



Find Us Online
for daily news!
NewslineTCI.com
NEWSLINE

NEWSLINE

Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

Find Us Online!



VOLUME 6 ISSUE 49

Dec. 06, 2024 - Dec. 13, 2024



**\$15-MILLION
POULTRY FARM
OPENS ON
PROVIDENCIALES
PG4**



**TCI WELCOMES
ONE MILLION
CRUISE
PASSENGERS
PG7**

DEPORTEE FIRESTORM



SEE PAGE 5

- **Trump wants To Dump Deportees who are nationals of other countries in the TCI**
- **Immigration Ministers will have none of it**

Living In Paradise Magazine Launch

Grace Bay Realty Forbes, On Friday, November 22, 2024, released its 2024/25 edition of Living in Paradise Magazine. The event took place at Royal Jewel in Grace Bay, Providenciales.





NEWSLINE TCI
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

FOR THE MOST AFFORDABLE AD PRICES

Give us a call

- Product Ads
- Service Ads
- Job Ads



Contact Us
348-9585
242-6695

YOUR AD WILL APPEAR ON*

INSTAGRAM



x



FACEBOOK



THREADS



For more information & daily news
NEWSLINETCI.COM

*depending on the package purchased

\$15-Million Poultry Farm Opens On Providenciales

By Vivian Tyson, Editor-in-Chief



Minister responsible Hon. Josephine Conolly (left) examines one of the hatchlings at Sky Poultry Farm. At right is owner of the establishment Sean Penn, who is explaining to the guests how the process works



One of the Sky Poultry Farm buildings, where the eggs and chicken production will be operational.

The Turks and Caicos Islands has taken a major step toward achieving food efficiency and security with the establishment of Sky Poultry Farm in Stammers Run, Blue Hills, Providenciales.

This \$15-million investment in local agriculture is poised to reduce the nation's reliance on imported poultry products, contributing to a more sustainable future.

On December 3, 2024, Sean Penn, the proprietor of the farm, hosted Minister of Agriculture Hon. Josephine Connolly, the top brass of government investment agency Invest Turks and Caicos and several members of the media for an exclusive tour of the facility, which has already begun hatching chickens.

An impressed Connolly remarked that the price of eggs should reduce a bit with the full operation of Sky Poultry Farm. She said her government's mandate is to ensure that the Turks and Caicos Islands the Turks and Caicos Islands is put on the path to food security. Angela Musgrove, CEO for Invest Turks and Caicos explained that Sky Poultry Farm is being funded under its MSME program, which gives support small and medium size businesses.

"Sky Poultry has been a recipient of the MSME program. So, we're excited to see what the production

is and to see how this all works and how it comes together. So, we're glad to be able to support the initiative," Musgrove said.

Penn, a seasoned entrepreneur with a vision to enhance food security in the Caribbean, shared his excitement and insights into the farm's operations.

"We're going to hatch fertilized eggs, grow the chickens in different houses—broilers for meat production, and layers for eggs," Penn explained during the tour. "We're aiming to produce 30,000 eggs daily within the next 18 months and around 60,000 to 80,000 pounds of chicken meat per week."

Sky Poultry Farm is a fully integrated facility, encompassing everything from hatching to meat production. Penn outlined the specific stages of production: eggs are hatched, chicks are grown in specialized houses, and the meat chickens (broilers) are slaughtered after six weeks. Layer chickens, which produce eggs, will be kept for up to 99 weeks.

The farm's ambitious production goals reflect the nation's growing need for locally produced food. Penn's long-term objective is to match or even exceed the current poultry imports. His 24-year journey to launch Sky Poultry Farm was not without challenges, but with determination, he believes the facility will

transform the nation's food system.

"Growing up, I visited farms in the Dominican Republic and saw the potential. It took me over two decades to get here, but now we have the infrastructure to meet the local demand for poultry," Penn said.

The farm has been designed to address the unique challenges of farming in the Turks and Caicos Islands, particularly limited land availability. Penn noted that farming requires a strong passion for the industry and a commitment to learning. "It's not just about having the space; you need the love and knowledge to succeed in farming," he advised young Turks and Caicos residents interested in pursuing agriculture. He encouraged them to explore not only poultry farming but also opportunities in organic farming, livestock management, and other sectors.

The project is also environmentally conscious. Penn is keen to manage waste responsibly, with plans for wastewater treatment and using livestock, such as pigs and goats, to handle organic waste. This approach is integral to the farm's sustainable operations.

Dr. Reginald Thomas, the Chief Veterinary Officer at the Department of Agriculture, praised the farm's development, highlighting its importance for food security.

"This project is a significant step toward self-sufficiency for the Turks and Caicos Islands," Dr. Thomas said. "For a small country like ours, being able to produce our own poultry, both eggs and meat, is a game-changer. It offers new economic opportunities and addresses some of the challenges we face with food imports."

Dr. Thomas also spoke of the potential for contract farming, where local smallholders could collaborate with Sky Poultry Farm to produce and market poultry under a unified label. This, he believes, would create a robust agricultural sector and offer new livelihoods for residents across Providenciales and the family islands.

One of the core benefits of the farm is its ability to create local jobs, not only within the farm itself but also in related industries like feed production, waste management, and logistics. Dr. Thomas emphasized that the project will have a positive impact on the local economy by providing both food security and employment opportunities.

The Department of Agriculture has played an essential role in supporting the development of Sky Poultry Farm. From the planning stages to the ongoing operations, the department has worked closely with Penn, ensuring that the farm adheres to necessary biosecurity measures and food safety standards.

"The department is here to support this facility in every way," Dr. Thomas explained. "We'll help with biosecurity, ensure the health of the livestock, and ensure that imported animals and eggs meet our standards before they enter the facility."

The \$15-million price tag of the project reflects the scale and ambition of Sky Poultry Farm. It includes state-of-the-art facilities for hatching, growing, and slaughtering, along with a 500-bird-per-hour slaughtering facility and a capacity to hatch 23,000 eggs per week. Once fully operational, the farm is expected to significantly reduce the nation's dependence on imported poultry products.

For now, the focus remains on the steady growth of the farm's operations. "In 20 weeks, we expect to start producing brown eggs," Penn said. "White eggs will follow in another 4-6 weeks, and within the next few months, we will begin offering fresh poultry meat."

The successful launch of Sky Poultry Farm marks a major milestone for the Turks and Caicos Islands as it strives to become more food self-sufficient. With support from the government and a growing interest in agricultural opportunities, the farm is positioned to play a crucial role in shaping the future of food production in the region.

Deportee Tension Brewing Between U.S., TCI

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-in-Chief



the Trump Transition Team is preparing a list of countries, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Bahamas, Panama, and Grenada, to which migrants could be sent when their home countries refuse to accept them.



MUSGROVE...The government of the Turks and Caicos Islands remains steadfast in its refusal to participate in any such program.

Tensions are rising between the Turks and Caicos Islands Government and the incoming Trump administration following an NBC News report revealing that the U.S. plans to deport migrants to countries like the Islands, where they have no ties. According to the report, the Trump Transition Team is preparing a list of countries, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Bahamas, Panama, and Grenada, to which migrants could be sent when their home countries refuse to accept them.

The Turks and Caicos Islands government has strongly opposed the proposal. Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Arlington Musgrove, in a statement, declared that it would not accept deportees from the U.S. or any other country unless they were citizens of the Islands. The government emphasized that the decision was rooted in its sovereignty, the protection of its borders, and the welfare of its people. It also voiced concerns that such a policy could place

undue strain on the country's already limited resources, exacerbating challenges posed by irregular migration.

The Trump policy could result in thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of migrants being displaced to foreign countries where they have no family, language, or cultural connections. The uncertainty surrounding their legal status further complicates the situation, as it is unclear whether these migrants would be allowed to remain in these countries to work or live, or if they would face further deportations.

The issue stems from longstanding challenges in deporting migrants from countries like Venezuela, Cuba, and China, which are reluctant to accept their citizens. U.S. authorities have faced significant challenges in deporting these individuals due to federal court rulings that prevent the indefinite detention of migrants. As a result, many of these migrants are released into the U.S. even after a judge has ordered their deportation. Sending

them to third countries like the Turks and Caicos Islands could allow the Trump administration to bypass these legal constraints.

The proposal has drawn criticism from various quarters, with many arguing that it could create humanitarian crises in countries ill-equipped to handle large numbers of deported individuals. The U.S. first attempted a similar policy during Trump's first term, sending asylum-seekers to Guatemala as part of an agreement with that country. However, the policy was halted in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) and other pro-immigrant groups have sued over such deportation practices, arguing that they are in violation of international law and place migrants in dangerous situations.

The Trump administration's goal of deporting migrants quickly, within a week of their arrest, is central to its broader agenda of creating what it has called "the largest deportation operation in American history."

Reports indicate that the administration plans to press Mexico to accept non-Mexican deportees as well, though this has proven to be contentious. Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum has stated that Mexico's responsibility is to assist Mexican nationals, not citizens from other countries, and hopes to reach an agreement with the Trump administration to prevent such deportations.

Along with the Turks and Caicos Islands, The Bahamas also firmly rejected the proposal. Prime Minister Philip Davis expressed that the country simply does not have the resources to accommodate migrants from other nations and would not accept any such arrangement. Since his rejection of the idea, the Bahamian government has not engaged further with the Trump transition team on this issue.

In the meantime, the Turks and Caicos Islands government's stance reflects a broader fear that the U.S. is attempting to offload its migration challenges onto smaller nations without regard for the economic, social, or humanitarian consequences.

Many Islanders are also upset, taking to social media to voice their objections. Some argue that the United States, as the country most responsible for the root causes of migration, such as guns and drugs, should take more responsibility for handling these issues rather than shifting the burden onto other nations.

There is a deep sense of unease in the Turks and Caicos Islands, where residents fear that accepting deportees could lead to further instability. With no direct connections to the Islands, these migrants may struggle to integrate into local society, creating potential social and economic challenges. Additionally, the government warns that any policies that undermine its sovereignty or security will not be tolerated.

As the Trump administration's deportation plans unfold, the tension between the United States and the Turks and Caicos Islands, along with other nations like the Bahamas and Panama, could set the stage for a significant diplomatic showdown. How these countries respond to the U.S. push to accept deportees will likely have far-reaching implications for both international relations and migration policy.

In the meantime, Musgrove said the government of the Turks and Caicos Islands remains steadfast in its refusal to participate in any such program.

NOTICE

Regulation 8 of the Physical Planning (Development Permission)

Regulations, 2021

An Application, **REGISTERED GT 5347**, by **AARON ST PIERRE** for **A DWELLING HOUSE WITH A BUILDING SYSTEM THAT IS NOT CONSISTING WITH THE TCI BUILDING CODE ON BLOCK AND PARCEL 10306/17**.

This application has been submitted to the Department of Planning for consideration of Development Permission on **Block & Parcels 10306/17** which is **0.12 acres of land located at Front Street, Grand Turk**.

Anyone wishing to make representation(s) may do so in writing to the Director of Planning, South Base, Grand Turk or through the Department of Planning, Emily House, Leeward Highway, Providenciales, within twenty-eight (28) days of publication of this Notice. You may also make representation(s) via **video conferencing at the sitting of the Physical Planning Board when this application would be considered**. If you are desirous so to do via video conferencing, **contact the Secretary of Physical Planning Board**.

Dated: 11/08/2024

Trump's victory and our future



Well, Donald Trump is back. So love, like, or dislike it we have to determine what it means for us as a nation, because if you think that it doesn't matter to us, you're not thinking this out.

Before we start the analysis, it's important that we understand why. First, a lot of people in the United States of America (USA) are not immigrant-friendly. I can understand why, but I don't think they are analysing the facts. I get the issues relating to them not assimilating into society, creating instead their own micro-culture in micro-geographies. I love all people but I don't want my community of 30 years to become a mini India, China — or any other culture for that matter.

I don't think the core base of Donald Trump's voters realise, though, that the effective workforce of a country is what allows for it to function. You need people, and you need people who can work the labour-intensive jobs.

Then there was the overt attempt to convict him of any offence they could as a means of removing him from being eligible as a presidential candidate. That was a bad idea. Stormy Daniels — that's the best you can do? C'mon! People don't like to believe you are circumventing their democratic right to choose who they please.

Then there is that very large group of poor whites who are not all educated and privileged. They have been sort of left out of the loop for a while. Their jobs went with the North America Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), and nobody really focuses on them as an electoral group to target. They are somewhat demonised historically because of Jim Crow, slavery, and race-related violence. They are all Trump supporters because he speaks for them.

Last, not least, is gun control. This issue crosses racial lines. The right to own whatever gun you

choose is protected under the second amendment. I know you don't need an assault rifle, however, if you have ever owned one you don't want any politician telling you he wants to take it. Just leave the issue at state level. If the state elects a gun control advocate then the state wants gun control. It can't be a federal issue.

Now what are the implications for us? Well, first, he's not really a racist — he just knows what to say to racists to drum up their support. Anti-immigrant activist? No, he is not one. He is a businessman. Every businessman in the United States knows that the hardest workers are Mexicans, South Americans, Central Americans and, of course, Jamaicans.

So legitimate migration to the United States will not be impacted. The policy of granting people at the Mexican border asylum will stop, to a large degree. This will result in fewer people being able to migrate and will somewhat impact future remittances, but not in the short run, and not significantly.

Fewer criminals will get to leave. This is a problem, because they will stay here and kill. The biggest issue to us is the mass deportation of illegal immigrants that is coming. They are, to a significant degree, going to be criminals. We need to prepare. I have said this before. We need time to investigate them upon arrival to determine who they are and what crime they committed before they left. This 48-hour period of detention is not going to cut it. They are not economic refugees. They are criminals; killers and gang members, and they are coming home to destroy the country.

I accept, however, that there will be innocent people who just decided to circumvent the process of getting a visa because they wanted a better life. They will also be in the group of deportees which is coming so that's why I'm not advocating indefinite detention; three months

is what I suggest.

Therefore, we need a detention centre for this purpose. We don't have time to build it so we need to repurpose somewhere. It needs to be secure, and we need a budget for it. So those politicians we elected need to get busy.

Many of the deportees will come with false names and false histories. We need time to investigate. I know of 12 off the top of my head who are serious killers with cases to face, and that's just my division without me really doing any serious digging.

All 12 I can think of will kill every year, several times. They will not necessarily be brought to justice in the first year. Start multiplying that figure by all divisions and it gets scary. Without any serious research I can estimate about a thousand killers coming home if the mass deportations involve the cancellation of the asylum grants. We really don't need a rerun of the 90s deportation crisis.

We have done so well at such a high cost in police officers' and soldiers' lives in the last two years. We have to consider these gains at the cost to family life of the law enforcement personnel who have been lost to long shifts and who combat fatigue. Prosecutors, for relatively small salaries, have endangered themselves and their families. Political careers have been altered because of the change in culture where they no longer support or rely on gangsters for political leverage. Everything is on the line and it's going to be real in a few months.

We are looking at the prospect of a sub-1,000 murder rate for 2025. If this mass deportation is not mitigated, then it will be 20 years before we achieve it.

Get busy, there is work to be done.

Feedback: drjasonamckay@gmail.com



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

NEWSLINE TCI is located at
1085 Leeward Highway,
Providenciales,
Turks & Caicos Islands, BW1.

Our numbers are:
1649 348-9587
1649 242-6695
You can email us at
[contact@newsline.tci.com](mailto:contact@newsline.tci) or
viviantyson@newsline.tci.com

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

Turks and Caicos Islands Welcomes One Million Cruise Passengers



Minister of Tourism Hon. Josephine Connolly

The Turks and Caicos Islands has reached a significant milestone, welcoming over one million cruise passengers in the first 10 months of 2024. As of October 31st, 2024, a total of 1,034,251 cruise pas-

sengers have arrived at the Grand Turk Cruise Centre, surpassing the 924,250 passengers recorded in 2023.

“Grand Turk is on fire!” exclaimed the Hon. Josephine Connolly, Minister of Tourism. “Grand Turk has seen a significant increase in the number of ships and passengers arriving at the Cruise Centre throughout the year, and this growth is supported by a recent BREA report showing that over the past year, cruise passengers, crews, and the cruise lines spent a total of \$116 million.”

Experience Turks and Caicos, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, has recognized this growth in the cruise sector and is working to enhance product offerings and visitor experiences. New initiatives and infrastructural upgrades are being implemented to ensure that Grand Turk remains one of the top cruise ports in the Caribbean.

Over the past year, the Grand Turk Cruise Centre has also welcomed major cruise lines such as Royal Caribbean and MSC

Seascape, contributing to the overall growth of the sector.

In response to the rising popularity of Grand Turk, Experience Turks and Caicos is focused on creating new opportunities for both visitors and local businesses. Recent efforts have included a collaboration with the Aquila Centre for Cruise to offer workshops on Product Development and Vendor Excellence. These workshops aim to strengthen local tour operators and vendors, creating new opportunities for economic growth.

Additionally, Experience Turks and Caicos has launched Taste of Turks, a weekly food and culture fair that takes place every Thursday from 10 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. on Queen Street. The event celebrates the islands’ cuisine and culture, offering an immersive experience for both cruise passengers and locals. Visitors can enjoy authentic Turks and Caicos cuisine, handmade local gifts, and live performances, further enriching their time on the islands.

THE STRAND OPENS IN TURKS AND CAICOS



The Luxury Residential Resort Brings Culinary Excellence, Curated Amenities, and Standout Sustainable Design to Providenciales

The Strand Turks and Caicos, the highly anticipated luxury resort community located on 2,230 feet of oceanfront on Cooper Jack Bay in Providenciales, is now open for overnight guests.

Part of The Leading Hotels of the World, Ltd, The Strand features luxury suites, multi-bedroom villas and expansive private residences designed in collaboration with RAD Architecture, Inc. and Modus Operandi, each offering breathtaking ocean views and floor-to-ceiling glass doors, spacious terraces, and hand-crafted infinity pools.

The property is one of the most sustainable resorts in the Caribbean with solar integration from local leader Renu Energy TCI providing more than 75% of the community’s power and a designated “Pollinator Sanctuary” in partnership with renowned Denver-based Butterfly Pavilion.

“We are thrilled to officially open our doors to The Strand’s first overnight guests, inviting them to become an essential part of the community we

have so passionately cultivated here in the Turks & Caicos,” says John Fair, managing director of The Strand.

“The Resort is designed to offer not just luxurious amenities but also immersive, thoughtfully curated experiences that resonate with our guests. We’ve crafted our programs and facilities to encourage exploration of nature’s playground and to take advantage of the warm, inviting waters of the Caicos Banks. Our hope is that guests leave with lasting memories and a deep sense of connection, both to each other and to this remarkable place.”

The Strand’s grand opening celebration was held on November 20 with a spectacular celebration. The evening unveiled a vibrant 15-foot mural by renowned Turks and Caicos-born artist, Bradley Theodore. The artwork celebrates the soul of Turks & Caicos and is on display to guests immediately upon arrival at The Strand’s open-air reception area. The event drew an impressive gathering, including homeowners, esteemed local dignitaries, the Experience Turks and Caicos team, the elite Sotheby’s International Realty sales team, and The

Strand’s executive leaders.

The DelMar, The Strand’s upscale restaurant, bar and beach club, features an outdoor beachfront patio with cabana seating dotted throughout and a kitchen naturally built into the hillside with a living green roof. Specializing in the freshest fish, seafood, prime steaks and chops, cooked on an exhibition wood fired Parrilla, or smoked in-house, the menu fuses flavors from Asia, Latin America, and the Mediterranean and sets the new standard for dining in Turks and Caicos. An adjoining waterfront bar offers a more casual menu and specialty cocktails throughout the day.

Visitors are guests of The Club at The Strand, enjoying a la carte services, including butlers, private chefs, special culinary events, and more. Amenities include an accessible beach, restaurant and beach club, tennis and pickleball courts, water sports, and an exclusive marina, which offers guests access to the resort’s Boston Whaler with a private captain. A full-service spa and kids’ club will open in the year ahead along with the launch of a “Maestro in Residence” program.

Along nearly a half mile of exclusive ocean frontage, The Strand is remote yet easily accessible, only ten minutes from the Providenciales International Airport and 15 minutes to the world-famous Grace Bay Beaches and shopping area.

Special opening rates at The Strand start at \$800. For reservations and to learn more about The Strand Turks & Caicos, please visit www.thestrandtci.com or follow @thestrandtci.

E. Jay Saunders' DSS and Huawei Announce Strategic Digitalization Partnership



E. Jay Saunders of DSS and David Wang of Huawei sign the MOU on Wednesday, December 4, 2024.



E. Jay Saunders (centre), CEO of DSS and David Wong of Huawei display the signed MOU Document. Looking on at left is Alex Liu, Huawei's Regional Manager for the Caribbean.

On December 4, 2024, at Las Brisas Restaurant, Providenciales, DSS and Huawei hosted a press luncheon to announce a strategic partnership aimed at driving digital transformation in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) and beyond.

The event, which centered on the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the two organizations, highlighted their shared vision to promote digital innovation and improve financial inclusion in underserved markets.

The MOU extends beyond mobile money, focusing on strategic cooperation in areas such as Smart Cities, Smart Government, and Smart Education.

E. Jay Saunders, DSS CEO emphasized the potential impact on TCI, stating, "Huawei's advanced ICT technologies could help us drive down the cost of living across our islands."

Huawei's Vision for Digital Transformation Alex Liu, Huawei's Regional Manager for the Caribbean, opened the luncheon by expressing his admiration for the TCI and emphasizing Huawei's global expertise in digitalization. He explained Huawei's three core business groups: consumer electronics, carrier solutions for telecommunications networks, and cloud services. Liu noted that Huawei's cloud business, akin to AWS or Microsoft Azure, underpins their partnership with DSS, enabling the creation of mobile money services targeted at unbanked and underbanked populations in the Caribbean.

David Wang, CEO, Huawei Cloud Central America and the Caribbean, echoed Liu's sentiments, emphasizing the transformative potential of digital wallets. He drew parallels with successful global platforms like Alipay and PayPal and shared his excitement about bringing similar solutions to underserved regions.

E. Jay Saunders' Vision for DSS and Mobile Money

E. Jay Saunders, CEO of DSS, outlined his company's long-term vision for mobile money. Re-

flecting on earlier efforts in mobile credit-sharing solutions, Saunders shared how these experiences inspired DSS's mission to create mobile money ecosystems that cater specifically to unbanked and underbanked populations. He highlighted the significant challenges faced by those without traditional banking access and the global efforts to address financial inclusion, referencing initiatives by the World Bank, United Nations, and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Saunders noted that DSS aims to fill the gap left by mainstream mobile wallet solutions like Apple Pay and Google Pay, which primarily serve individuals with existing bank accounts.

Revolutionizing Mobile Money: The DSS Model Unlike traditional mobile wallets, DSS's solution will operate as a B2B product offered through telecommunications carriers. Saunders explained that this approach mirrors the credit card industry's evolution, where financial institutions issue Visa or MasterCard under a unified ecosystem. Similarly, DSS will provide carriers with a ready-to-deploy mobile wallet platform, enabling them to reach unbanked populations without investing in their own infrastructure.

The ecosystem envisioned by DSS and Huawei will allow mobile wallet users to conduct transactions seamlessly across borders. For example, a mobile wallet issued by a TCI carrier could be used in China, Africa, or the Bahamas, ensuring global interoperability.

Saunders shared that there are approximately 750 mobile carriers worldwide, of which 450 lack mobile wallet solutions. DSS aims to target these carriers, starting with regions that have large unbanked populations, such as Haiti, Jamaica, and Guyana.

The Role of Huawei in Enabling DSS's Vision

The partnership with Huawei plays a pivotal role in making this ambitious project viable. Saunders revealed that Huawei's competitive cloud pricing enabled DSS to finalize the busi-

ness case for global deployment. With Huawei's support, DSS plans to launch the beta version of its mobile wallet solution in the first half of 2025, followed by rigorous testing of financial and regulatory systems.

The MOU between DSS and Huawei extends beyond mobile money. It encompasses strategic cooperation in areas such as Smart Cities, Smart Government, and Smart Education. Saunders emphasized that this collaboration does not imply government contracts for Huawei but provides DSS with access to cutting-edge technology and expertise.

Potential Impact on TCI

While the mobile wallet service will not initially launch in TCI, Saunders highlighted its potential to address local challenges, such as unreliable banking services on smaller islands. He proposed innovative solutions like electronic check deposits and collaborations with banks to provide financial services to underserved communities.

Saunders also discussed futuristic possibilities, such as leveraging China's expertise in air taxis to solve transportation issues between the underserved islands within the TCI.

Q&A Highlights

The press had several questions about the partnership's details and implications:

- **Lifespan of the Partnership:** Alex Liu confirmed that the MOU is initially for two years, with plans for renewal and long-term collaboration.

- **Worker Payments via Mobile Wallet:** Saunders outlined a scenario where contractors could use the wallet to deposit funds directly to employees' mobile wallets, eliminating the need for traditional banking.

- **Collaboration with Global Services:** Responding to a question about compatibility with ride-hailing services like Uber, Saunders noted that the ecosystem could easily integrate such solutions in the future.

- **Addressing Banking Challenges in Small Islands:** Saunders described potential partnerships with banks to facilitate check deposits via high resolution images, addressing the lack of banking services in remote areas.

- **Expansion Plans:** Saunders confirmed DSS's intention to pitch the mobile wallet solution to carriers in regions with significant underbanked populations, such as Haiti, the Dominican Republic, and Suriname.

Looking Ahead

Saunders concluded the luncheon by highlighting the transformative potential of this partnership. He likened DSS's strategic relationship with Huawei to collaborations with global tech leaders like Microsoft or Tesla. By leveraging Huawei's innovative technologies, DSS aims to position itself as a leader in digital financial services and pave the way for TCI to become a regional hub for digital innovation.

This luncheon marked the beginning of a bold initiative to revolutionize mobile money, bridge the digital divide, and foster economic inclusion on a global scale.

Grace Bay Realty Unveils Living In Paradise Magazine 2024/25 Edition



Lyle Schmidick (right) and Beth Atkins-Charles, co-owners of Grace Bay Realty unveil the cover of the Living in Paradise 2024 edition



Viewing the Living in Paradise Magazine 2024-2025 edition

On Friday, November 22, 2024, Grace Bay Realty Forbes held a grand celebration for the release of the 2024/25 edition of Living in Paradise Magazine at Royal Jewel in Grace Bay, Providenciales. The event was a testament to the company's deep-rooted commitment to its core values of community, sustainability, and exceptional service in the luxury real estate market.

Lyle Schmidick, co-owner of Grace Bay Realty, took center stage at the event, marking a moment to reflect on the journey of the company and its philosophy. Schmidick began by lightheartedly giving his business partner, Beth, a break from public speaking, saying, "How many of you guys remember Beth doing all the pub-

lic speaking on the island a few years ago? Well, tonight I'm going to give her a little bit of a break." The audience was then treated to an impassioned speech as Schmidick delved into the company's longstanding values.

At the heart of the company's approach, Schmidick explained, is the "triple bottom line," which focuses on placing people and the planet before profit. "For those of you who aren't familiar with it, it's people and planet before profit," Schmidick shared. This guiding principle has been central to Grace Bay Realty's mission since its inception. He reminisced about the early 2000s, when Grace Bay Realty introduced some of the largest luxury real estate brands to the Turks and Caicos

Islands. Despite the skepticism they faced, with some calling their approach "crazy," they never wavered from their commitment to building lasting relationships with clients and their communities.

Reflecting on the company's history, Schmidick recalled how, after establishing a strong presence in the luxury real estate market, they chose to give up affiliations with certain large brands that didn't align with their values. Instead, they focused their energy on creating lasting, meaningful relationships with clients, always treating them like neighbors rather than just customers. He also spoke about their efforts to promote the Turks and Caicos Islands as a premier destination for high-net-worth individuals. Their efforts involved advertising the luxury homes available and fostering an emerging community that embraced the islands' lifestyle—highlighted by its absence of fast food restaurants, traffic lights, and taxes. These efforts, Schmidick noted, helped attract the right individuals who shared the company's values.

Schmidick continued to highlight some of Grace Bay Realty's notable achievements, including their role in establishing the first long-running farmers' market on Providenciales, helping to support local farmers and promote sustainability on the island. Their commitment to community-focused initiatives, like providing seed capital to farmers and getting the Farmers Association incorporated, is a testament to their enduring philosophy of service for others.

Another major milestone for the company was its partnership with Forbes Global Properties. Schmidick explained how this collaboration, which began five years ago, aligned perfectly with Grace Bay Realty's values. Forbes Global Properties focuses on people, their homes, and the stories behind them—much like Grace Bay Realty's approach to real estate. This partnership was a key factor in their continued growth and success.

As part of the evening's celebration, Schmidick presented the new Living in Paradise Magazine for 2024-25, inviting guests to take copies for their businesses, homes, and offices. He also shared the exciting news about their new website, designed to offer an unparalleled property search experience, and introduced the company's in-house integration department, which helps newcomers quickly feel part of the community.

In closing, Schmidick expressed gratitude to everyone who had supported the company over the years. He acknowledged their in-house team, agents, and consultants for their dedication to finding homes for new neighbors and fostering a heart-centered approach to real estate. "We look forward to many more of these events in the future," Schmidick concluded, "and we are excited to share our business excitement and success with all of you."

The event, filled with shopping, food, and networking, underscored the company's commitment to nurturing a strong, supportive community on the islands while continuing to innovate in the luxury real estate market.

Selvyn Hawkins Appointed as New CEO of the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority



The Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority (TCIAA) has announced the appointment of Mr. Selvyn Philip Hawkins Jr. as its new Chief Executive Officer, effective December 1, 2024.

Mr. Hawkins, who has served as the Executive Chairman of TCIAA for the past three years, is recognized for his significant contributions to

the organization's success, including strengthening corporate governance and fostering enhanced accountability. His leadership has helped shape a clear vision for the future of the TCIAA, positioning the Authority for continued growth and development within the aviation sector.

The Ministry of Border Services, on behalf of the

TCIAA Board of Directors, expressed confidence in Mr. Hawkins' ability to lead the organization with professionalism and vision.

"With his extensive experience and proven leadership, Mr. Hawkins is poised to take TCIAA to new heights in the coming years," said the Ministry in a statement.

"I am excited to take on this new role and to work alongside the incredible team at the Airports Authority," said Mr. Hawkins. "Together, we will continue to build an institution that every Turks and Caicos Islander can be proud of and strive to make TCIAA the Employer of Choice in the country while developing a world-class Airports Authority."

Mr. Hawkins also highlighted the importance of fostering opportunities for young Turks and Caicos professionals, emphasizing the Authority's commitment to nurturing local talent and providing growth opportunities within the organization.

In his statement, Mr. Hawkins extended his gratitude to previous leaders, Chairmen, Directors, and CEOs of TCIAA for their invaluable contributions to the growth of the aviation sector in the islands.

Hon. Arlington Musgrove, Minister of Border Services, expressed full support for Mr. Hawkins' appointment, saying, "I am immensely proud to announce Mr. Hawkins' succession. His background as both a lawyer and a journalist reflects the values of hard work, talent, and opportunity that we want to see more of in the Turks and Caicos Islands. His appointment is a testament to the government's commitment to advancing the careers of talented young professionals from our own community."

The TCIAA also extended its gratitude to former CEO Mr. Godfrey Smith, for his exceptional leadership during his tenure. Under his guidance, the TCIAA made significant strides in stabilizing operations, modernizing infrastructure, and elevating service standards at airports across the islands. His visionary approach to innovation and operational excellence has left a lasting impact on the organization.

Gaming Control Commission Orders Immediately End To All Illegal Gaming

The Gaming Control Commission (the Commission), which is responsible for regulating and ensuring the integrity of the gaming industry in the Turks & Caicos Islands, is taking strong action against illegal gaming activities in the territory.

The Commission has issued a Public Notice urging all individuals and businesses to cease participating in or facilitating illegal gaming or gambling.

This move aims to address an ongoing issue that has the potential to cause discord within

the community. The Commission emphasizes the importance of promoting a culture of compliance, transparency, and fairness within the gaming industry.

In accordance with Section 3 of the Casinos Ordinance, the Commission stresses that only gaming activities conducted in licensed venues and in compliance with the applicable laws are permissible. The Commission also reminds residents and businesses that Section 46 of the Casinos Ordinance mandates penalties for anyone found guilty of participating in illegal gaming

activities. Additionally, Section 47 criminalizes the possession of gaming instruments without lawful excuse, with penalties that include fines and imprisonment.

To enforce these regulations, the Commission will collaborate with the Royal Turks & Caicos Island Police Force to investigate and take action against illegal gaming activities. Both the Commission and its partners are committed to ensuring that all enforcement actions are conducted transparently and in strict adherence to the law.

A Home For The Holidays

An OpEd by PDM Candidate Sean Astwood



As we approach the holiday season, the Turks and Caicos Islands should be a place of warmth, community, and security—where families come together to celebrate without fear of losing their homes or facing the overwhelming burden of skyrocketing rents.

This is not just a policy issue—it's a daily struggle for many of our people, especially those working hard to make ends meet but still unable to afford a place to call home. It's heartbreaking to know that many locals are at risk of losing their homes or are already burdened with

exorbitant rent prices that leave them with little room to breathe.

Many are caught in a system where banks foreclose on their homes, the dream of homeownership slips further out of reach, and long-term rental options grow increasingly scarce. The reality is simple: our housing market is in crisis, and it is our own people who are paying the price. In Providenciales, where housing demand has skyrocketed, the supply of affordable homes and apartments has not kept pace. One-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments have become luxury items. Even when available, they are priced far beyond the reach of the average Turks and Caicos Islander. Worse still, many landlords are converting properties into short-term vacation rentals for tourists, further reducing the number of homes available to our people.

As Christmas approaches, the government continues to talk about strategies and promises to address the crisis. But let's be clear: these are just promises. Initiatives like the \$50 million mortgage fund, while a step in the right direction, do little to alleviate the immediate pain locals are experiencing. How many families will lose their homes before this fund becomes operational? How many will struggle with rising rents and falling wages this holiday season before meaningful change occurs?

The truth is that while the government boasts of its initiatives, the majority of Turks and Caicos Islanders are not seeing results. Prices continue to climb, homes remain out of reach, and local families face the heartbreaking possibility of being priced out of their communities.

For many, this Christmas season is filled with fear—not

celebration. To borrow a line from our party's leader, the Hon. Edwin Astwood: "We are being priced out of paradise."

This is not just a matter of policy—it's a matter of human dignity. The people of the Turks and Caicos Islands deserve the opportunity to own homes, provide stability for their families, and live with peace of mind, knowing they won't be evicted or displaced.

We need a government that listens to the struggles of the average person, recognizes the urgent need for affordable housing, and acts swiftly to address this crisis.

This Christmas, my heart goes out to everyone struggling to find a home. I see you, I hear you, and I won't forget you. I understand the pain of not being able to provide a secure and stable home for your family. As your representative, I promise to address the housing crisis by creating affordable housing solutions, resolving the mortgage crisis, and ensuring a government that prioritizes its people. We can no longer afford to wait. The time for action is now. By next Christmas, let's ensure every Turk and Caicos Islander has an affordable home—a place they can call their own—because home is where we all deserve to be.

We must prioritize affordable housing for locals, make Crown land accessible and affordable, and enact policies to protect our people from losing their homes. The time for empty promises is over.

I am ready to work with you to build a future where every Turk and Caicos Islander has access to safe, affordable housing—not just for the holiday season but for generations to come.

A Crown Land Sovereign Fund: A Path to Prosperity and Independence for Turks and Caicos Islanders

An OpEd by PNP At-Large Candidate Zhavargo Jolly



Imagine a future where every Turks and Caicos Islander benefits from the natural wealth of our islands, not just through jobs or handouts, but through ownership and long-term prosperity. This vision can become a reality through a Crown Land Sovereign Fund—an innovative approach that transforms our national resources into a sustainable engine of wealth for all Turks and Caicos Islanders.

But this is about more than just money. A Crown Land Sovereign Fund is also a measured step toward our ultimate goal: independence. By ensuring that our natural resources work for us, we reduce our reliance on external powers and take control of our future as a free and self-sufficient nation.

Here's how it works:

1. Crown Land as the Foundation

We have about 69,000 acres of Crown Land left, including 27,000 acres in East Caicos. By setting aside 10,000 acres—5,000 from East Caicos and 5,000 from other strategic locations—we create a land bank. This land bank

forms the basis of the Sovereign Fund.

2. Turks and Caicos Islanders Become Stakeholders

Every Turks and Caicos Islander would be attached to the fund as a life-long stakeholder. This means the fund is owned by the people, not the government. Each Turks and Caicos Islander holds a non-transferable life interest, ensuring the wealth generated by the fund remains tied to our people.

3. Masterplanning for Development

The land bank is master-planned for various income-generating developments: eco-friendly hotels, modern townhouse communities, and luxury retirement villages. The land's value increases as it is developed, and recurring income is generated through leases and strategic sales.

4. Building Long-Term Income

Hotels, government buildings, and staff housing are built on fund-owned land. All leases and rents flow back into the fund, creating a steady income stream. Additional contributions come from a small share of tourist fees, air-space flyover fees, and business registrations.

5. Direct Benefits to Turks and Caicos Islanders

Here's the exciting part: after three years of building the fund, dividends could directly benefit Turks and Caicos Islanders. Initially, these funds would cover essential programs like NIB and NHIP, reducing financial burdens. Over time, Turks and Caicos Islanders could receive a Universal Basic Income (UBI) of \$500 to \$3,000 per month, depending on the fund's performance.

6. A Step Toward Independence

True independence isn't just political—it's economic. A Crown Land Sovereign Fund ensures that Turks and Caicos Islanders are no longer at the mercy of outside influences. By owning and benefiting directly from our resources, we build a foundation for financial independence, making the dream of self-determination a tangible reality.

Why This Matters

In today's economy, rising land prices and external demand threaten to price Turks and Caicos Islanders out

of their own homeland. Many families have already sold land they've owned for generations, only to find they cannot afford to buy back into the market. A Crown Land Sovereign Fund changes this dynamic.

By attaching Turks and Caicos Islanders to the rising value of land and ensuring sustainable development, we create a system where everyone benefits. This isn't charity—it's fairness. It's about giving Turks and Caicos Islanders a stake in the nation's prosperity while protecting our heritage for future generations.

The Bigger Picture

Turks and Caicos needs to evolve beyond a tourism-dependent economy. Automation, climate change, and rising costs mean the old model of jobs-based development is unsustainable. A Crown Land Sovereign Fund offers a new path:

- Universal health and education funded through land-based wealth.
- Affordable housing for Turks and Caicos Islanders.
- Financial security through direct income.
- Entrepreneurship supported by fund-generated loans.

Most importantly, it lays the groundwork for an independent Turks and Caicos Islands. Every dollar generated and every benefit provided strengthens our position to stand on our own, charting a future where we control our destiny.

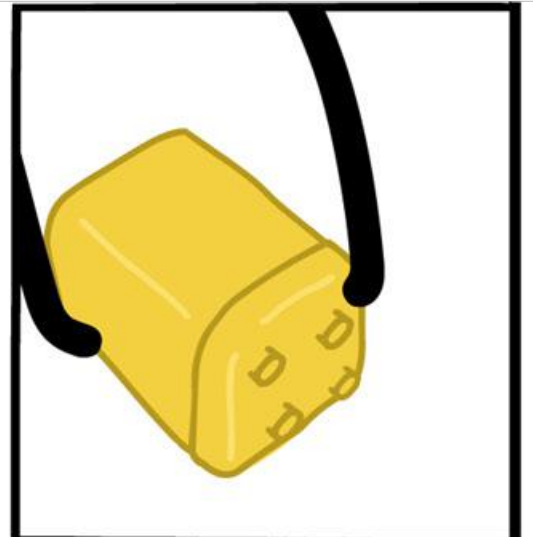
What's Next?

This is more than just an idea. It's a call to action. Turks and Caicos Islanders must demand that Crown Land is used to benefit the people first. With the right implementation, this plan can become a reality.

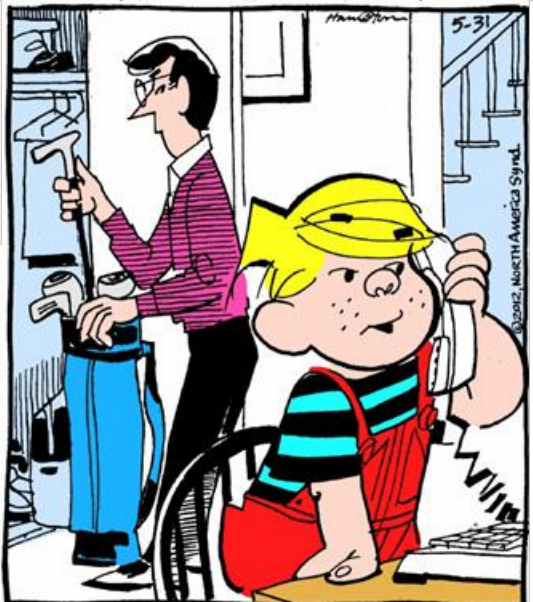
Let's take ownership of our future. Together, we can build a Turks and Caicos where every Turks and Caicos Islander prospers—not just today, but for generations to come, and where independence becomes not just a dream, but a promise fulfilled.



NEWSLINE COMICS



Cyanide and Happiness © Explosm.net



©2002, NORTH AMERICA SYND.

TURKS head cactus

NEWSLINE
Journal of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

TURKS
HEAD
CACTUS

The Turks head cacti (*Melocactus intortus*) is a variety of small barrel cactus. A reddish cap tops the cacti, and it's easy to see where the cacti got its name as this cap resembles a Turkish fez hat. The Turks head cacti appears on both the Turks and Caicos flag and coat of arms. Due to the lack of competition, the Turks head cacti is typically found in exposed and dry regions. In the Turks and Caicos, these areas are usually natural eroded limestone bedding landscapes, or in some cases, hard sandy dunes. Unfortunately, the cacti has largely disappeared from the main populated islands. The majority of existing plants are located on East Caicos and Big Ambergris Cay, with small clusters on Middle Caicos and a select few other cays.

Redefining the Future of the RTCIPF



The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) concluded its two-day transformative Senior Leadership Retreat yesterday (November 28th). This pivotal event brought together the senior management team to redefine the force's future, exploit technology through policing, and strengthen the RTCIPF's commitment to public safety and community trust. Acting Commissioner Fitz Bailey envisioned the retreat, which focused on evaluating the force's current state and developing strategies to address the evolving challenges of modern policing and serious and violent crimes with an

emphasis on irregular migration. The retreat also emphasized the importance of accountability, continuous professional development and succession planning within the Force. Through in-depth discussions and assessments, the team identified critical priorities for improving operational effectiveness and enhancing service delivery. One of the retreat's significant outcomes was the establishment of a comprehensive mandate that will underpin the RTCIPF's Strategic Plan for 2024–2027. "As we move forward, we are commit-

ted to ensuring our service is responsive, skilled, and equipped to meet the demands of policing. We have persons within the Force who have an abundance of skills and the requisite qualifications, and we must develop these skills and use them to serve better", acting Commissioner Bailey said. "The RTCIPF reaffirms its dedication to excellence, adaptability, and community collaboration as it embarks on implementing this ambitious and forward-looking plan. At this level, we know what is required and will work on getting it right", Commissioner Bailey added.

Life Line FEATURED CHURCH

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we shine the spotlight on the Church of God of Prophecy, located in Blue Hills, Providenciales. The church is led by pastor Andrew Stone. There are at least six opportunities for worship during the week. On Sunday at 9:30a.m. is Sunday School. On Sunday 11a.m. is Divine Sunday Morning Service. On Sunday at 7:30p.m. is Evening Service. On Tuesday at 7:30p.m. is Prayer Meeting. On Wednesday at 7:30pm is Bible Study, and on Friday at 7:30pm is Youth Ministry. For further about any of the worship opportunities, contact 1 649-941-3438.



CHURCH OF GOD OF PROPHECY, BLUE HILLS

LIFE LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International
Lee Street, South Caicos.
Telephone: 649-348-3581

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International
19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket ,
Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International
Waterloo Road, Grand Turk.
Telephone: 649-332-624

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Grace Bay Resorts' Staff Party

On Wednesday, December 4, all the properties under the Grace Bay Resorts Brand staged a join staff party at the Grace Bay Market. The theme of this year's event was Country and Western. The Grace Bay Resorts chain are flagship property Grace Bay Club, West Bay Club, Rock House, Point Grace, Private Villa Collection and new kid on the block South Bank. The staff members engaged in a number of exciting activities, including dance contest, best dressed male, best dressed female and best dressed couple.



These ladies are dapper in their cowgirl outfits



Point Grace Resort's performers going through their choreography



David Been, TCI's original cowboy



South Bank emerged the winners of the dance contest



South Bank Dancers in their element



Good friends hanging out at the event



The dance contest between among the resorts under the Grace Bay Resorts chain



Mark Durliat (left) CEO of Grace Bay Resorts enjoying the occasion



Grace Bay Club going through their routine in the dance contest



John Hazard, Managing Director of Grace Bay Club topped his team's performance, parading on a steed



The Rock House Resort dancer going through their paces



The big finish for Rock House



The Point Grace Resort's Dancer was graceful in their presentation



Marilyn's 'silly little dress'

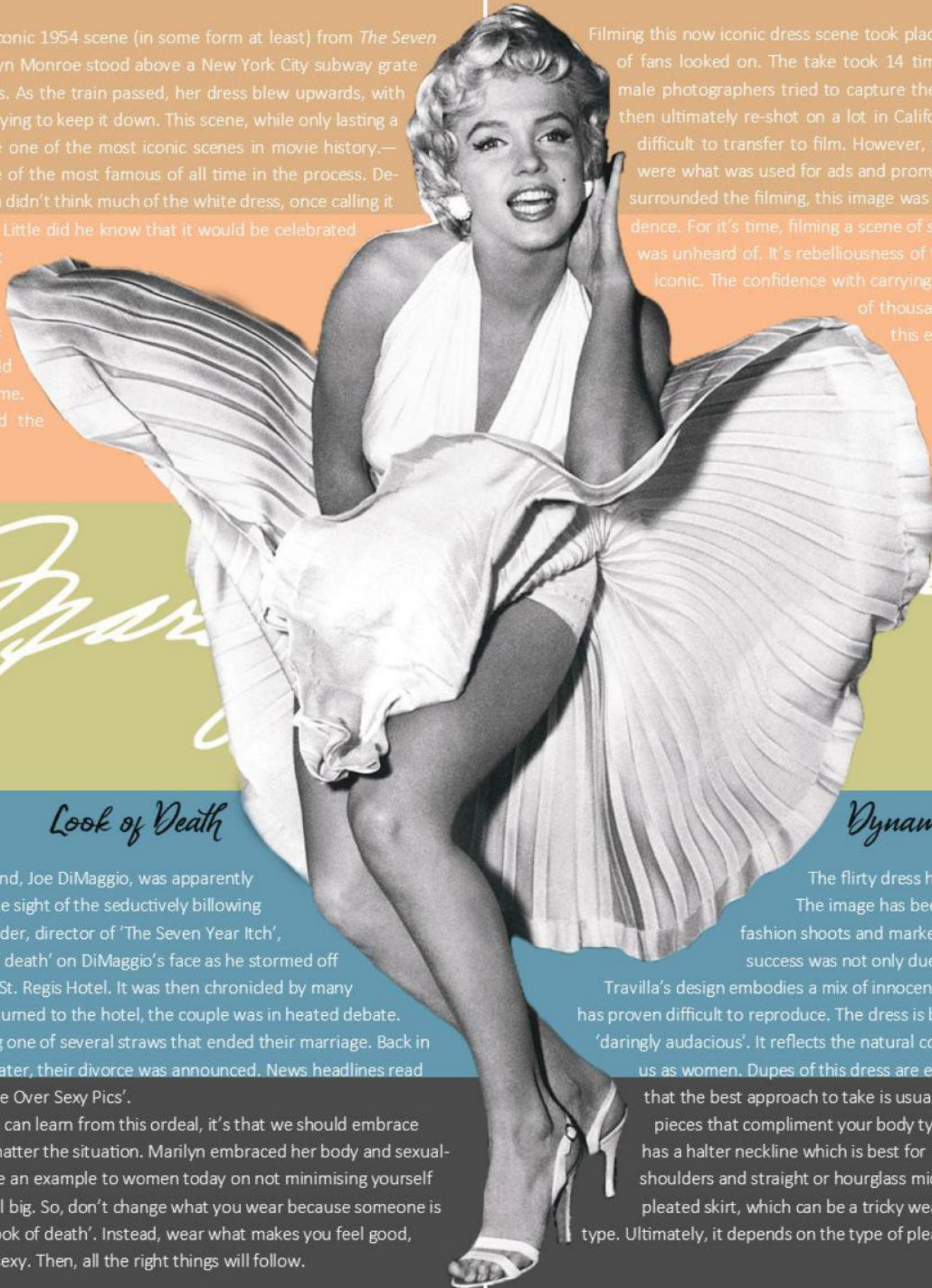
What we can learn?

Film Fashion

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

Thousands of Spectators

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



Marilyn Monroe

Look of Death

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

Dynamic Dress

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

Kempinski Grace Bay Set to Bring Timeless European Elegance, Unmatched Luxury to TCI



As high season begins, all eyes are on Grace Bay Beach, where Kempinski Grace Bay, a highly anticipated new development set to open in 2027, is quietly making waves with its promise to bring world-class luxury and unmatched service to the shores of Turks and Caicos.

Announced earlier this year, Kempinski Grace Bay will be managed by Kempinski Hotels, Europe's oldest luxury hotel brand, renowned for its personalized service and cultural authenticity. With a portfolio of 80 five-star resorts and residences in 34 countries and 41 new projects in the pipeline, Kempinski embodies timeless elegance, exceptional guest experiences and sustainable luxury.

Recent accolades underscore this commitment, including the Global Hotel Alliance's Green Collection Hotel of the Year Award for Kempinski Hotel Corvinus Budapest and 'Best Sustainable Hotel'; at the 2024 ULTRAS for The Apurva Kempinski Bali. Similarly, the Kempinski Seychelles Resort Baie Lazare was named "Seychelles' Leading Green Resort 2024"; for blend-

ing tropical charm with cutting-edge sustainability. Iconic properties like Çırağan Palace Kempinski Istanbul further highlight the brand's dedication to blending heritage with modern opulence, offering guests an unmatched experience that reflects the finest in global luxury.

While Kempinski Hotels enjoys significant recognition in Europe, the Middle East, and Asia, its presence in North America is just starting. In 2022, the brand took over a luxury beach resort in Cancun, Mexico, Kempinski Hotel Cancun, marking a strategic move to increase its footprint in the region.

"We clearly see the strategic importance of expanding our presence in this part of the world and we are fully committed to bringing Kempinski's celebrated European luxury and gastronomic excellence to this vital market," says Xavier Destribats, Chief Operating Officer Europe, Middle East & Africa and The Americas.

"The Kempinski brand and all that it represents is a perfect addition to enhance the reputation for exclu-

sive luxury and quality that Turks and Caicos has established as a destination."

The brand's significance to the North American market lies in its dedication to creating unique, culturally authentic experiences that reflect the local traditions and character of each destination.

Kempinski's "Lady in Red" program exemplifies this commitment, providing guests with a personal ambassador to enhance their stay. In addition, as part of the Global Hotel Alliance (GHA), Kempinski owners and guests can take advantage of the KEMPINSKI DISCOVERY loyalty program, which provides perks and benefit in more than 800 hotels in 100 countries and now serves 27 million members worldwide. (See NR) Kempinski Grace Bay joins a long and distinguished list of private ownership opportunities and award-winning luxury resorts in some of the world's most iconic and prestigious destinations.

As Europe's oldest hotelier, Kempinski has earned a well-deserved reputation for luxury properties and service, making it an ideal fit for a destination like Turks and Caicos. In fact, this will be one of the few Kempinski properties in this region, and its presence is expected to elevate the global profile of Turks and Caicos Islands.

The brand has a loyal international following, which will undoubtedly make Turks and Caicos, in general, even more desirable and known.

For prospective buyers, Kempinski Grace Bay represents a unique chance to own a piece of a globally recognized brand while enjoying the exclusivity of this remarkable location. The residences, from sprawling penthouses and six-bedroom oceanfront villas to one-bedroom studios, are designed to the highest standards, with sustainability and eco-conscious practices woven into every aspect of the development.

As high season kicks off, Kempinski Grace Bay is creating a buzz among locals and visitors alike. With groundbreaking anticipated for early 2025, the project is poised to become a legacy of excellence that redefines luxury in the Caribbean.

6000-Plus TCI Smiles By the Sandals Foundation and Great Shapes! Inc



Dr Janice A.M. Baron, (left) Chief Dental Officer within the Ministry of Health and Human Services examines the Beaches Turks and Caicos dental clinic space at the Key West conference room along with Dental Hygienist Sophia Harris.



One of the dental hygienist with the Great Shape Inc! 1000 Smiles programme takes her time to provide the best service to one of the clients at the Church of God of Prophecy in Five Cays at the community clinic

Over 6000 residents are smiling a little brighter for the holidays following the recently concluded 1000 Smiles free dental clinics, and oral health education workshops implemented by the Sandals Foundation and its partners, United States based non-profit Great Shape! Inc.

As part of its continued commitment to community health and development, the Sandals Foundation coordinated logistics for a series of public dental clinics at the Church of God of Prophecy in Five Cays and at the clinic at the Public Hospital in Providenciales. Beaches Resorts team members also benefited from the services which included cleaning, filling, extractions, root canals, x-rays, dentures, dental sealants and fluoride treatment, through a staff clinic held at the Key West Conference Room on resort. Shantelle Senior-Clarke, Project Manager of Great Shapes! Inc. in highlighting the continued success of this year's initiative, noted, "For the three weeks of



The Beaches Turks and Caicos resort team members had a full team of dental professionals in the comfort of the Key West Village conference which was converted into a dental clinic for two weeks, here a dental hygienist provides services to one of the team members



The Church of God of Prophecy hall for the second consecutive year was converted into a state-of-the-art dental clinic where clients were able to receive various services from the Great Shape Inc! 1000 Smiles dental team for two weeks

dental clinics which included the post operational phase, there were a total of 1157 cleanings, 968 fillings, 724 extractions, 75 X-rays, 260 dental sealants, 725 fluoride treatments, 30 root canals, and 82 follow – ups.” She further added, “It was a lot of hard work but well worth it.”

This year’s success was made possible through the collaboration of key stakeholders such as the Ministry of Health and Human Services, Turks and Caicos

Islands Government Dental Clinic. Together, they successfully managed the logistics of one hundred and forty two (142) volunteer dental care practitioners and non-dental professionals from the United States, Canada and the Caribbean over a one month period.

Dr. Maria Tuason, a volunteer with the programme for over five years who also took her 12-year-old grand-daughter shared, “one of the most rewarding part of my visits has always been the inter-

action with children. Both adults and children are afraid at times of the procedures but whenever I talk with them and explain what I will be doing, they usually feel more comfortable in allowing me to provide them with the service. This year was no different as I got the chance to provide quality care for the people of Turks and Caicos Islands and gave them back their confidence with their smiles.” In addition to the dental services, residents also had their capacity built in preventative oral health care education. The oral health education team visited twelve schools throughout Providenciales sharing in a fun and engaging activities with students and distributing oral healthcare packages for continued use. By targeting children, it is hoped that healthy dental hygiene habits will be developed at an early age. Early Childhood teacher at BEST Institute Dawn Brivett-Ford shared, “Early education helps to prevent common dental problems like gum disease and cavities. Learning about oral health with a fun team like our volunteers, also helps children develop a positive attitude towards dental care. A positive impression in childhood will last for a lifetime.”

Orville Morgan, Public Relations Manager said while the scheduled visits coincided with schools’ mid – term breaks, “We were willing to visit two schools in one day when necessary because this is valuable information being shared.”

“Maintaining good oral health is important at every age but is particularly important during childhood, Morgan noted, “Poor oral health has been linked to health problems, including heart disease, diabetes, and respiratory infections. With that being said, dental health education can help children take control of their oral health. It is likely to boost their self-confidence, academic performance may improve and also their quality of life.”

Managing Director of Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Sandals Foundation Ambassador, James McAnally affirmed the resort’s promise to delivering quality service to the community in support of the wellbeing of families.

“We are as committed to the residents of the Turks and Caicos, a large percentage of whom make up our workforce. Knowing that there are families in need of dental care who cannot afford to visit the dentist, motivates us to continue our partnership with Great Shapes! Inc. Each year the volunteers provide quality dental care and they work tirelessly to serve as many patients as possible.”

The natural approach to treating diabetes



DIABETES IS a chronic condition that affects millions worldwide, where the body's inability to regulate blood glucose levels leads to various health complications.

In naturopathic medicine, a holistic approach to diabetes management emphasises the significance of nutrition and regular exercise as key elements in a comprehensive treatment plan.

For someone with diabetes, managing nutrition is a vital part of caring for your overall health. Healthy eating for diabetes management should be in your daily routine.

According to Dr Orlando Thomas, medical doctor and functional medicine practitioner at Thomas Medical and Shockwave Centre in Old Harbour, St Catherine, finding the right balance between eating well and managing your blood sugar levels can be difficult, and this challenge can overwhelm anyone.

"Eating the correct type of food in the right quantities helps keep your blood glucose levels within an acceptable range. A balanced diet can also help avoid weight gain, which can be a significant risk factor for developing complications from diabetes," Dr Thomas said.

"Daily meals provide steady energy that helps manage the disease and offers maximum nutrition. Additionally, eating foods high in vitamins and minerals can help to prevent or delay the onset of complications from diabetes," he added.

A diet rich in vegetables, fruits, and lean proteins can benefit a person with diabetes. At the same time, a person with diabetes may need to limit their intake of white bread, sweets, and other highly refined foods.

Both sugary and starchy carbohydrates can raise blood

sugar. But these foods, in the right amounts, can play a role in a balanced meal plan. The right amount and type of carbohydrates can depend on many factors, including a person's activity level and medications, such as insulin. For people who have diabetes or almost any other disease for that matter, the benefits of exercise cannot be overstated. Exercise helps control weight, lower blood pressure, lower harmful LDL cholesterol and triglycerides, raise healthy HDL cholesterol, strengthen muscles and bones, reduce anxiety, and improve your general well-being.

"There are added benefits for people with diabetes: exercise lowers blood glucose levels and boosts your body's sensitivity to insulin, countering insulin resistance. Exercise is a natural treatment that does work for diabetes. It can control your weight and lower blood sugar, and it is free. Just about any exercise is helpful, but particularly aerobic exercises. These include walking, bicycling, and dancing," Dr Thomas said.

A healthy gut can help manage diabetes by regulating blood sugar levels and insulin sensitivity. According to Dr Thomas a diet high in fibre, low in sugar, and rich in fermented foods can help promote a healthy gut microbiome. You can try eating a variety of vegetables, fruits, whole grains, and fermented foods like yogurt.

Probiotics, he said, are live bacteria that can help restore the balance of bacteria in your gut. Prebiotics provide food for beneficial bacteria to grow.

Stress, he said, can impact the gut microbiome, so try to find ways to manage stress, such as relaxation techniques, social support, self-care and professional support.

Natural remedies for urinary tract infection



Drinking water increases urine output and flushes the bacteria from your bladder and urethra. Sometimes that is enough.

A URINARY tract infection (UTI) occurs when bacteria get into your urinary tract – kidneys, bladder, or urethra. The role of the urinary tract is to make and store urine. The bladder stores urine until it is emptied by urinating through the urethra, which is at the end of the penis in a male and above the vaginal opening in a female.

When you have a UTI, the lining of the bladder and the urethra become irritated and can cause pain in the pelvic area, lower abdomen, and even lower back. This will usually make you feel like urinating more often.

Overall, females are more likely to develop a UTI than males, with 40 to 60 per cent of females developing an infection at least once in their life and 10 per cent of females developing a UTI once a year. Females are at a higher risk than males because their urethra is shorter, which

makes it easier for bacteria to enter the bladder.

According to Dr Orlando Thomas, medical doctor and functional medicine practitioner at Thomas Medical Centre in Old Harbour, St Catherine, a UTI is a common problem that occurs mostly in women.

"UTI is a common problem that plagues many women and men to a lesser extent, but more so women. It tends to be named the 'honeymoon cystitis' because it tends to occur right after sex within a few hours or a few days," Dr Thomas said.

According to Dr Thomas, the symptoms of a UTI are very common, and a regular general practitioner or family doctor can diagnose it easily. Some of these symptoms, he said, include burning on urination, frequent urination, small amounts of urine that cause intense lower abdom-

inal pain.

"You may even pass blood in the urine, and occasionally, the UTI may become complicated where the infection spreads to your kidneys. That can cause back pain and fever," he said.

A UTI infection, he said, must not be taken lightly and must be treated with the seriousness it deserves. "So if you are pregnant, diabetic, or if a child has the infection, these can warrant significant medical intervention. Younger children may not be able to tell you about UTI symptoms they are having. While fever is the most common sign of a UTI in infants and toddlers, most children with fever do not have a UTI," he added.

UTIs are normally treated with a short-term course of antibiotics. Most women are given a three-day course of antibiotic capsules or tablets. Men, pregnant women, and people with more serious symptoms may need a slightly longer course.

Your symptoms will normally pass within three to five days of starting treatment. Make sure you complete the whole course of antibiotics that you have been prescribed even if you are feeling better.

Dr Thomas also indicated that for less chronic cases of a UTI, there are a number of natural remedies that can be utilised, including drinking plenty of fluids, drinking cranberry juice, use of garlic, cloves, and oregano oil.

"Drinking water increases urine output and flushes the bacteria from your bladder and urethra. Sometimes that is enough. However, you can add cranberry juice as it acidifies the urine and kills the germs that cause a UTI. The concentrated form is the best. There are also cranberry tablets now available especially for recurring UTIs," he said.

Women, he said, should also desist from holding their urine when they need to urinate. Also, after sex, he recommends that women use the bathroom right away to prevent UTIs.

Bob Marley, Toots make Rolling Stone mag's 74 Best Albums of 1974 list

Toots Hibbert



Bob Marley



Natty Dread by Bob Marley and the Wailers (#4) and In the Dark by Toots and the Maytals (#52) are the only albums by Jamaicans which made Rolling Stone magazine's 74 Best Albums of 1974 list. The respected American trade publication revealed the list on November 20. Other albums that made the list include Truck Turner by Isaac Hayes (#68), Sheer Heart Attack by Queen (#67), Waterloo by ABBA (#65), Can't Get Enough by Barry White (#62), Perfect Angel by Minnie Ripperton (#43), Walls and Bridges by John Lennon (#38), Al Green Explores Your Mind

by Al Green (#27), Jolene by Dolly Parton (#19), and Mighty Love by The Spinners (#7). Education Ministry saddened by death of Lennon High students in crash, monitoring other injured students In the Dark, which was executive produced by Byron Lee, was recorded at Dynamic Sounds on Bell Road in St Andrew. Producers featured on the project include Warwick Lyn, Neville Hinds, and Carlton Lee. The 12-track set was released via Dragon Records, a subsidiary label owned by Island Records mogul

Chris Blackwell. It was distributed in the United Kingdom by Trojan Records.

Hux Brown (guitar), Jackie Jackson (bass), and Winston Grennan (drums) were some of the musicians who worked on In the Dark.

Songs featured include Time Tough, Got to Be there, Sailing On, Take a Look in the Mirror, and a faithful interpretation of John Denver's Take Me Home (Country Roads).

Natty Dread, released by Island Records in October 1974, peaked at #43 in the United Kingdom. It sold more than 100,000 copies and was certified gold. The album also charted at #92 on the Billboard 200 albums chart and at #44 on Billboard's Black Albums chart (now known as the Top R&B/Hip Hop Albums chart).

Kingston-born Bernard "Touter" Harvey, who now resides in the United States, played organ and piano on Natty Dread.

In an interview with the Jamaica Observer on Friday, he recalled working on Natty Dread.

"Unlike most records in Jamaica at the time, a man come to do a session and you run over the songs there at the studio. In Bob's situation, on that particular album, all those songs were rehearsed before we got into the studio. So by the time we got into the studio everyone knew their part," Harvey shared.

He continued: "At the time, nobody knew the songs on the album would have turned out the way they did. We got some input from Blackwell [Chris] about certain songs; for example, we sang in English, so that people could understand what we were saying. We all learnt a lot from Blackwell in terms of production."

Locally, according to Harvey, Natty Dread was well-received.

"I thought at the time that it was the biggest reggae album out there. I remember seeing some of the sales receipts from Tuff Gong, and I was a little bit shocked at the time. Back then, Jamaica had an industry. A single could sell over 100,000 copies in Jamaica," Harvey disclosed.

He remains proud of his association with Natty Dread and its success through the years.

"Looking back, I am very proud. I have done work with other artistes like Ken Booth, John Holt, and Dennis Brown, and this was definitely my biggest achievement at the time," said Harvey.

Harvey, who attended the Excelsior High school, started out as a member of Youths Professionals, a group that played at nightclubs on the weekend. His association with the band would later morph into him doing sessions with other musical aggregations.

Natty Dread has received a few other accolades, among them a placement at #181 on Rolling Stone magazine's 500 Greatest Albums of All Time in 2003. A remastered edition released by Universal Record in 2001, featured a bonus track.

Tracks on the original Natty Dread album include the title track, Bend Down Low, Talkin' Blues, Live-ly Up Yourself, No Woman Nuh Cry, Them Belly Full (But We Hungry), and Revolution.

Aston "Family Man" Barrett, Carlton Barrett, Al Anderson, and Jean Roussel were among the musicians who played on Natty Dread.

Chris Blackwell and The Wailers are credited as producers.

TikTok powers 'demure' to Word of the Year for 2024

For the year 2024, social media platform, TikTok, was certainly one of the most entertaining places to be. It could make, break, or cancel you altogether – total obliteration for those who were deemed to “offend”. In fact, TikTok became so all-pervasive, for lack of a better word, that US lawmakers even considered a TikTok ban.

Anyway, towards the second half of 2024 persons who reside on TikTok popularised the term “very demure, very mindful,” and voilà! Dictionary.com announced on Tuesday that the word of the Year is (drum roll) ‘demure’.

To give this some context, in August, a TikToker by the name of Jools Lebron posted a series of videos on how to be “very demure, very mindful” in various situations from work behaviour to applying make-up, and the TikTok nation ran with it. Just like they did with Macka Diamond and TikToker Derrick Morgan’s viral hit, What Can Go So.

From the middle of August, news outlets such

as the BBC, The Guardian, Rolling Stone magazine, and Glamour all had headlines about the “very demure, very mindful” trend.

In explaining the trend, Glamour stated, “Yes, demure means “reserved, modest, and shy,” but, no, this isn’t a Bridgerton-inspired or trad wife-coded trend promoting ladylike behaviour. It’s ... well ... just a silly joke.”

RollingStone’s headline read, ‘Demure: TikTok’s Phrase Of The Month, Explained’ and the article stated that, “while demure’s definition often involves modesty, piety, or being reserved, Lebron’s version of demure is about being cutesy, respectable, and chill”.

Noteworthy is that not all TikTokers embraced it. One Reddit user stated, “ ‘Very demure, very mindful’. I am going to scream and throw things if I see this mindless phrase one more time. It has filtered so far down so quickly.”

Dictionary.com, which provided a shortlist of possible winning words, explained that the

Word of the Year reflects more than mere popularity. “It reveals the stories we tell about ourselves and how we’ve changed over the year. And for these reasons, Dictionary.com’s 2024 Word of the Year is demure.”

Sharing how the word was chosen, the platform noted that their lexicographers used an analysis process that involved of huge chunks of data “including newsworthy headlines, trends on social media, search engine results, and more to identify words that made an impact on our conversations, online and in the real world”.

This method, they said, showed “a meteoric rise” in the use of “demure” in 2024 – almost 1200 per cent increase in digital web media alone between January and the end of August.” Other shortlisted words were brainrot, brat, extreme weather, weird, and midwest nice. The 2023 Word of the Year was hallucinate and in 2022, the word woman was crowned the winner.

‘Moana 2’ sails to a record \$221 million opening



Christmas came early at the box office this year. Moana 2 brought in a tidal wave of moviegoers over the Thanksgiving Day weekend, setting records with \$221 million in ticket sales, according to studio estimates Sunday. That, combined with Wicked and Gladiator II, made for an unprecedented weekend in cinemas and a confluence of blockbusters more like what’s often found in late December.

Expectations were high for Walt Disney Co.’s Moana 2 but the film blew predictions out of the water. Its five-day opening set a new record for Thanksgiving moviegoing. The previous best was \$125 million for Frozen 2 in its second week of release in 2019. Moana 2 added \$165.3 million internationally.

At the same time, Wicked showed no signs of slowing down. The Universal Pictures musical brought in \$117.5 million over the five-

day weekend, pushing its two-week global total to \$359.2 million. Not accounting for inflation, Wicked is now the highest grossing Broadway adaptation over Grease. (That 1978 film grossed \$190 million, but factoring in inflation would put it past \$900 million.)

Gladiator II, meanwhile, also held well, dipping 44 per cent from its opening weekend. Ridley Scott’s sequel to his Oscar-winning best picture original collected \$44 million in its second weekend. While its steep price tag of \$250 million will make profitability challenging, the film has swiftly gathered \$320 million worldwide.

Those three films drove the overall box office to more than \$400 million in Thanksgiving weekend ticket sales, a record. For an industry that has been battered in recent years by the pandemic, work stoppages and the upheaval caused by streaming, it was a triumphant weekend that showed the still-potent power of Hollywood’s blockbuster machine. Before these three films arrived in theatres, ticket sales were running about 25 per cent behind pre-pandemic levels.

Michael O’Leary, president and chief executive of the National Association of Theatre Owners, said the weekend showed what’s possible when “all the pieces of the puzzle come together” in compelling big-budget movies with marketing muscle.

“We’re very optimistic that this weekend is the start of what we believe is a full-on charge into the future,” he said. “The remaining quarter of this year looks very promising and then on into 2025 and 2026. We’re hoping next year is the first kind of normal year this industry has had in a long time.”

DECR Officer Participates Darwin Plus Drone Workshop



The Department of Environmental and Coastal Resources (DECR) in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) had its environmental officer, Rebecca Hamel Pepin, attend a workshop on Drone Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) held in Providenciales last month.

The event, which was organized as part of a

UK Government-funded Darwin Plus project running since May 2021, also featured participants from the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund, the National Trust, the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), and the School for Field Studies.

The workshop focused on developing popula-

tion monitoring programs for seabirds in TCI, aiming to provide up-to-date species and site assessments, along with recommendations for future conservation management. Dr. Rhianon Austin from the University of Liverpool, who leads the Darwin Plus project and seabird work in TCI, and Professor Serge Wich from Liverpool John Moores University, an expert in drone technology for ecology and conservation, led the workshop.

The week-long session provided participants with a comprehensive understanding of drone applications for wildlife management, land change detection, and conservation. Attendees learned skills to plan and execute ecological surveys using drones, covering topics such as airspace regulation and safety, mitigation of impacts on wildlife, drone mission planning, and data processing and analysis.

The participants also gained hands-on experience piloting drones with support from the Royal TCI Police Force's drone unit and participated in a bird survey on a remote island, as well as a field mapping exercise at Katherine Lake.

The DECR currently utilizes drones for various tasks such as beach profiling, site visits, and habitat mapping. This training will enable the department to expand its drone usage, enhancing its ability to gather accurate and efficient data for environmental management. The expertise gained from the workshop is expected to open up new opportunities for drone-based monitoring and conservation efforts in the TCI.

Woman driving drunk who killed bride still in her wedding dress sentenced to 25 years in prison



Tears fall down the cheeks of Jamie Lee Komoroski as family members of Samantha Miller speak about Miller during the plea hearing for Komoroski at Charleston County Court, Monday, December 2, 2024, in Charleston, S.C.

A woman who admitted to drinking and who was driving well over twice the speed limit when she smashed into a golf cart, killing a bride who had just got married at a South Carolina beach, was sentenced Monday to 25 years in prison.

Jamie Lee Komoroski pleaded guilty at the Charleston County courthouse to reckless homicide, felony DUI causing death and two counts of felony DUI causing great bodily injury before her sentencing.

Also hurt in the 2023 crash was the groom, Aric Hutchinson, who cried in court as he recalled the last moments he spent with Samantha Miller — some of their only moments as husband and wife.

“On the golf cart, she told me she didn’t want the night to end and I kissed her on the forehead and then the next thing I remember is waking up in the hospital,” Hutchinson said.

Komoroski, 27, was sentenced to the maximum of 25 years in prison for felony DUI causing death by

Judge Deadra Jefferson. She also was sentenced to 15 years in prison for each count of felony DUI causing great bodily injury and 10 years for reckless homicide. The sentences will all run at the same time.

Police said Komoroski drank at several bars on April 28, 2023, and was driving 65 mph (105 kph) on a narrow Folly Beach road with a speed limit of 25 mph (40 kph) when she slammed into the golf cart leaving a wedding. Her blood-alcohol level was 0.26 per cent, which is more than three times the legal limit to drive.

The 34-year-old bride died still wearing her wedding dress. The groom suffered a brain injury and numerous broken bones. The cart was thrown 100 yards (91 meters) by the crash.

After pleading guilty, Komoroski said she realised now she was addicted to alcohol and selfishly didn’t care how her actions affected others. She promised to spend the rest of her life helping addicts and

warning of the dangers of drinking and driving. She said she was “devastated, deeply ashamed and sorry” for what she did.

“I wish I could go back and undo this terrible tragedy. But I cannot. I will live the rest of my life with intense regret for what happened that night,” she said.

She said all her work will be dedicated to Miller’s memory.

“I pray God stands by the side of my victims and their families and loved ones for the rest of their lives,” Komoroski said.

A number of friends and family of both Miller and Komoroski spoke at the hearing, which lasted nearly three hours. Komoroski’s supporters asked the judge to be lenient because she is young, remorseful and can still do good.

Many of Miller’s family asked for a harsh sentence, saying they can never get her back and that the decisions Komoroski made that night were selfish and permanently scarred many lives. Komoroski looked at most of Miller’s family, including Hutchinson, as they spoke, occasionally wiping away tears.

Hutchinson said he sees more doctors and therapists than he can count because of his physical injuries and the mental anguish of the crash, and that he thinks about it every single day.

“I wish I had died that night. I wish I had seen it coming. I’d have jumped off the golf cart so you would only have run me over,” Hutchinson said.

Hutchinson won \$863,000 in legal settlements from three bars that served Komoroski as well as her insurance firm and the company she rented her car from.

Before the sentencing, Miller’s father told Komoroski he was disgusted that she appeared to never take responsibility. He told her she could apologise, but he wouldn’t listen to a word.

“The rest of my life I’m going to hate you and when I arrive in hell and you come there, I will open the door for you,” Brad Warner said. “You have ruined so many people’s lives.”

UN chief ‘alarmed’ by Syria violence, calls for end to fighting



People mourn relatives killed in a reported Syrian regime airstrike on the Wadi Khaled camp, also known as Telhadia camp, at the SAMS hospital in Maarat Misrin town Syria’s northern Idlib governorate on December 2, 2024.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said on Monday he was “alarmed” by the escalation of violence in Syria and called for an immediate end to fighting that his organization says has displaced nearly 50,000 people.

“All parties must do their utmost to protect civilians and civilian objects, including by allowing safe passage to civilians who are fleeing hostilities,” Guterres’s spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement.

“Syrians have endured the conflict for nearly 14 years. They deserve a political horizon that will deliver a peaceful future, not more bloodshed,” he added.

Syria has been at war since President Bashar al-Assad cracked down on pro-democracy protests in 2011, with subsequent fighting that has involved foreign powers and jihadists leaving an estimated half a million people dead.

The conflict had been mostly dormant, with Assad back in control of much of the country until last week, when a rebel alliance led by Islamist armed groups began its offensive.

Syria’s military and its ally Russia have responded with deadly air raids on areas under rebel control.

The fighting has killed more than 457 people, including at least 72 civilians, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

As of November 30, more than 48,500 people had been displaced in Idlib and northern Aleppo, more than half of them children, the UN’s humanitarian agency OCHA said on Monday, adding that the situation was highly fluid.

“Tens of thousands of people on the move; critical services interrupted; women, men and children fearing for safety,” OCHA chief Tom Fletcher said on X, describing the situation as “worrying.”

“Syrians have already endured over 13 years of suffering. All sides must do more to protect civilians.”

The number of displaced was a steep increase from the 14,000 people reported on 28 November.

And according to Dujarric, UN peacekeeping operations in the country have been “largely suspended” across Aleppo, Idlib and Hama due to security concerns.

“This has led to severe disruption in people’s ability to access life-saving assistance,” he said, adding that the United Nations remained committed to delivering humanitarian aid. Dujarric warned that “the presence of unburied bodies and lack of drinking water” in Syria threatens public health and said that damage to Aleppo’s university hospital had left hundreds of patients without care.

“Syria is also already one of the world’s largest humanitarian crises, with 16.7 million human beings in need of assistance and over seven million people internally displaced,” he said. Israel’s stepped-up offensive against Hezbollah in neighboring Lebanon since September had also had an effect on the situation, he said.

“More than half a million people have also fled from Lebanon to Syria in recent weeks, and winter conditions will only make the needs in the coming weeks even more acute.”

Cops probe massive cocaine find at Kingston airport



The cocaine seized by Jamaican Authorities

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Police have launched an investigation following a major cocaine find at the Norman Manley International Airport in

Kingston, Jamaica, on Wednesday, November 27. The drugs were seized following a collaboration

between the Firearms and Narcotics Investigation Division (FNID) and the Jamaica Customs Agency.

No arrests were made in connection with the seizure.

It was reported that around 10:00 am, the agencies intercepted a shipment of cocaine at the Amerijet warehouse at the airport.

Investigators determined that the seizure consisted of 78 parcels weighing approximately 84.2 kilograms (185.24 pounds) of a white powdery substance resembling cocaine.

The cocaine was concealed in 13 boxes of 2kg Maggie seasoning, which were part of a larger shipment that included wines and beers.

The shipment, which was intended for an address in Miami, Florida, was transported from the warehouse to FNID headquarters for further investigation.

Head of FNID, Acting Senior Superintendent Samuel Blake, is reassuring the public that his division will continue to collaborate with key partners as they continue to focus on individuals and groups that pose the greatest threat to violence reduction in Jamaica by their involvement in the illicit firearms and narcotics trade.

Antigua to issue bond to pay severance to former LIAT workers



Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne says the government will be issuing a bond to cover the estimated EC\$16.7 million (One EC dollar=US\$0.37 cents) in severance payments to former employees of the bankrupt LIAT 1974 limited.

“Our government is determined to address the concerns of former LIAT 1974 Ltd. workers, especially the more than 400 employees stationed in Antigua,” Browne said as he delivered the EC\$1.43 billion national budget to Parliament on Thursday.

He said as a demonstration of this commitment, the government will make good on its promise to cover its share of the severance owed to these workers, based on Antigua and Barbuda’s 32 per cent shareholding, in LIAT 1974 Ltd.

“We will issue a bond for the EC\$16.7 million which represents 32 per cent of the severance liability to the 400 hundred employees,” Prime Minister Browne said, adding this will be a 10-year instrument on which payments will begin this month and continue annually, until the EC\$16.7 million principal plus interest is fully

extinguished.

“Our intervention will provide much-needed relief and demonstrates our dedication to fairness and justice, representing meaningful action on behalf of the affected workers,” Browne told legislators.

The Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union (ABWU) has been calling on the government, which had been a major shareholder in the airline, to negotiate an amicable settlement, but the government has accused the union of not wanting to negotiate in good faith.

The government had originally offered a 50 per cent compassion payment in cash and bonds to the former employees that Browne said amounts to EC\$110 million. The ABWU had said in the past that it would continue to seek the 100 per cent severance payment to the former airline employees. The union has not yet responded to Browne’s parliamentary statement on Thursday.

Apart from Antigua and Barbuda, the other shareholders of the airline that went into bankruptcy in January this year were Barbados,

Dominica and St Vincent and the Grenadines. Most of these islands have reached agreement with their former LIAT workers on severance payments.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Browne told Parliament that the government has invested over EC\$33 million in acquiring three aircraft following its decision to enter into a joint venture partnership with the Air Peace Caribbean Limited to form LIAT 2020 Limited.

Browne said that the government entered into a 30-70 joint venture partnership with Air Peace Caribbean Limited.

“Demonstrating our commitment to regional air connectivity and creating an enabling environment for economic growth and development; we invested over EC\$33 million to acquire three aircraft, which were part of the LIAT 1974 Limited fleet, from the Caribbean Development Bank,” Browne told legislators.

He said the airline, which replaced the bankrupt LIAT 1974 Limited, currently serves eight Caribbean territories, namely St Lucia, Barbados; Dominica, St Kitts-Nevis, St Vincent and the Grenadines, Guyana, Grenada, and Antigua and Barbuda.

He told legislators that new routes will be added in the short term, including flights to the northern Caribbean starting with Tortola.

Earlier this year, Prime Minister Browne said LIAT 2020 airline was being formed in partnership with Air Peace, a private Nigerian airline founded in 2013 that would be putting in close to US\$65 million, while the government is investing US\$20 million.

SHARKS ON FIRE



Olympic champions Hassan and Tebogo named 'Athletes of the Year'



Dutch middle and long-distance runner Sifan Hassan poses with the Women's Out of Stadium Athlete of the Year and World Athlete of the Year Awards after the World Athletics Awards 2024 in Monaco on December 1, 2024.

Dutch marathon runner Sifan Hassan and Botswanan sprinter Letsile Tebogo, both of whom took gold at the Paris Olympics, were named 'Athletes of the Year' by World Athletics in Monaco on Sunday.

Hassan, who also won the out-of-stadium award, was rewarded for her incredible performance in the French capital, which stretched beyond the marathon and on to the track.



Botswanan sprinter Letsile Tebogo receives the Men's Track Athlete of the Year Award during the World Athletics Awards 2024 in Monaco on December 1, 2024.

In the space of seven days, she won two bronze medals in the 5,000 metres, having also run a heat, and the 10,000m, and a spectacular gold in the marathon when she outsprinted Ethiopia's then world record holder Tigist Assefa to win by just three seconds.

"I never thought I was going to win this one," said Hassan after receiving her award in Monaco. "This year was crazy. It's not only me – all the athletes have been amazing."

Tebogo received his award after becoming the first African to be crowned Olympic champion in the 200m, crossing the line at the Stade de France in 19.46 seconds, edging out the American Kenny Bednarek and favourite Noah Lyles.

"This means a lot," said Tebogo, who doubled up with the men's track award. "It's not just about the team that is around you, there are a lot of fans out there that really want us to win something great for the continent. "It was a real surprise to hear my name because I didn't expect this."

The international athletics federation also decided to reward a number of other athletes who shone at the Olympics.

Swedish pole vaulter Armand Duplantis won the men's field category after an unbeaten 2024, winning Olympic gold and setting a new world record of 6.26 metres.

Ukrainian Yaroslava Mahuchikh was the winner in the women's event, after improving the old high jump world record to 2.10m at the age of just 22 and also winning Olympic gold in Paris.

In addition to Tebogo, Sydney McLaughlin-Levrone was rewarded in the track category for beating her own world record in the 400m hurdles, running 50.37 seconds to win gold in Paris, while men's Olympic marathon champion Tamirat Tola of Ethiopia was given the out-of-stadium award.

Ethiopian steeplechaser Sembo Almayew and Italian long-jumper Mattia Furlani were given the rising star awards.

During the ceremony, a moment was taken to remember last year's men's out-of-stadium athlete of the year Kelvin Kiptum, the marathon world record-holder, who died in a road traffic accident in February.

Chelsea, Tottenham plan to offer ex-Prem striker escape from Saudi after less than six months



Former Premier League striker Ivan Toney is reportedly considering a return to England after only six months in Saudi Arabia, and Chelsea and Tottenham have shown interest in him.

Toney could have made a move within the Premier League in the summer. He was linked with the likes of Arsenal, Chelsea and Tottenham after a few good

seasons with Brentford.

TEAMtalk revealed that the Blues were willing to lodge a good offer to get him. But Saudi side Al-Ahli offered better terms, and Toney ended up landing there.

Less than six months later, Fichajes reports the former Brentford man is considering a return to En-

gland, as he has not found the same level of motivation for the game in his new surroundings.

The report states that Chelsea and Tottenham have once again shown an interest in landing Toney.

It is also believed there may be doubts on if either side could land him given the finances of signing him, particularly given he now earns around £400,000 per week, which equal is the highest salary in the Premier League (Kevin De Bruyne).

After Toney moved to Saudi Arabia, England legend Wayne Rooney slammed him for the switch, which he felt would hurt his chances of adding to his six England caps and becoming the Three Lions' next No.9. "Ivan Toney might have ruined his chances with his move," he said.

And those fears have come true, with Toney not having been included in an England squad since Euro 2024.

Chelsea could potentially see Christopher Nkunku move to Paris Saint-Germain, with the club wanting to land him, and they may offer Randal Kolo Muani in exchange, but it's not believed the Blues want to go ahead with that deal.

Liam Delap is also on the Blues' radar, but they could be in competition with European giants Juventus, who have also joined the hunt for the Ipswich man. Meanwhile, Chelsea target Tomas Araujo has been likened to Spain legend Gerard Pique.

And the Blues are one of a few big Premier League sides have opened talks to find out the conditions of a move for Borussia Dortmund star Jamie Gittens.

CWI president berates Jamaica, Barbados after Super50 controversy



SHALLOW ... it could be damaging for the Super50 brand, which is a brand that is already struggling and not really where we want it to be.

After a controversial end to the Regional Super50 recently, president of Cricket West Indies (CWI) Dr Kishore

Shallow says Jamaica's and Barbados' role in the incident could put a major dent in the tournament's brand.

No action took place in the final at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad on Saturday, November 23 as the Jamaica Scorpions and Barbados Pride forfeited the final.

The match was initially set for 1:00 pm but rain delayed the start of play. However, after inspection of the field, match officials ruled that play could begin after 6:17 pm and the match would be reduced to 20 overs a side.

Despite that, Jamaica's captain John Campbell and Barbados' captain Raymon Reifer failed to show for the 6:00 pm toss and neither team took to the field, which saw both teams forfeiting and no champion being crowned. For their role in the final no-show, match referee Reon King reportedly charged both captains with a Level Three breach of the Cricket West Indies Code of Conduct. Campbell and Reifer are now facing eight-month bans from CWI's Disciplinary Committee, which would see them being ruled out of the regional four-day tournament and ultimately ruled out of selection for the West Indies' men's team.

Shallow says he was disappointed in the teams' actions, which could affect what the CWI has built over the years.

"We have to sensitise people and whenever there are opportunities like this, we try to teach people but it could be damaging for the Super50 brand, which is a brand that is already struggling and not really where we want it to be," he said in an interview with 195.5 FM's Andre Baptiste.

"When we increased the prize money some time ago, it was to incentivise players to be at their best and to be available for the tournament and to raise the standard and profile of that tournament so, this is really a poten-

tial setback," Shallow added.

The Jamaica Observer understands that the Jamaica Cricket Association (JCA) is expected to accept the sanctions laid down by CWI with President Dr Donovan Bennett accepting that mistakes were made. However, the Barbados Cricket Association could take legal action but Shallow declined to comment in detail.

"I won't want to say much on this in the event that this goes down a legal route. It is quite possible so that is why I am trying to reserve my input at this point," he said.

It was reported that the tournament's title sponsors, CG United Insurance, could remove their sponsorship going forward but Shallow says CWI acted quickly to prevent that from happening.

"We have been in touch with the sponsors; the main sponsor in this instance. Fortunately, they were there witnessing so they fully understand the situation wasn't avoidable from Cricket West Indies' perspective," he said.

"We have since ensured that we have sort of compensated for whatever damages were done by that incident so they're quite comfortable and we're confident we'll proceed with our fruitful partnership."

Shallow says the winner's prize money of US\$100,000 and runners-up \$50,000 will not go towards next year's tournament but says an official decision will be made in the coming weeks.

"We have a December Board meeting and we will decide that. It was budgeted. Maybe some of it should go to sensitising players so it won't be repeated but we'll see how it goes," he said.

It was the first time in over 50 years that a limited overs champion wasn't crowned.

Shallow defends punishment handed down to Alzarri Joseph

Alzarri Joseph, was given a two-match suspension for misconduct in the third and final ODI against England.



Alzarri Joseph, right, was given a two-match suspension for misconduct in the third and final ODI against England. ST JOHN'S, Antigua – Cricket West Indies (CWI) president Dr Kishore Shallow has defended the recent two-match suspension given to fast bowler Alzarri Joseph for misconduct, while refuting suggestions that he should have

been given a lengthier ban for his actions.

During the just concluded One Day International series against England, a visibly upset Joseph stormed off the field on two occasions in the third and final match at Kensington Oval.

His behaviour was condemned by CWI and West Indies

head coach Daren Sammy, with both describing it as "unacceptable" and Joseph was suspended for the first two matches of the T20I series.

However, some pundits believed the 28-year-old pacer should have received a stiffer penalty, with some even suggesting a one-year ban.

But speaking on Trinidadian radio station i95.5FM on Thursday, Dr Shallow said the punishment handed down by CWI was fair and just.

"When there are times like this, when people clearly because of emotions failed to act in a responsible way, we cannot simply say just cut them off. Some people even said to ban him forever," Dr Shallow said.

"In addition to that, who are you spiting? Because the young man is still a very young player, a promising player for CWI, we have to put all support around him.

"I am sure that he has learnt his lesson, and I would be very surprised if Alzarri were to repeat his actions again," he added.

Dr Shallow said he believed the outcome of the T20 series, which England won 3-1, would have been different had Joseph not been suspended.

"It costs us, I believe, that T20 series against England and that is a responsibility that I will have to live with, that he has cost us a T20 series, because the truth of the fact is had he played those first two games in Barbados on that wicket, on that pitch, it is very likely we wouldn't have lost those games," Dr Shallow maintained.

"So everyone lost from our side, but it is a learning situation that I hope that Alzarri, all his teammates and the entire organisation learn from and we don't have a repeat of such."

North America Retains Exciting Sotheby's International Annual Provo Ryder Cup



The victorious North American Ryder Cup Team

Two weekends ago, the Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club was alive with rivalry, camaraderie, and exceptional golf as the 32nd Annual Provo Ryder Cup, sponsored by Turks & Caicos Sotheby's Realty, came to an electrifying conclusion.

In a nail-biting finish, the North American team edged out Team International by the slimmest of margins, claiming victory with a final score of 21.50 to 20.50 points. It was a battle worthy of the Ryder Cup name, filled with drama and determination. Team International came out swinging on Day 1, dominating the four-ball matches and securing an early lead of 8-6. But the tide turned on Day 2, as the North American team rallied in the singles matches. Fueled by determination and perhaps a little pre-round pep talk, they delivered a stellar performance, scoring 15.50 points to Team International's 12.50. The comeback sealed their one-point victory and sparked jubilant celebrations that spilled from the 18th green to the clubhouse.

The Provo Ryder Cup format spans 36 holes of match play competition, pitting North American golfers against their International counterparts. Day 1 is all about teamwork, featuring four-ball matches where pairs compete, with the best individual net score from each pair counted per hole. Day 2 shifts to the high-pressure intensity of singles matches, where every player has the chance to shine (or sweat). Match Play rules were in effect, awarding one point for a win, half a point for a tie, and zero for a loss. If the two teams had tied after both days, the Defending Champion North American Team would have retained the cup—but no matter this time, as they claimed it outright!

This year's event saw 56 players compete in total, all vying for the glory of bringing home the cup. The North American team was expertly led by Captain Nik Lashley and Assistant Captain's Rob Ayer & Mike Adamo, while the International team was helmed by Captain Kurt Rivers, with Assistant Captain Chris

Gornall offering his invaluable support and strategy. While the International Team fought valiantly, they continue to lead the overall Ryder Cup rankings 21-11, adding yet another chapter to this exciting rivalry.

A huge thank you goes out to Joe Zahm, Denise Douglas and the entire team at Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty, who has proudly sponsored this event for the past 12 years, making it possible for this beloved competition to continue growing in prestige and excitement.

Congratulations to the North American team for their hard-fought victory and hats off to Team International for an incredible showing. To all the players, whether you were out on the course or patiently waiting on the reserve list, thank you for making this year's Ryder Cup one to remember. Here's to another year of friendships forged, rivalries renewed, and unforgettable moments on the greens. See you in 2025—game faces on!

SHARKS ON FIRE

Gregg Brian's Double Brace Leads SWA Sharks to Dominant 11-2 Victory Over Teachers YS

The sharks Team



A standout performance from Gregg Brian (#10), who netted a double brace, led SWA Sharks to a resounding 11-2 victory over Teachers Young Strikers FC in a mid-week clash at the Beaches Turks and Caicos-Sponsored Provo Premier League at the TCIFA Field.

The Sharks showcased their dominance from start to finish, with a commanding 0-5 lead at halftime.

First Half: SWA Sharks 5-0 Teachers YS

The Sharks wasted no time taking control of the match. Brian opened the scoring in the 21st minute, followed by Junior Paul (#17), who doubled the lead just two minutes later in the 23rd minute. Brian was back on the scoresheet in the 27th minute with his second goal, and Dulcio Roobenson (#9) added another for the Sharks in the 28th minute. Before the half

ended, Billy Forbes (#7) made it 0-5 in the 40th minute.

Second Half: SWA Sharks 11-2 Teachers YS

The second half saw more goals for the Sharks. Kevern Bellot (#5) found the net in the 47th minute, and Paul scored again in the 57th minute. Brian completed his hat-trick in the 59th minute and scored his fourth goal in the 62nd minute. Junior Belizaire (#6) added another in the 72nd minute, and Forbes rounded out the scoring with his second goal of the match in the 76th minute.

Teachers YS FC responded with two late goals from Jeff Etienne (#19), who scored in the 84th and 90th minutes, but it was too little, too late as the Sharks claimed a dominant 11-2 victory.

Brian was later named player of the Match

for the SWA Sharks FC, while Jeff Etienne was named Teachers YS FC's player of the match.

The win enabled Sharks to extend their lead at the top of the table by six points, coming into the game with 9 points—three points clear of second place Teachers and Academy Eagles both on six points.

Cheshire Hall FC, Beaches FC and Provo United SC are locked on three points. Teachers Young Striker rooted at the bottom of the table without a point.

Losmill Fradin of Teachers YS FC received a yellow card in the 14th minute, while James Rene of the SWA Sharks was booked with a yellow card in the 34th minute.

A slate of matches was scheduled for this weekend. At press time the results were not available.