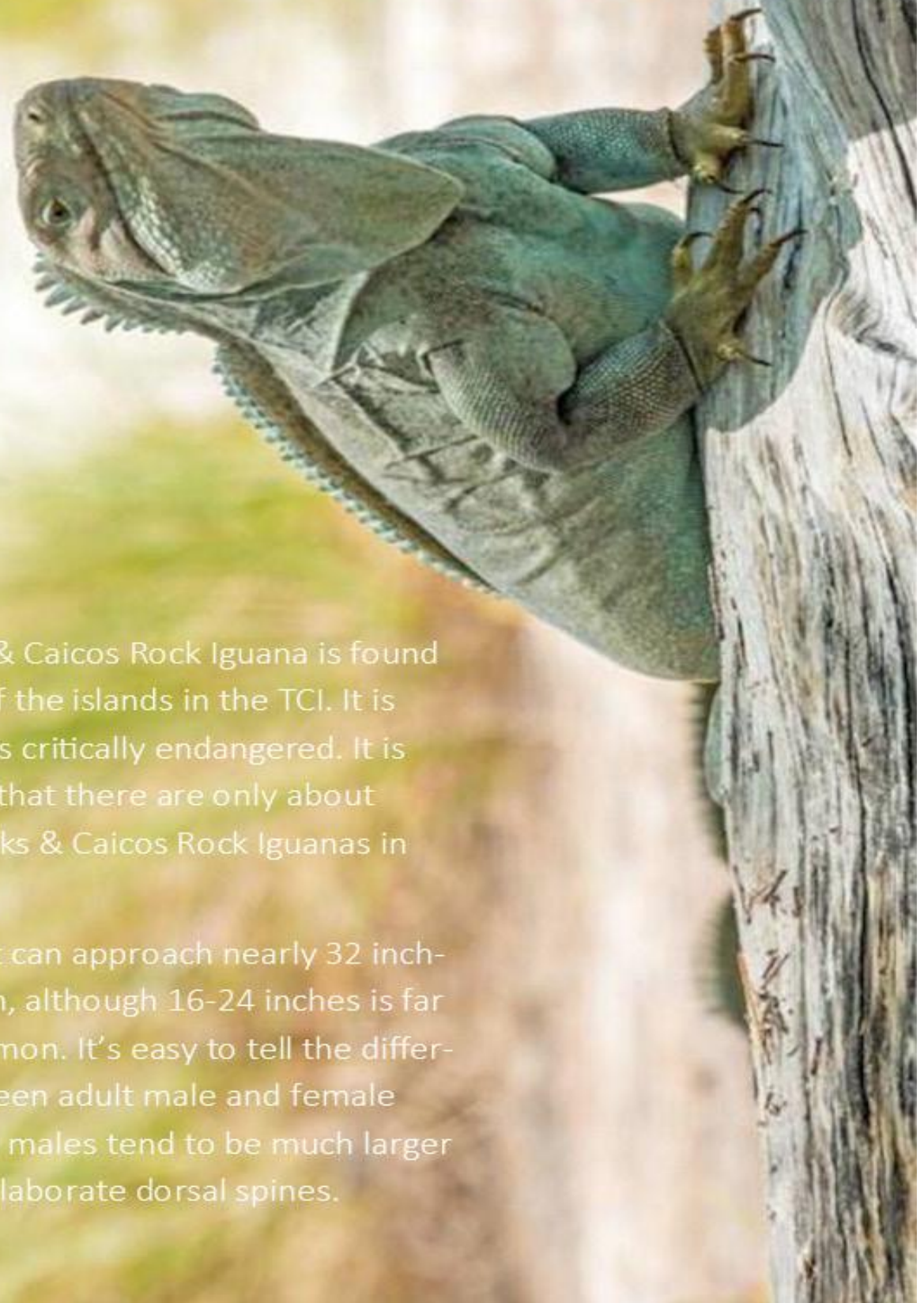
# ROCK iguana

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

HERITAGE

The Turks & Caicos Rock Iguana is found on some of the islands in the TCI. It is classified as critically endangered. It is estimated that there are only about 50,000 Turks & Caicos Rock Iguanas in existence.

The largest can approach nearly 32 inches in length, although 16-24 inches is far more common. It's easy to tell the difference between adult male and female iguanas, as males tend to be much larger and have elaborate dorsal spines.





# Passing Out Ceremony of the TCI Regiment

The TCI Regiment held its third annual Passing-Out Ceremony on Saturday, August 19, on the grounds of the Louise Garland Thomas High School in Providenciales. Eleven new members of the reserved service were added to the institution. In attendance to welcome the new members into the service were her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, Premier Hon. Washington Misick, and Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor. The following are highlights of the event.







LOUISE GARLAND THOMAS  
HIGH SCHOOL





# TCI Venue For Prestigious CTO Industry Conference October 9 - 13



Josephine Connolly, Minister of Tourism

The Turks and Caicos Islands' Ministry of Tourism, and Experience Turks and Caicos, will be hosting the Caribbean Tourism Organization's (CTO's) flagship event – the “State of the Tour-

ism Industry Conference” (SOTIC), October 9th to 13th 2023, at The Shore Club.

SOTIC is a premier annual event for the travel and tourism industry, and it attracts the Caribbean's top-tier tourism practitioners, policymakers, partners, and international media. Together, these stakeholders will delve into the challenges and prospects of the industry, setting forth robust strategies to augment tourism throughout the Caribbean. The agenda is diverse, ranging from media briefings by member nations and high-level committee meetings to focused sessions on tourism competitiveness, sustainable growth and innovative marketing tools.

This is the first time the Turks and Caicos Islands will host this prestigious event, and SOTIC itself returns after a hiatus in 2018 and the COVID Pandemic. This historic hosting is a tremendous accomplishment and milestone for the Ministry of Tourism and Experience Turks and Caicos.

Minister of Tourism, Hon. Josephine Connolly, stated, “The Turks and Caicos Islands standing as the host for this year's SOTIC is not just an honour, but a testament to our nation's rising stature in the global tourism landscape. As we open our doors to the Caribbean's foremost tourism experts and visionaries, we also reaffirm our commitment to excellence, innovation, and regional collaboration. This conference

underscores our islands' growing influence in the Caribbean's tourism sector and reflects our unyielding dedication to fostering connections, sharing expertise, and driving sustainable growth for the entire region.”

Racquel Brown, Change Manager/Interim CEO of Experience Turks and Caicos, expressed, “With the establishment of Experience Turks and Caicos, the Turks and Caicos Islands made a resolute commitment to elevate its tourism product. Hosting SOTIC so soon after our inception is a vivid demonstration of that pledge. As we prepare to host this influential event, our aim goes beyond simply hosting; we're fostering an environment for knowledge exchange and collaboration. Welcoming industry leaders and international media, our focus is on showcasing the distinctive charm of Turks and Caicos while catalyzing meaningful dialogues in the tourism sector.”

The State of the Industry Conference represents a convergence of unparalleled expertise and innovation in Caribbean tourism. Serving as a pivotal juncture for insight and collaboration, all individuals — from seasoned professionals to those newly charting their course in the industry — are urged to attend. This event provides a rare opportunity to actively participate, influence, and gain firsthand knowledge of the Caribbean tourism landscape.

## KIAJÈ WILLIAMS TO REPRESENT TCI AS JUNIOR MINISTER OF TOURISM



Minister of Education Hon. Josephine Connolly presents Kiajé Williams of Clement Howell High School with a certificate, signifying him as the TCI's Junior Minister

On Monday, August 28, 2023, Hon. Josephine Connolly, Minister of Tourism, conferred the title of Junior Minister of Tourism on Mr. Kiajé Williams of Clement Howell High School in the Ministry of Tourism Board Room in Providenciales.

Mr. Williams' selection was based on his team winning the National Tourism Debate Competition, a national inter-school debate. Mr. Williams' team placed second in the Regional Tour-

ism Debate Competition finals. This competition acted as a qualifier for participation in the Tourism Youth Congress in the absence of this year's local Tourism Youth Congress.

Hon. Connolly said, “Today, we've gathered to honour an exceptional youth and thank his support team. It was a pleasure to have conferred the title of Junior Minister of Tourism for the 2023/2024 year upon Mr. Kiajé Williams. The Tourism Youth Congress truly is a platform for bright minds. We wish him well as he represents the Turks and Caicos Islands.”

The local Junior Minister of Tourism competition is coordinated by the Ministry of Tourism, Experience Turks and Caicos, alongside key partners such as the Turks and Caicos Islands Hotel and Tourism Association, the Ministry of Education, the Department of Youth, and the local branch of Toastmasters International. The Ministry wishes to thank the past Junior Minister of Tourism, Ms. Chelsea Been of Helena Jones Robinson High School.

Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, endorsed the sentiments of Hon. Connolly and reiterated support for such collaboration that seeks capacity building. She also thanked the

Principal and staff of Clement Howell for their commitment.

The Regional Tourism Youth Congress was first launched in 2002 and has moulded many young people, with some later becoming hotel managers, Parliamentarians, etc. Mr. Williams will represent the Turks and Caicos Islands at the upcoming CTO Youth Congress, set to take place in Providenciales on October 13, 2023, during the Caribbean Tourism Organization's (CTO) State of the Industry Conference.

Stacy Cox, CEO of the TCHTA, said, “The Board and members of the TCHTA congratulate Mr. Williams on his well-deserved confirmation. This appointment reflects a significant step towards developing our youth's passion for the industry. We believe that Kiajé will bring fresh perspectives to this role, shaping and expanding the narrative of growth and sustainability. We are excited about the journey ahead for him and stand ready to support him as he represents the Turks and Caicos Islands with vigour and pride.” As Junior Minister of Tourism, Mr. Williams will represent our nation's youth and contribute his fresh perspectives and visionary ideas to the regional and global tourism stage discourse.



Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

This week on Newsline Feat- ured Church, we highlight the Church of Christ, locat- ed in Blue Hills, Providen- ciales. The Church of Christ offers several opportunities for weekly worship. On Sun- day at 9a.m. is Devine Wor- ship. At 6:30p.m. is evening service. On Wednesday starting at 6:30pm is Bible Study and prayer meeting. The church is founded on Romans 16:16 – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.” Its bedrock is also built on 2Corinthians 9:1-15. The Church of Christ is pa- stored by Jack Phanor and Patrick Forbes.



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.

<p><b>Christ is the Answer Ministry,</b> George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030</p> <p>One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731</p> <p>Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755</p> <p><b>Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk,</b> Front Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-2289</p> <p><b>Bethany Baptist Church,</b> Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118</p> <p><b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b> Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854</p> <p><b>Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk</b> Tel:946-1866</p> <p><b>Calvary Baptist Church,</b> South Caicos Tel:946-3212</p>	<p><b>Church of God of Propesy,</b> Providenciales Tel:941-3438</p> <p><b>Roman Catholic Church,</b> Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136</p> <p>Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073</p> <p><b>New Testament Church of God,</b> Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175</p> <p>New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631</p> <p><b>Methodist Church,</b> Grand Turk Tel:946-2352</p> <p>Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867</p> <p>House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309</p> <p>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727</p> <p><b>Mount Mariah Baptist Church,</b> Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205</p> <p>New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759</p> <p><b>New Testament Church of God</b> Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402</p>	<p><b>Paradise Baptist Church,</b> Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349</p> <p><b>Revival Faith Center,</b> North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349</p> <p><b>Salem Baptist Church,</b> Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565</p> <p><b>Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries</b> International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181</p> <p><b>St. Monica’s Anglican Church</b> P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499</p> <p><b>Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists,</b> P.O. Box 803, Providenciales</p> <p><b>United Pentecostal Church,</b> Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852</p> <p><b>Wesleyan Methodist Church,</b> Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596</p> <p>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</p>
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# Le Smoking Tuxedo

Le Smoking tuxedo 1966

*"For a woman, Le Smoking is an indispensable garment with which she finds herself continually in fashion, because it is about style not fashion. Fashions come and go, but style is forever."*

Yves Saint Laurent



This week, I'd like us to take a look back into fashion history, specifically, 'Le Smoking tuxedo' of 1966. This garment, like the bikini or mini dress, is just another in a long list of once-controversial women's garments which have now blended into the fashion mainstream.

The name nods to the 19th Century men's smoking jackets, whose silk lapels were designed to allow any ash falling from cigars or cigarettes to slide off, keeping the jacket clean.

Revealed in his Haute Couture Fall/Winter 1966 collection, it came at a time when it was frowned upon for women to wear trousers in public. The reactions between fashionistas and the layman were quite different. Fashionistas had overwhelmingly positive reactions whilst the masses did not gravitate towards the new style. Only one was sold at the time. However, the label's younger clientele was quick to purchase it, eventually making the tuxedo a classic.

The silhouette pioneered minimalist androgynous styles for women, as well as the general popularity of pantsuits today.

When it was first revealed, it was the first time that any couturier had presented trousers as an option for eveningwear, and women wearing it were refused entry by some restaurants the following season. Undoubtedly, one of the main reasons 'Le Smoking' was initially controversial was the fact that it dared to challenge the gender regulations of fashion. Today, it exists as a symbol of gender openness and flexibility. The design of the 'Le Smoking' suit at the time was a costume of rebellion.

When socialite Nan Kempner was turned away from restaurant Le Côte Basque in New York, she removed her trousers and wore the blazer as a mini dress, single-handedly mocking the establishment's dated dress code.

Le Smoking tuxedos found their moment to shine when the 70's were entered. That new decade gave way to more adventurous fashions and more rebels willing to try them—a far cry from the conservative '60s.

Today, 'Le Smoking' is a versatile staple for the modern woman—make it classy with some pumps and minimal accessories or go bolder with a crop top underneath and a blood lip.

This suit is constantly being reinvented, solidifying itself as a truly timeless article that should be in every woman's arsenal.



# 14-Year-Old Isreal Rigby Pens Maiden Book



Young author Isreal Rigby and his mother Maxcia Rigby at the launch of his book "What Happens Next".



Isreal Rigby autographs a copy of his book, while his mother Maxcia Rigby looks on admiringly.

Many who went by the Graceway IGA Store on Saturday, August 19 to purchase a copy of "What Happens Next", a book penned by 14-year-old autism student Israel Rigby, was awed by how he was able to coin such beautiful thoughts into writing, thus producing this exciting book.

Isreal's mom, Maxcia Rigby, was on hand at the launch to assist with the book sale, admiring him as he autographed each copy before handing to those who purchased one.

Rigby, outlining to NewslineTCI as to how the book became a reality, explained that Isreal, who was diagnosed with autism at the age of 3, has had writing challenges at school.

"But one of his teachers decided that she would give him journal writing to do, to talk about some of the things that he likes...to encourage him to write," she said.

She added: "And that (journal writing assignment) turned into a saying, 'Why not turn this journal into a book, so that other people

can see that he has overcome this challenge of not being able to write and express his thoughts.' Children with autism always have problems with communication, that is one of the challenges they have. However, Isreal has found his voice by writing a book."

She told NewslineTCI that oftentimes there have been little to no intervention in the Turk sand Caicos with such special needs, which was what spurred her to becoming a trained behavioral therapist, giving assistance not only to Isreal, but also others who might need her expertise.

"I just recently become a behavior therapist myself. That (her son's challenges) was one of the reasons I did that...and that meant support to Isreal, obviously and persons within the community, becoming a behavior therapist. I support him in all his activities as he goes to summer camps, as he goes up and gives speeches publicly with his school, Ashley's Learning Centre. He also plays soccer, so I support him in whatever he wants to do," the young author's mom said.

Rigby pointed out that "What Happens Next" is for children and adults alike because, among other things, the author took his readers on a journey into his young and exciting world, where they would get to know much more about him.

"This book is for children, but it is also for adults, because you can also see the writing style of Isreal. Isreal wrote the book himself. I assisted him with some of the editing, but he did most of it himself, and it is in his own world, it is how he sees the world.

"He introduces himself in the book and he talks about some of the things he likes, and he doesn't like...some of the things that go on in his daily life with his brother, which is his older brother. He talks about his family in the book and activities that he participates in.

"However, he has this thing where he wants to know what happens next. He always wants to know what we are going to do next...what happens next. And that inspires the name for the book. So, you would find that he talks about a lot of things in the book," Rigby pointed out.

She said "What Happens Next" will serve as a source of inspiration to parents that they should not throw in the towel because of their children having a few challenges.

"We want to achieve a sense of hope for our children and parents, who have children with special needs. It gives us hope to know that these children are able to accomplish way more than we think they can.

"They understand a lot about the world... they may see it differently, but it is also for parents like me not to give up on children... that they can do great things. You just have to support them. You have to push them and be by their side. All of them are different, but they all have a special gift," Rigby concluded.



# Seventh Day Adventists Holds ‘End It Now’ Rally and March

On Saturday, August 26, the Seventh Day Adventist Church across Providenciales came together to stage its Annual ‘End It Now’ March and Rally against violence, especially domestic violence in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Operating under this year’s theme: ‘Wolves in Sheep’s Clothing’, the jubilant bunch, comprising mostly young people, marched from the FirstCaribbean International Bank compound along the Leeward Highway, to the Farmers Market in Kew Town, where they later staged a rally, comprising a number of speeches, and praise and worship led by their teen singers.

Fredeline Jolissaint, the Women’s Ministry Director of the TCI Conference of Seventh Day Adventist, said the march and rally was aimed at bringing awareness to the community about the reality of violence and abuses in the community, and also to get education. She said the event is celebrated by Seventh Day Adventist around the world this time of the year.

“We celebrate this event every year in the entire world. It is a programme from the General Conference of the Seventh Day Adventist. Here in the Turks and Caicos, we are fighting against violence and abuse,” Jolissaint told NewslineTCI.

She stated that young people formed a big part of the day’s activities. They led the praise and worship, bore majority of the placards bearing the messages and were the most jubilant.

Jolissaint stated that many young people in the community are victims of violence and abuse, hence the focus on them during these events.

“Most of the times children get abused, at home at school, everywhere. And that is why children are a part of this activity. We are here to tell those who are causing violence to stop the violence.

“We need to see the violence stopped in the Turks and Caicos, especially in Providenciales. We wanted to reach as many people as possible, to let them know about this programme,” she said.

The event also featured musical rendition, a skit, and speeches from a number of individuals, including from Pastor Steve Cornwall, President of the TCI Conference of Seventh Day Adventist.

The guest speaker for the event was Ivana Dean from the Department of Gender Affairs and Social Services.









# NEWSLINE & Chill

## Spring Word Scramble

URLMLBAE

TSFUETREIBL

REFWOSL

SNUYN

UTISLP

NHSIUNES

LSBMOOS

BAORIWN

NICPCI

GENRDA

1. He may cross the line

5. Literary Finn

9. Divide

14. Desire

15. Eye with desire

16. Desire

17. Made mad

18. "Kaboom!"

19. Loosen up

20. CON

23. Affirm at the altar

24. Liza Doolittle's dwelling

25. CON

32. Drilled

35. Domain of Eos

36. Put to flight

37. Hollywood Gardner

38. Stan's comedic pal

39. Former fort near Salinas

40. "99 Luftballons" singer

42. Freshman, typically

43. Dates with a Dr., perhaps

45. CON

48. Word with go or by

49. Recited in rhyme, perhaps

53. CON

58. Tartan garment

59. "Night Sins" author Tami

60. SASE, typically

61. Dancer's support

62. Fit

63. "Dollhouse" heroine

64. Jerk

65. Mexican sauce

66. Eye affliction

7. They may have their own tartan

8. 1996 VP candidate

9. Cut corners

10. Factory configurations

11. "Mission: Impossible" composer Schifrin

12. "Meatballs" director Reitman

13. Popular cowboy nickname

21. Was laid low by a high?

22. Broadcasting pioneer Arledge

26. Jung contemporary

27. Yarns

28. "Dallas" family name

29. "Breakfast for Dinner" eatery

30. \_\_\_\_ cloud (home for comets)

31. Assents

32. "Kaboom!"

33. Out's partner

34. Punjabi princess

38. SNL alum, Cheri

41. Surreptitious romances

43. Love personified

44. Jazz-men Ellis and Russell

46. Type of bicycle

47. High point

50. Color lightly

51. Like wool sweaters, for some

52. Daphnis's love

53. Response to a rake

54. Legal opening?

55. Imitation

56. Bindlestiff

57. Eden event

58. NOVA network

### Brain Teaser

I can be short and sometimes hot. When displayed, I rarely impress. What am I?

Answer: Temper

1. Umbrella 2. butterflies 3. flowers 4. sunny 5. tulips 6. sunshine 7. blossom 8. rainbow 9. picnic 10. garden

### The Wrath of....

Robert Stockton

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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58					59				60			
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## JOKE of the WEEK

I went down the street to a 24-hour grocery store. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, "Hey! The sign says you're open 24 hours." He Said, "Yes, but not in a row!"

### SUDOKU

6	7		8		5			1
	5			2	1	3	6	
		1	3	7		9		
5	2		9				1	
3			6		2	5		9
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5			2	9			8	
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### Birds Seen In TCI

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V	i	r	e	o				K	N	Y	N	T	B	R	K	L	O	L	H	T	D				
G	n	a	t	c	a	t	c	h	e	r		C	D	R	E	Q	T	B	E	W	B	C	I	O	T
O	s	p	r	e	y			U	E	R	N	R	Y	L	N	H	T	R	W	T	B				
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Warbler

Hummingbird

Vireo

Gnatcatcher

Osprey

Gull

Tern

Cattle egret

Dowitcher

Mangrove cuckoo

Bananaquit

Brown pelican

Stilts

Sanderling

Green heron



# How to clean and moisturise your skin



**WHY IS skin care important?** Skin care plays an important role in your overall health and appearance. After all, your skin is the largest organ of your body. Skin care primarily focuses on the delicate areas on your face, neck, and chest, with regimens focused on cleansing, moisturising, and treating specific conditions.

Your skin acts as a barrier to your internal systems that are imperative to your health and well-being. Taking steps to properly care for your skin helps to ensure this important barrier is strong. When the skin is dry or irritated, cracks can occur, which make you more prone to infection.

Your skin also plays a vital role in protecting you from the sun and its harmful rays. That is why sunscreen is recommended for adults and children to wear daily. After all, skin cancer is the most common type of cancer and can occur in people of all ages.

According to Treacha Reid, cosmetologist and trichologist, taking preventive measures with a well-thought-out skin care routine is essential to long-term skin health. This can help you avoid the development of certain conditions and signs of ageing, as well as reduce the severity of problems you may already be dealing with. According to the American Academy of Dermatology (AAD), there are five primary types of skin: oily, dry, normal, combination, and sensitive. Each skin type has its own set of unique characteristics and needs that can affect the look and feel of your complexion.

According to Reid, by first understanding what type of skin you have, you can begin to make informed decisions, giving your skin the customised care and protection, it needs now and for

years to come.

“As your body’s largest organ, your skin performs a variety of important and complex functions, from regulating your body temperature to protecting against germs. This is especially true of your skin’s outermost layer, also known as the skin barrier. Composed mostly of lipids such as ceramides, this protective barrier acts as the primary gatekeeper between your skin and external environment, keeping water in and harmful substances out,” Reid said.

“Although a healthy skin barrier is essential for all skin types, it is also important to remember that each individual’s skin is unique in many ways. This means that there is no one size fits all approach to achieving radiant, healthy-looking skin,” she added.

The best way to think about normal skin is that it ends up being a subtle matter of degree, preferences, and expectations. In other words, even those with seemingly flawless skin still can feel a bit of dryness or a bit of oiliness or see signs of combination skin with occasional clogged pores. Think about it as mostly normal skin plus a little bit of other minor, barely detectable issues. It also always depends on the skin care products you are currently using.

## **NORMAL SKIN**

“Normal skin is neither too oily nor too dry. It has balanced sebum production and good blood circulation. To care for normal skin, persons can use a regimen of cleansing, toning and moisturising the skin. Natural home remedies including lime and citric acid can be used, along with moisturising cleansers and humectants,” Reid said.

## **OILY SKIN**

Oily skin is primarily a result of excessive sebum production. This type of skin has excess oil secretion and is mostly shiny, sweaty, and more prone to suffer from acne, and blackheads.

“Moisturising regularly will keep your skin hydrated and prevent it from overproducing sebum. Choosing the right moisturiser is important. A lotion-based, lightweight moisturiser is advised for oily skin types. Stay hydrated and drink enough water to keep your skin moist. This will prevent your skin from producing excess oil,” Reid said.

## **DRY SKIN**

A lack of moisture in the skin can result in a flaky and rough appearance. This is called dry skin. Dry skin tends to produce less oil and lacks vitality. This type of skin is exposed to dryness and is vulnerable to weather changes.

## **COMBINATION SKIN**

“Combination skin is a mixture of two skin types – dry skin and oily skin. This type of skin needs to be well protected from sunlight as it is oilier than other types of skin and sensitive to sun damage,” Reid said.

If you have combination skin, the pores in your T-zone are larger than the rest of your face. Harsh products may clog your pores so using a gentle cleanser is recommended.

“Exfoliate gently and once per month. Exfoliating every day is not recommended for any skin type. It can remove necessary oils from your skin. When you exfoliate, do not scrub your T-zone too much as scrubbing too hard can damage your skin.

Sunscreen is a must-have skin care product. Choose an oil-free sunscreen if you have combination skin,” Reid said.

## **SENSITIVE SKIN**

Skin that is easily irritated and is more reactive than normal skin is referred to as sensitive skin. This type of skin is fragile, usually prone to heat, redness, itching and loses its barrier, thus allowing microorganisms and irritants to easily enter and leading to infections and allergic reactions.

“Buy a mild cleanser, moisturiser and sunscreen. Do not apply too many products to your face. You can start with a mild, sulfate-free cleanser that does not form lather on your skin. Choose products formulated with ingredients that have soothing properties like green tea extracts and chamomile,” Reid said.

The needs of our skin changes over time, hence, taking necessary steps to identify its needs is crucial for it to function properly and look the best. Knowing your skin is important to determine what products to use on it and how to address your skin concerns and issues like acne and dark spots.

So, take some time to develop a suitable skin care routine. Consult a dermatologist in case you are not sure about the products and their effects on your skin.



# Three guilty over Swiss museum £2m stolen

## Ming Vase sale plot



FROM LEFT - Mbaki Nkhwa, David Lamming and Kane Wright

= Three men have been convicted in London in connection with the theft of a £2m vase from a Swiss museum.

The vase, which dates from the Chinese Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), was stolen from the Museum of Far Eastern Art in Geneva in June 2019. The Met, in co-operation with Swiss law enforcement, carried out an undercover operation targeting those trying to sell the item. The vase was recovered in October 2021 and returned to the museum.

At Southwark Crown Court on Friday, Mbaki Nkhwa, 47, of The Heights, Charlton, and Kane Wright, 26, of Heavitree Road, Woolwich, were each found guilty of one count of conspiracy to convert criminal property.

David Lamming, 31, of Belmont Park Close, Lewisham, admitted the same offence at an earlier hearing on 23 March 2023.

Undercover operation

In July 2020, police received call from an auction house saying that an unknown person who knew of the vase’s whereabouts had emailed to seek a valuation.

The Met traced the IP address for the email account to Lamming’s home.

Officers posed as prospective buyers when the vase went up for sale, agreeing a price of £450,000, a Met spokesperson said.

This led to a meeting in a central London hotel where Nkhwa handed over the vase to officers. He was then arrested at the scene. Phone data showed he and Lamming had been in regular contact with Kane, who had driven to the hotel for the exchange.

Det. Ch Insp Matt Webb, from the Met’s Specialist Crime Command, said: “These convictions

are the result of four years’ work crossing international boundaries and involving collaboration between many internal and external partners.

“The organised crime group involved in this off-fending believed they could commit significant offences internationally and that there would be no comeback. They were mistaken.”

He added that the vase- actually a bottle of the Yongle period- had “an interesting tale over its hundreds of years and this is another chapter”.

All three will be sentenced on 13 October. Nkhwa and Wright have been remanded in custody while Lamming has been bailed.

Three items with a total estimated worth of £3.5m were stolen from the museum, the Met said.

A bowl valued at £80,000 was sold at an auction house in Hong Kong in 2019 but subsequently returned to the museum.

Police are offering a £10,000 reward for information leading to the recovery of a Ming Dynasty cup, the third item stolen.

Stewart and Louis Ahearne, two brothers from Woolwich, are awaiting trial in Switzerland over the museum thefts following their extradition late last year.

# Giraffe with no spots born at Tennessee zoo



The spotless giraffe in her enclosure. photo provided by Brights Zoo.

A baby giraffe was born without spots last month. According to Brights Zoo, where the giraffe was

born, she is the only known only solid-colored reticulated giraffe in the world.

Reticulated giraffes are a subspecies of giraffes. Brights Zoo, located in Washington County, Tennessee, is a USDA-licensed, private institution accredited by the Zoological Association of America (ZAA).

The zoo says that the solid brown giraffe, born on July 31, already stands 6 feet tall.

“Giraffe experts believe she is the only solid-colored reticulated giraffe living anywhere on the planet,” a press release shared with TODAY.com via email reads.

The zoo is currently seeking help from the public in finding a name for the baby giraffe and will start its contest on its Facebook page on Aug. 22. So far, the zoo says it has narrowed down a list of suggestions to the names Kipekee, the Swahili word for unique, Firyal, which means unusual or extraordinary, Shakiri which means “she is most beautiful” and Jamella, “one of great beauty.”

“This special giraffe’s birth is remarkable for many reasons, but maybe most importantly, it will help bring attention to the serious challenges the rest of her species face in the wild,” the press release continued.

“The international coverage of our patternless baby giraffe has created a much-needed spotlight on giraffe conservation. Wild populations are silently slipping into extinction, with 40% of the wild giraffe

population lost in just the last 3 decades,” the founder of Bright’s Zoo, Tony Bright, said in the release.

Video from the WPA Film Library captured in 1967 shows a spotless giraffe at a zoo in Tokyo, Japan.

In the wild, a giraffe’s coat is a form of camouflage, according to a 2018 research article published by the peer-reviewed journal Zoological Science.

The article’s researchers analyzed the complex coat pattern traits of a subspecies of wild giraffes called Masai giraffes, native to East Africa. They found that the giraffes’ spots are “likely to be heritable” or transmissible from parent to offspring. According to the researchers, giraffes with larger spots and those with “irregularly shaped or rounder spots” might have greater chances of survival in the wild.

The spotted coat pattern of a giraffe provides more than just cover.

The Giraffe Conservation Foundation says that each spot, or patch, has a system of blood vessels beneath the area that acts as a thermal window and allows the release of body heat.

In 2017, nearly 1.2 million people tuned into the live stream of a giraffe known as April the Giraffe while she gave birth. The reticulated giraffe gained international attention after her zoo residence in Harpursville, New York, set up a video stream of her in late pregnancy. She was euthanized in 2021 at the age of 20 as she dealt with advancing arthritis.



# TCI's Norman Benjamin Saunders Wins Gold at Chicago Summer International Open IBJJF Championship



Norman Benjamin Saunders dominating his opponent on his way to cop gold in the Chicago Summer International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2023

Norman Benjamin Saunders of the Turks and Caicos Islands Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy mined gold at the at the Chicago Summer International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2023.

Saunders, also known to many as Benjamin or Norm, showcased his skills and dedication to emerge as the top of the podium. The 23-year-old won six fights overall, including 4 victories in the Blue Belt Adult Middleweight division – securing gold in that division.

Currently, Saunders holds the 22nd rank in his division in the world by the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation (IBJJF). The talented martial arts athlete credits his coach, Alex Yablong, encouragement from members of his family and friends for his success.

“I’m deeply honored for the recognition and results from the Chicago Championship. The support from my friends, family, the Turks and Caicos Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy, and especially my coach, Alex Yablong has been invaluable,” Saunders mentioned. “With the Jiu-Jitsu Con International 2023 in Las Vegas and the Toronto International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship approaching, I aim to further refine my skills and climb the ranks.”

With the Chicago triumph behind him, Saunders is now gearing up for the Jiu-Jitsu Con International 2023 from August 31st to September 1st, followed by the Toronto International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship on September 16th. His September also heralds a new chapter at the Liverpool Law School, University of Liverpool. The proximity to an array of competitions in the

UK promises more opportunities for Saunders to compete and establish himself in the sport’s higher echelons.

Speaking on his ranking and aspirations, Saunders pointed out, “Several competitors ranked higher benefit from sponsors covering their costs, something I’ve managed out-of-pocket until now. This approach is quickly becoming unsustainable. I’ll be actively seeking sponsorships and brand partnerships to facilitate more competition participation and bolster my global standing.”

With nearly 4 years of commitment to Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu, Saunders has spent the past 2.5 years training under Coach Alex Yablong. Outside of his own training, his enthusiasm for the sport translates into coaching kids’ jiu-jitsu classes at the academy and at the Edward Gartland Youth Centre.

Alex Yablong, with extensive years in Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu and a native of Chicago, founded the Turks and Caicos Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Academy in 2022. Commenting on Saunders’ journey, Yablong expressed, “Seeing Norm’s growth and accomplishments is truly inspiring.

“His dedication is not only a personal testament, but a shining example of what potential lies within the Turks and Caicos Islands and the academy. We opened in 2022, and in this short span, witnessing such success speaks volumes.”

## 5th CARIFTA Triathlon, Aquathlon & Mixed Relay Championships a Huge Success



Bermuda hosted the 5th CARIFTA Triathlon, Aquathlon & Mixed Relay Championships at Goodman’s Bay over the weekend of August 26th and 27th, 2023.

The Championships had nine different Caribbean countries compete - Barbados, Bermuda, Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Aruba, Antigua and Grenada- across 4 age groups (11-12, 13-15, 16-19, 21& Under) in the triathlon and aquathlon events.

Overall, the 23-member Barbados team won gold for the second straight year. They amassed 180 total points and came away with 15 medals, 8 of which were gold. Bermuda took overall silver with 130 points and 8 med-

als. Rounding out the points table was Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, Aruba, Puerto Rico, Jamaica, Antigua and Grenada.

Day one feature the triathlon events which saw Zahra Gaskin of Barbados and Liam McLaughlin of Trinidad & Tobago capturing gold in the 21&U female and male categories respectively. The 16-19 category witnessed Isis Gaskin of Barbados and Jamie Bedford of Bermuda taking gold medals in the female and male sprint triathlons respectively. Winners of the 13-15 age group which was the largest of the competition were Valentina Negrón of Puerto Rico in the female race and Jackson Langley of

Bermuda in the male race. The last group to compete on the day were the 11-12 category with Laila McIntyre winning the female gold and in a rare occurrence, a tie between Lachlan Menzies of the Bahamas and Rory Shepherd of Bermuda sharing gold in the male event.

Day two saw competition continue with the aquathlon and mixed relay events taking place. The 21 &U saw Zahra Gaskin who is on a triathlete scholarship at Wingate University capture gold and Liam McLaughlin of Trinidad & Tobago take another gold in the male race. In the 16-19 event, Isis Gaskin Barbados took her second gold while Israel Allen of Jamaica took the male gold. For the 13-15 Barbados swept gold medals in female and male races with first time competitor Isabella Mayers and Luke McIntyre being the victors. Laila McIntyre of Barbados and Rory Shepherd of Bermuda each grabbed their second gold of the championships in the 11-12 category.

Closing the action on day 2 were the mixed relays which saw Bermuda capture gold and Barbados the silver and bronze. The double podium secured Team Barbados 2nd consecutive Championship Title.

The event saw 144 triathletes compete across the age groups on both days. This event is the premier event for the development of triathlon, aquathlon and mixed relays across the Caribbean. Barbados is expected to host the event in 2024 where team Barbados will go for a 3rd consecutive title.



# TCI Swimmers Gain Valuable Experiences At Goodwill Games



Anaiah Alleyne

A team of 11 consisting of 9 swimmers and 2 team officials attended the 2023 Goodwill Swimming Championship at the National Aquatics Center in Jamaica from August 18 to 20.

A number of TCI's younger competitive swimmers made their debut for the national team, including Matthew Gardiner, Azaan Alleyne, Leniah Hamilton, Anaiah Alleyne, Isaac Farley, Ezekiel Martin, Gabriel Martin, and Jeffrey Joseph, with Sean Walters completing the squad.

Matthew Gardiner at a tender 6 years old, was the youngest participant overall in the Championship.

On day one of the competition, Mathew and his teammate Azaan were the first to enter the pool. Both athletes competed in the 8 and under category in the 100 m and 50 m freestyle events. The 9-10 age group was represented by Leniah Hamilton, Ana-

iah Alleyne, Isaac Farley, and Ezekiel Martin while Gabrielle Martin and Jeffrey Joseph competed in the 13-14 age group and Sean Walters in the 15 to 17 age group.

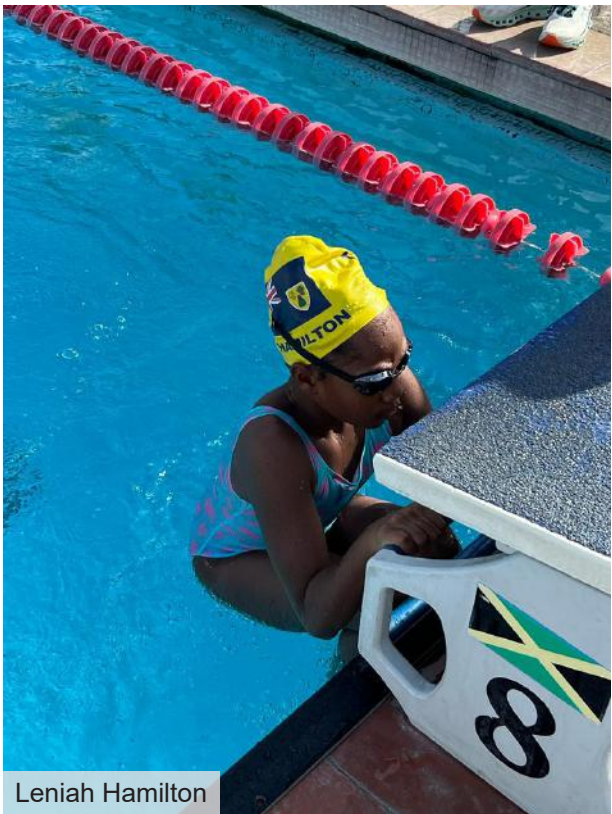
The team of nine competed in various events achieving personal best times in some of their events.

Reacting to competing in the event, Gabrielle Martin said she was happy to be representing TCI and to attend the competition. She said she was happy to achieve personal best times in her events, and that she would endeavor to improve her swims, and meet other competitive swimmers from around the region.

Leniah Hamilton said she felt good about her swims and hopes to participate in next year's competition. Anaiah was excited to compete and said it was a good experience as she prepares to make the 2024 Carifta team. Leniah placed 2nd in her heat in the



TCI Swimmers Gain Valuable Experiences At Goodwill Games



Leniah Hamilton

100m Breast, 4th in her 50 Free and 50 Back heats.

Anaiah Alleyne place 2nd in her heats in the 50 Free, 100 Free and 50 Back; and 3rd in the 50 Breast, 100 Back, 50 Fly heats.

Ezekiel Martin said he was just happy to drop seconds and be at the competition. Jeffrey Joseph commented that it was his first time in a big pool and that the water felt heavy, but he was happy to be on the team and swim. He is looking forward to





Benneth Williams and his charges at the Goodwill



Matthew Gardine



Sean Walters

other competitions and representing Turks and Caicos.

Isaac Farley was happy to be on the team and looking forward to representing TCI again next year. The lone senior swimmer Sean Walters said overall the competition went well and he was most pleased with his 50 fly results where he won his heat and his back stroke placing 3rd in his heat. Sean also placed 10th overall in the 50m back

stroke, earning team TCI its only point during the Championship.

Meanwhile, the TCI Swim Federation was pleased with its young prospects, stating in a news release that the young athletes were now looking ahead upcoming regional and international competitions.

"As for what lies ahead for our young swimmers, while some aspire to make the Carifta team in 2024, others will be preparing for

the 2024 Goodwill Swimming Championship, which are only open to athletes who do not compete at CARIFTA," the news release said.

The Goodwill Games featured six other countries with the Bahamas emerging as this year's champions, dethroning Trinidad and Tobago from its 8-year title reign. St Lucia is scheduled to host the competition next year.





# TCL's Norman Benjamin Saunders Wins Gold at IBJJF Champs

Norman Benjamin Saunders (second left) topped the Chicago Summer International Open IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu Championship 2023