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**Rape Accused
Granted \$30,000 Bail,
Case Moves to
Supreme Court PG2**



**TCI Reaffirms as
Premier Beach and
Romance Destination
at WTA PG4**



Avi Adams, Director of the Department of TCI Regulations (DTR).

FUTURE WORK PERMITS COULD TIE TO TCI KNOWLEDGE TEST

Expats recruited from out of country may require to undergo test, exam online before being considered work permit grant

SEE PAGE 5



**NEW ROAD-PAVING
COMPANY LAUNCHED**

SEE PAGE 10

Rape Accused Granted \$30,000 Bail, Case Moves to Supreme Court

A 44-year-old man facing multiple rape charges has been granted bail and will return to court in December for a sufficiency hearing before the Supreme Court.

Edward Richard Christopher Phillips appeared before a Magistrate on October 6, will know whether or not he will be committed to stand trial on three counts of rape. The court ordered that a sufficiency hearing be held on December 5, 2025, at the Supreme Court.

Phillips, who had initially been remanded in custody, was on Monday granted bail in the sum of \$30,000 with surety.

The charges stem from a report made to police on September 16, 2025. Following that report, investigators launched a probe which culminated in charges being laid on October 1, after consultations with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. When Phillips first appeared before the court earlier this month, bail was

denied, and he was remanded until his return on October 6. During that appearance, prosecutors outlined the allegations, and the defense made an application for his release. On Monday, the court ruled that Phillips could be released on bail under strict conditions, including the financial bond and surety. The ruling comes as the case now advances to the higher court, where a sufficiency hearing will determine whether the matter proceeds to a full trial.

The case has drawn attention due to the seriousness of the charges. Under local law, rape carries a heavy custodial penalty if a conviction is secured.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions has not commented on the matter beyond confirming that the case is proceeding according to due process. A source at that office told NewslineTCI that they could not comment on an ongoing case.

Police officials have meanwhile reiterated their commitment to investi-

gating sexual offences with urgency and care, urging victims to come forward and make reports without fear. Phillips will next appear in the Supreme Court on December 5, where

prosecutors are expected to present the evidence to support the charges. If the sufficiency hearing determines that the case can proceed, a trial date will be set thereafter.



A Royal Turks and Caicos Islands-released mug shot of Phillips on his arrest

Digicel

VACANCY: FIELD ENGINEER

Primary objective of the job:

- Responsible for the operation and maintenance of all RBS, Power and Transmission equipment within a specific region to achieve 100% availability of all Cell Sites
- Monitoring of all environmental factors, buildings and grounds to include earth connections and measurements at Digicel sites in a specific region
- Escalation & follow through of all anomalies to relevant departments
- Scheduling of preventative maintenance rosters
- Coordination of all site related work and projects
- Coordination with MSC & Transmission engineer on outage solutions
- On-call support for after hours outages & planned works as required

Main Duties and Responsibilities:

- Maintain inventory of RBS, Test and Transmission equipment
- Monitor Return & Replace process, tracking RMA number & return date with Ericsson
- Oversee generator maintenance
- Liaise with equipment suppliers and maintenance contractors as required
- Generate & submit Planned Works for service affecting network activity in a timely manner
- Provide feedback on network performance as observed in day to day activities to MSC engineers
- Assist other departments with troubleshooting & engineering support as required
- Provide callout function & network support as required

Academic qualifications and experience required for job:

- Diploma in telecommunications/electronics or equivalent
- Minimum one (1) year experience in maintenance of telecommunications network
- Detailed working knowledge of Microwave transmission systems, radio transmitters
- Detailed working knowledge of DC and AC power systems
- Detailed working knowledge of GSM radio telephony operations
- Detailed working knowledge of associated test equipment

Functional Skills:

- Good interpersonal and communication skills
- Excellent leadership skills/qualities,
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Compensation

- USD\$48,000 – 55,000per annum

DEADLINE:

Positions open to all qualified Turks and Caicos nationals. Interested applicants can forward their resumes to hrtic@digicelgroup.com The closing date for applications is October 24, 2025



An officer ensuring that this motorist's road standing is in good order

Traffic Enforcement Officers in Division "B" (Providenciales) have continued their high-visibility efforts to keep roads safe, recording dozens of tickets and several arrests during recent exercises under Operation Impact.

On Wednesday, September 24, 2025, and Friday, October 3, 2025, officers mounted eighty-three (83) traffic checks across the division. These checkpoints targeted unsafe driving practices and non-compliance with road traffic laws, while also providing an opportunity to identify other offences impacting

community safety.

The results were significant. Officers issued fifty-two (52) tickets for a wide range of infractions. According to police, the leading causes of citations were excessive window tinting and seatbelt violations, both recording 15 tickets each. Another 11 drivers were penalized for operating unlicensed vehicles, while four (4) motorists were ticketed for improper license plates. Additional violations included:

- Permitting an unlicensed motor vehicle – 1 ticket

15 Detentions, 52 Ticket Issued in 'Operation Impact' on Providenciales

- Overcrowding a vehicle – 1 ticket
- Failing to conform to police or road signs – 4 tickets
- Driving on the incorrect side of the road – 1 ticket

Beyond ticketing, officers issued five warnings of intended prosecution, a formal notice that legal proceedings may follow. Police emphasized that this measure is typically used in more serious cases or when investigations are still ongoing.

The operation also uncovered other unlawful activity. In collaboration with immigration authorities, officers detained 15 individuals for immigration-related offences. This highlights the multi-agency approach of Operation Impact, which goes beyond road safety to address broader community concerns.

Police Command Officers' Work

A spokesperson for the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force praised the Traffic Enforcement Unit for its dedication and professionalism. "These results reflect the hard work of officers who remain committed to reducing road accidents, deterring reckless driving, and maintaining public safety," the spokesperson said.

They added that while issuing tickets and detaining offenders are important aspects of enforcement, the ultimate goal is education and prevention. "Operation Impact is about changing driver behaviour. When motorists obey traffic laws, they not only avoid penalties but also help save lives."

Ongoing Concerns

Authorities have consistently flagged issues such as tinted windows, expired licences, improper road use, and overcrowded vehicles as persistent challenges. Officers stressed that while some motorists view enforcement as an inconvenience, the reality is that road traffic laws are designed for protection.

"Every citation is a reminder that the rules exist to protect drivers, passengers, and pedestrians alike," the spokesperson explained. "Non-compliance puts everyone at risk, whether through collisions, injuries, or worse."

Operation to Continue

Police confirmed that Operation Impact will continue in the weeks ahead, with Division "B" remaining a key focus area. However, motorists across the territory should expect additional checkpoints, increased patrols, and a strong enforcement presence.

Law enforcement is also encouraging the public to embrace compliance as part of a community-wide effort to reduce risks. "Road safety is a shared responsibility," the statement concluded. "By respecting the rules of the road, every driver contributes to making our communities safer."

With 52 tickets issued, 15 immigration detentions, and several prosecutions in progress, officers say the message is clear: unsafe driving and unlawful practices will not be tolerated.

NEW CHAIR APPOINTED TO LEAD INTEGRITY COMMISSION THROUGH NEXT PHASE OF REFORM

Hon. Justice Bernard Turner has been appointed as the new Judicial Member and Chair of the Integrity Commission, which the Governor's Office referred to as an important step in strengthening public integrity and accountability.

Turner was appointed by Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam after consultation with the Premier Hon. Washington Misick and Leader of the Opposition Hon. Edwin Astwood.

The appointment of Justice Turner was made accordance with Section 3(1)(b) of the Integrity Commission Ordinance, and in line with section 6 (1) of the said ordinance.

Hon. Justice Turner, who currently serves as a Justice of Appeal on the Turks and Caicos Islands Court of Appeal, brings extensive regional and international experience in law, governance and anti-corruption. He has served as an AML/CFT examiner and trainer, a short-term consultant with the International Monetary Fund and Chair of the Commonwealth Working Group on Asset Repatri-

ation.

Justice Turner has also contributed as a designated expert to the Organization of American States Committee on the Implementation of the Corruption Convention.

The appointment follows the conclusion of Justice Lobban-Jackson's term as Chair and judicial member.

In welcoming Turner to the position, the Governor thanked outgoing Chair Justice Tanya Lobban-Jackson for her dedicated service and contribution to strengthening the integrity framework.

"The Effectiveness Review made clear that while the Integrity Commission plays a vital role in upholding ethical standards, important reforms are needed to enhance its effectiveness and public confidence," Daniel-Selvaratnam said.

She added: "I want to acknowledge and thank outgoing Chair, Justice Lobban-Jackson for her committed service and for her leadership in supporting the initiation of the Effectiveness Review,

which has provided a strong foundation for the next phase of reform.

"Under her guidance, the Commission has begun to take forward the review's recommendations, strengthening key areas of its work.

The governor also highlighted the wealth of experience that Justice Turner brings to this new role.

"Justice Turner is strongly positioned to lead the Commission through this next phase, given the depth of experience he brings from his distinguished legal career. With his leadership, I look forward to continued progress in advancing substantively these important reforms and in strengthening public standards of accountability and public confidence in the work of the Commission."

Justice Bernard Turner said he was honoured to be appointed Chair and looked forward to leading the Commission through this period of reform.

"It is an honour to be appointed to this role and to serve the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands through the import-

ant work of the Integrity Commission," he said. "The Effectiveness Review has provided a clear roadmap for improvement, and I am committed to ensuring the Commission implements these reforms to strengthen integrity, accountability and public trust in our institutions."



Justice Bernard Turner



The world-famous Grace Bay Beach in Providenciales

Turks and Caicos Islands Reaffirms Status as Premier Beach and Romance Destination at World Travel Awards

The Turks and Caicos Islands have once again secured their reputation as the Caribbean's leading destination for beaches and romance, following another strong showing at the 2025 World Travel Awards.

At a ceremony held on October 4 in Saint Lucia, the islands were named the Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination and Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination, adding to a long line of regional accolades. Turks and Caicos has now held the Leading Beach Destination title for a decade, while this marks the seventh consecutive year the destination has been voted the Most Romantic Destination. "It is no secret that the Turks and Caicos Islands is home to some of the most beautiful beaches in the Caribbean, and we are honoured that voters continue to recognise this," said Mr. Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant for Experience Turks and Caicos. "Our pristine waters and secluded settings also make the destination one of the world's most romantic getaways, especially for couples seeking luxury and intimacy. On behalf of Experience Turks and Caicos, I extend sincere thanks to the World Travel Awards and to everyone who voted in support of our islands."

The recognition extended well beyond the destination awards, with several local partners and stakeholders earning regional honours. Among the winners were:

- Beaches Resort, named the Caribbean's Leading All-Inclusive Family Resort 2025.
- The Palms, awarded Caribbean's Leading All-Suite Hotel 2025.
- Ambergris Cay Private Island Resort, recognised as the Caribbean's Leading Private Island Resort 2025.

• InterCaribbean Airways, receiving Caribbean's Leading Cabin Crew 2025.

On the local stage, Turks and Caicos properties and businesses also took home top honours:

- Windsong Resort – Turks and Caicos Leading Boutique Hotel 2025.
- The Palms – Turks and Caicos Leading Hotel 2025.
- Grace Bay Club – Turks and Caicos Leading Luxury Resort 2025.
- The Shore Club – Turks and Caicos Leading Resort 2025.
- Four-bedroom Oceanfront Penthouse at Windsong Resort – Turks and Caicos Leading Hotel Suite 2025.
- Avis – Turks and Caicos Leading Car Rental Company 2025.
- Caicos Dream Tours – Turks and Caicos Leading Tour Operator 2025.
- Olympia Destination Management Company – Turks and Caicos Leading Destination Management Company 2025.

According to Experience Turks and Caicos, these recognitions reinforce the country's reputation as not only a top destination for leisure travel but also as a hub of luxury hospitality and service excellence across multiple sectors of the industry.

Looking ahead, Experience Turks and Caicos noted that this chain of islands now has the opportunity to claim three of the most prestigious global honours in the World Travel Awards programme. The destination has been nominated for World's Leading Beach Destination, World's Leading Island Destination, and World's Most Romantic Destination. These "World's Leading" categories represent the highest distinction in the international competition.



Minister with responsibility for Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly

Voting for the global awards opened on October 6 and will run through October 26, 2025. Travel professionals, media representatives, and tourism consumers worldwide are eligible to cast their votes. Winners will be announced later this year at the World

Travel Awards Grand Final. With its consistent performance on both the regional and international stage, the Turks and Caicos Islands continue to demonstrate why they remain among the most desirable travel destinations in the world.

Future Work Permits Could Require TCI Knowledge Test

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands government is considering a new policy that could make cultural knowledge of the TCI a requirement for expatriates seeking work permits.

The idea, which is still under discussion, would require applicants recruited from overseas to complete an online training program and pass an assessment before being granted a permit to enter the country. Avi Adams, Director of the Department of Tourism Regulation (DTR), confirmed the move in an interview with NewslineTCI following a meeting with industry stakeholders.

"This proposal is still in the early stages, but it is something we are seriously exploring with the Ministry of Education," Adams said. "If approved, it could be implemented within the next three years. The goal is to ensure that everyone who comes to work in the Turks and Caicos understands our culture, our leadership, and our heritage, and can represent our islands properly to visitors."

Adams was speaking after hosting a Hotelier Stakeholders Meeting at the Department of Environmental and Coastal Resources (DECR) on Tues-

day, October 7. The meeting brought together hoteliers and tourism leaders to discuss training standards, regulatory updates, and the broader push to align the industry under one standard of service.

At the heart of the discussion was the TIDES program, which is the acronym for "Together Individuals Delivering Excellent Service." TIDES is a national hospitality training initiative designed to create consistency in the service delivered to visitors across all sectors of the tourism industry. The program includes cultural and heritage modules, ensuring that workers understand the basic civic and historical knowledge often asked about by visitors.

"Too often, we find that people on the frontline of hospitality don't know who the Premier or the Minister of Tourism is, or even the story of our heritage," Adams said. "That cannot continue. If you are representing the Turks and Caicos Islands, you must be an ambassador. That is why everyone who completes the TIDES program will be certified and given an official ambassador card."

The program has already started training beach vendors, taxi drivers, VIP service providers, and other

hospitality workers, but the government's focus now is to ensure hotels, who collectively employ 5,000 to 6,000 people, are fully compliant. The rollout will begin with front-of-house staff before expanding to back-of-house employees.

Still, not everyone in the industry is without concerns. Some hoteliers expressed worries about the cost of the program, especially for larger resorts with hundreds of staff. The training carries a fee of \$50 per person every two years, which Adams described as "a minimal, non-profit cost" to cover administrative expenses like printing certificates and ID cards.

"There will always be those who support the initiative wholeheartedly and others who push back," Adams admitted. "But at the end of the day, the mandate is for all of us to be on the same accord, delivering excellent service. We are prepared to work with businesses on a phased basis if needed, but the training must happen."

Stacy Cox, CEO of the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA), praised the direction of the program, though she also raised financial considerations.

"Training on this level helps us to create a culture of service that extends beyond hotels and touches every aspect of daily life in the Turks and Caicos," Cox said. "From gas station attendants to supermarket staff, this is about embedding cultural pride. But for resorts with 500 or 600 staff members, the cost adds up quickly. That's something we need to work through with Mr. Adams."

Cox added that with room capacity in the destination set to double in the coming years, now is the right time to reimagine tourism and strengthen cultural awareness.

The discussions around linking work permits to TCI knowledge are part of this broader effort to prepare for growth while protecting the cultural identity of the islands. If adopted, the Turks and Caicos would join a small number of destinations that require cultural knowledge assessments as part of employment eligibility.

"This is not just about rules and regulations," Adams emphasized. "It's about ensuring that every interaction visitors have with us reflects who we are as a people. Our culture, our food, our dialect, our way of life, these must shine through in everything we do."

Seafood Hub TCI opens brand new 18-seater Garden Bar

By Todeline Defralien

Seafood Hub TCI hosted a soft opening event for its brand new 18-seater Garden Bar, set in a lush tropical escape.

The event took place at its current location, Neptune Court, Allegro Road in Providenciales on Friday September 19th, 2025.

The event was attended by a wide cross-section of the Turks and Caicos Islands, including Deputy Governor Her Excellency, Anya Williams.

Attendees enjoyed signature dish tasting, complimentary white sangria, appetizers and live entertainment throughout the evening.

Commenting on the occasion, Managing Director, Omar Harvey said the new outside bar creates more seating and will help customers to be more comfortable.

He said, "It's a really good look because the bar inside was kind of small. We can seat about fifteen to eighteen persons at one time, opposite from the bar inside, we can seat about eight persons."

"I am going to pump rum out quick, fast and hurry and I can accommodate more guests.



Guests will be more comfortable, there's more seating and they can just enjoy. I can also push out happy hour drinks, rum shots and local draft beers. Our local beers are the most important beers in the Turks and Caicos so I am going to push out our own

beer which is 'I Soon Reach', the 'Lager' or the 'Gone to North,' he explained. Since opening its doors in 2020, Seafood Hub TCI has quickly become a beloved culinary sensation in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Seafood Hub TCI is owned by Omar

and Patrice Harvey, two homegrown chefs of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



No empty chairs: the case for attending the 2025 Summit of the Americas

The Dominican Republic (DR) is hosting the 2025 Summit of the Americas – a gathering of the Heads of State and Government of 32 countries of the Western Hemisphere.

On September 30, the Government of the DR publicly stated that Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela will not be invited to the 2025 Summit of the Americas. The government was careful to explain that its choice is necessary to “ensure the widest possible political dialogue” and to “guarantee the success of the Summit.” It also makes clear that this decision “does not interfere with bilateral relations” with any of the three countries.

This decision is likely to provoke a response similar to that seen at the 2022 Summit in Los Angeles, when the US administration of Joe Biden did not invite the same three governments.

Calls for Heads of Government to stay away followed, and a few did so in protest at the non-invitation of Cuba’s President Miguel Díaz-Canel Bermúdez, Nicaragua’s President Daniel Ortega Saavedra, and Venezuela’s President Nicolás Maduro Moros.

Leaders should think hard before staying away from the 2025 Summit. Global and regional conditions have shifted: wars in the Middle East and Europe cast economic and security shadows across the Americas; within the hemisphere, ideological rifts are reopening. This is precisely the moment for leaders to meet— to manage differences, protect interests, and act in the interest of all the peoples of the Americas.

Attendance is leverage, not endorsement. Leaders who believe that Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela should be invited should say so at the Summit, in direct terms. Refusing to attend neither alters the guest list nor delivers gains for the peoples of the Americas; it only removes strong national voices from the room where decisions and deals are made.

The agenda in Punta Cana in the DR is built around four urgent security pillars: citizen security, energy security, water security, and food security. Across reputable global assessments, Latin America and the Caribbean ranks poorly on all four: the region bears the world’s highest homicide burden; most countries

are not water-secure; energy-transition progress and grid reliability lag behind other regions; and the cost of a healthy diet is the highest in the world, alongside elevated food-insecurity rates. They determine whether freedom of speech is preserved; whether hospitals, schools and hotels have electricity; whether water pipes run and crops survive; whether households have access to food at prices they can afford.

The DR government put out the suggested theme for the Summit with these four pillars since February and the first draft of a possible Declaration from the Summit was issued in June. Since September 11, government representatives of the 32 countries have been negotiating the outcome document.

A major initiative at this Summit is the CEO Convocation co-hosted with the Inter-American Development Bank. That platform is designed for public authorities and private capital to assemble the financing and execution capacity that the four pillars require. Public-private partnerships, built transparently and on fair terms, can shorten delivery timelines and spread costs sensibly. The CEO meeting is where those partnerships can be made real.

Another imperative is greater trade and economic integration across Latin America and the Caribbean. Integration scales markets, deepens and de-risks supply chains, and accelerates the spread of knowledge and expertise. Practical steps such as, customs facilitation, reliable sea- and air-links, and competitively priced access to infrastructure inputs, are all matters leaders should use the Summit to agree and advance. Apart from these general considerations, Caribbean leaders should be at the Summit to focus on particular Caribbean concerns. The recent UN Security Council decision on Haiti must be advanced with practical timelines, resources, and roles. Understanding and progress are also needed on differences over climate change and sustainable development, where positions diverge but impacts converge. The negotiations in the Summit Implementation Review Group (SIRG), made up of all the independent states of the Americas except Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, began on September 11 and have yet to re-



solve differences on these points at the technical level. It may take direct consultation by leaders to agree on actions that can be taken.

The last Summit, despite political controversy, still produced outcomes of value, including climate- and energy-cooperation channels that mobilised technical support and investment for Caribbean states. The lesson is straightforward: even when politics creates dissonance, useful progress is possible when leaders are present, prepared, and focused.

There is a wider principle that should be stated; movement toward greater democracy and respect for human, civil, and political rights is necessary for broad-based development and for international financial support.

In Cuba, Nicaragua, and Venezuela, tangible steps in that direction would encourage broader backing across the hemisphere. In Venezuela’s case specifically, military threats against Guyana should give way to a peaceful, lawful path under international law and the process of the International Court of Justice that the UN Secretary-General authorised and Caricom governments have endorsed.

It is understood that President Trump may not attend for security reasons – a concern that might yet be resolved. Nonetheless, senior US representation is expected; at minimum Secretary of State Marco Rubio or Vice President Vance, or both.

The margins of the Summit are well-suited to quiet, candid exchanges with US principals on the effects of US

policy across the hemisphere; conversations that can yield practical attention to pressing issues.

This is a meeting to be present, active, and speaking: the DR government has set a constructive path; its non-invitations to Cuba, Nicaragua and Venezuela are framed as a Summit-specific decision, without prejudice to bilateral relations. Leaders should use that path to pursue national interests and advance hemispheric cooperation. Not attending leaves influence at the table in other hands. Attending, and doing the work, serves the people of the Americas. CMC

*Sir Ronald Sanders is the Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda to the United States and the OAS, and Dean of the OAS Ambassadors accredited to the OAS.

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

New Turnkey Housing Development

We are looking for **highly skilled** and **qualified** developers to submit a proposal for the construction of a **brand new community** for Turks and Caicos Islanders on up to four parcels of land in the North West and North Central areas of Providenciales.

This exciting new community will consist of approximately 200 units featuring two and three bedroom single-family homes across 40 acres of land.



Interested parties can review the full official request for proposal by visiting our government website at www.gov.tc/publicservice/government-tenders to learn the full scope of details on the project.

Tender Reference Number: TR 25/03

Contract Number: TCIG 07/2025

Parcel Numbers: 60000/247, 277, 278 & 279

Acres: 40

Units: approx. 200

Location: North West and North Central, Providenciales

**APPLICATION DEADLINE:
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 3, 2025 AT 10:00 A.M.**



CLASP
INITIATIVE

We are excited to launch this RFP under the Crown Land Access Support Programme (CLASP). This is a key project in redefining land management in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



This housing development is a joint effort presented by the Crown Land Unit and the Housing Department as part of the CLASP Initiative. For the latest news, be sure to follow the Crown Land Unit and the Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure on Facebook and Instagram.



Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructural Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove

The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCIG), through the National Land Secretariat (NLS), has issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) inviting qualified developers to design and construct new affordable housing communities on Crown

Land in Providenciales as part of their Turnkey Housing Development.

This initiative supports the Government's ongoing commitment to expanding access to affordable housing and fostering sustainable, community-oriented development across the

Government Invites Proposals for Affordable Housing Development

islands.

The RFP, titled "Provision of Affordable Housing Development on Crown Land in Providenciales," seeks proposals for the design, financing, and construction of residential subdivisions on approximately 40.1 acres of Crown Land located in the Northwest and Central area of Providenciales. The project encompasses Parcel Numbers 60000/247, 277, 278 and 279, providing opportunities for developers to submit proposals for one or multiple parcels.

Developments are expected to include well-planned subdivisions, road networks, and two- and three-bedroom housing units that align with the TCI Development Manual and Building Code.

The TCIG encourages participation from experienced developers with demonstrated financial capacity and expertise in large-scale housing or community development.

Proposals will be evaluated based on technical merit, compliance with planning and environmental standards, and alignment with national housing objectives.

TIMELINE AND IMPORTANT DATES

- Pre-proposal Conference: Tuesday, October 21, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. via Microsoft Teams
- Deadline for questions and clarifications: Wednesday, November 19, 2025
- Deadline to submit your proposal: Wednesday, December 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

This Affordable Housing Project is a flagship component of TCIG's broader strategy to provide equitable housing access, promote homeownership, and support community development for Turks and Caicos Islanders. Developers are invited to bring forward innovative, sustainable, and climate-resilient housing solutions that contribute to the long-term growth of the islands.

To review the RFP in its entirety and to register for the pre-proposal meeting please visit: <https://gov.tc/publicservice/government-tenders>. All questions and requests for clarification must be submitted to the Procurement Board using their online forms which can be found at: <https://forms.office.com/r/UF0PsAscgt>.

Ministry of Education to Launch School Census Data and Education Digest October 30

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, Culture and Library Services, through its Policy and Planning Unit, will officially launch the School Census Data and Education Digest on Friday, October 30, 2025, at the H.J. Robinson High School Auditorium in Grand Turk. The event is scheduled to begin at 9:30 a.m. and conclude at 12:00 p.m.

This year's launch is being held under the theme "Delving into Data Dynamics", underscoring the Ministry's commitment to advancing education policy and planning through evidence-based approaches.

The highlight of the occasion will be the unveiling of the Educational Statistical Digest for the academic years

2021–2022 and 2022–2023. The digest provides comprehensive data and insights into the education system, serving as a critical tool for policy development, implementation, and service delivery.

In October 2024, the Honourable Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor, charged the Ministry's Policy and Planning Unit with leading a data-driven agenda to support decision-making and sustainable development, not only in the Turks and Caicos Islands but also within the wider Caribbean region.

A year later, officials say the Ministry has made significant strides in advancing this mandate. "We have



Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor

accomplished much, and this launch showcases how we have 'delved into data dynamics' in pursuit of TCI's continued excellence," a statement from the Ministry said. Stakeholders from across the educa-

tion sector and the wider community are expected to attend the launch, which will highlight how data is being leveraged to shape policy and enhance service delivery in the Turks and Caicos Islands.



ACP Darren Williams and SPPU officers



Acting Superintendent Grantley Williams and SPPU officers

Domestic Violence Outreach Intensified by Police Unit

The Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit (SPPU) of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) stepped up its campaign against domestic violence on Friday, October 3rd, with an outreach initiative aimed at educating the public and offering immediate resources for those affected.

The initiative took place at SMART Supermarket in Downtown, Providenciales, where officers set up an information booth to engage directly with members of the community. Throughout the day, SPPU officers provided vital information on the signs, forms, and hidden impacts of domestic violence, while also ensuring residents knew where to turn for help.

According to officers, the outreach was designed to remove stigma and open conversations about a sensitive issue that often goes unreported. Many participants were surprised to learn the broad definition of domestic violence, which includes not only physical abuse but also emotional, financial, and psychological forms of control and harm.

One particularly revealing moment came when several men admitted they had never considered that males could also be victims. Officers emphasized that domestic violence does not discriminate—it can affect anyone regardless of gender, age, or social background. The message was clear: help is available, and victims should never feel ashamed to seek it.

The RT&CIPF underscored the importance of public awareness, noting that greater understanding can lead to earlier intervention and potentially save lives. "Domestic violence thrives in silence," an officer re-

marked. "By starting these conversations in everyday places like supermarkets, we hope to break that silence and make it easier for victims and witnesses to come forward."

Community members were also provided with key contact numbers for immediate support. These included the SPPU hotline at 232-6696, the Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH) at 338-4013, and the option to report incidents at the nearest police station. Officers reminded the public that reports can be made not only by victims themselves but also by concerned family members, friends, or neighbors who suspect abuse is occurring.

The outreach at SMART Supermarket is part of a wider series of public education efforts by the SPPU. Residents are encouraged to look out for the next pop-up booth scheduled for Thursday, October 17th, at Sunny Foods in Blue Hills. The police force hopes these initiatives will continue to foster open dialogue and ensure the community is better equipped to recognize and report abuse. The RT&CIPF is urging anyone currently experiencing domestic violence to take immediate steps to protect themselves and their loved ones. "Domestic violence is not something to endure in silence," the unit stated in a press release. "It is a crime, and it is never too early to seek help. Before it's too late, reach out. Your safety and well-being matter."

The SPPU reiterated that ending domestic violence requires collective responsibility. By staying informed, speaking up, and supporting survivors, the Turks and Caicos Islands community can help reduce the harm caused by abuse and build safer, stronger families.

Experience Turks and Caicos Expands Travel Advisor Outreach Through Virtuoso Engagement, Digital Campaigns

Experience Turks and Caicos has made record-breaking outreach to the global travel advisor community through its participation in Virtuoso Travel Week, targeted webinars and strategic digital campaigns.

This milestone marks a significant step forward in the destination's mission to strengthen tourism, support local businesses and position the Turks and Caicos Islands as the Caribbean's premier luxury destination.

"With every advisor we engage, whether in person at Virtuoso Travel Week or virtually through our webinars, we are not only building product knowledge but also creating long-term ambassadors for Turks and Caicos," said Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant for Experience Turks and Caicos. "Tourism is the heartbeat of these islands, and this kind of outreach ensures that we share the beauty and culture of our country with the world, strengthen the hospitality sector and continue to create jobs in tourism."

The initiatives launched in August offer new opportunities to educate advisors, expand global awareness and drive bookings for the remainder of the year.

Key highlights include:

- Virtuoso Travel Week - Las Vegas: Turks and Caicos representatives held more than 92 confirmed appointments with luxury advisors. Feedback was overwhelmingly positive, with many rating the destination 10 out of 10 and welcoming the new Miami-South



Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant, Experience Turks and Caicos engages a travel partner as he makes the case as to why Turks and Caicos is the best choice for vacationers

Caicos flight.

- Record-Breaking Virtuoso Webinar: The second Virtuoso-exclusive webinar, held Aug. 20, attracted more than 180 travel advisors. Targeted email campaigns reached 12,462 advisors with open rates exceeding 82 percent, underlining strong industry interest.



Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant, Experience Turks and Caicos seizes a photo moment with a travel partner during the event

- Expanded Advisor Network: Since January 2025, a new database of 23,779 luxury and Caribbean-focused advisors has been created. In August alone, outreach efforts educated 40,755 additional advisors across key U.S. markets.

- Digital Advertising Campaigns: Programmatic and social media ads are boosting



The Experience Turks and Caicos Station

awareness of the islands and promoting the new South Caicos flight. These campaigns will run through the end of the year to drive high-value bookings.

This announcement comes at a time when luxury travel demand remains strong, and destinations must compete for visibility among top advisors. The Turks and Caicos Islands' combination of natural beauty, exclusivity and cultural vibrancy continues to position the islands as a premier choice for discerning travellers.



Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson (second right) and Hon. Samuel "Sammy" Been (right), Member of Parliament for Cheshire and Venetian Road, join in the ribbon-cutting exercise with members of the Rebirth Paving Company team to officially launch the entity. From left are Creas Taylor Jr., Marie Taylor, Creas Taylor Sr., Kenardo Williams and Marie Taylor.

Rebirth Paving Company Launched in Turks and Caicos Islands

The Turks and Caicos Islands' infrastructure sector marked a significant milestone this week with the official unveiling of Rebirth Paving Company, a new locally owned enterprise dedicated to modernizing the nation's roads and pavements.

The company, situated at 23 Universal Drive, Industrial Park, Providenciales, was founded by veteran road paver Creas Taylor, his wife Kerrian, Rosemarie Taylor, and a team of associates. The launch was warmly welcomed by both Deputy Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson and Hon. Samuel Been, Member of Parliament for Cheshire Hall, the district where the business is headquartered.

In his address at the ceremony, Deputy Premier Robinson described the arrival of Rebirth Paving as timely and impactful, noting that the country has long needed an injection of fresh competition in the roadworks industry. "The birth of Rebirth augurs well for

the physical infrastructural landscape of the Turks and Caicos Islands," Robinson said. He stressed that competition among road contractors is a win for the government, as it can drive down costs and increase the quality of projects.

He encouraged the company to remain proactive in bidding for government contracts, emphasizing that the administration is committed to improving road networks across the islands.

Parliamentarian Samuel Been also expressed his support, stating that Rebirth Paving's emergence would ease the government's workload in relation to capital works.

"This new company gives us more flexibility and readiness to start projects in road paving, patching and maintenance," he said, noting that residents stand to benefit greatly from a more responsive and efficient industry.

Founder Creas Taylor spoke passionately about his vision for Rebirth Paving. With years of experience working with major construction firms across the Caribbean, Taylor said he brings both expertise and innovation to the table.

"I have been in this field for a long time, and what I have learned is that quality and affordability must go hand in hand. Our rates are extremely competitive, and our service is backed by proven knowledge of paving techniques that stand up to the Caribbean climate," Taylor told Newsline TCI.

Rebirth Paving said it offers a wide array of services tailored to the needs of both government and private sector clients. These include sealcoating, the application of a protective layer over asphalt to guard against UV damage, water, oils, and oxidation. The company also specializes in pothole patching, crack sealing, asphalt overlay resurfacing, gravel road reshaping, and

concrete slab replacement.

Advanced methods such as slurry sealing, chip sealing, cold-in-place recycling, and micro surfacing are also part of their toolkit, designed to extend road lifespans and reduce long-term maintenance costs.

Taylor noted that Rebirth's approach emphasizes both preventative maintenance—sealing small cracks before they become major issues—and corrective action, such as patching and resurfacing deteriorated sections of road.

The company highlights that professionally installed chip and seal surfaces can last between 8 to 10 years, depending on usage, while their asphalt overlays provide a durable, cost-effective solution for roads experiencing widespread wear.

After the ceremony, which was followed by a ribbon-cutting, a live demonstration of asphalt mixing was conducted.

Capacity Challenges at HMP Grand Turk Dominate National Security Council Agenda

The management and future of Her Majesty's Prison (HMP), Grand Turk, took centre stage at the latest meeting of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) National Security Council (NSC), held on Thursday, 25 September 2025.

Members received a detailed briefing from representatives of the Ministry of Public Safety and Utilities on the prison's capacity challenges, the state of the wider prison estate, and proposed immediate, medium, and long-term measures to address them. The Council acknowledged the pressures on the system and endorsed short-term proposals while also supporting a broader

appraisal to ensure that infrastructure investment is effectively targeted to meet the needs of a growing prison population.

The Council also considered a series of other key security matters:

Updates from the Unified Command on ongoing multi-agency operations, including the legal framework underpinning joint efforts across the national security apparatus.

A briefing from the Permanent Secretary for National Security on the review of the liquor licensing regime, with members agreeing to further examine proposals for restructuring the



National Security Council Members take part in the recent meeting to look at overall security of the country.

system.

A presentation by the Commanding Officer of the Regiment on the development of a maritime operational base and docking facility, aimed at enhancing command-and-control capabilities and response to maritime incidents and disasters.

An update from the National Security Threat Lead on the upcoming Northern Caribbean Security Summit to be hosted in TCI under the theme "Dismantling Illicit Maritime Activities Through Enhanced Cooperation". Members endorsed the summit and pledged support for its success.

The meeting was co-chaired by Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Sel-

varatnam and the Hon. Premier Charles Washington Misick OBE at the Office of the Governor in Providenciales. Also in attendance were the Hon. Deputy Premier, the Hon. Attorney General, the Commissioner of Police, the National Security Advisor, the Permanent Secretary for National Security, the Commanding Officer of the Regiment, the Director General of the Border Force, and the National Security Threat Lead. Apologies were received from Her Excellency the Deputy Governor.

Invited participants included the Hon. Minister and Permanent Secretary for Public Safety and Utilities, along with the Superintendent of the Department of Correctional Services.

Digicel

A Dynamic Mobile Service provider seeks to recruit for the following post:

Job Title: Laboure.

Reports to: Business Manager.

Job Purpose: To carry out general laboring duties.

Key Responsibilities:

A Laboure responsibilities include:

1. Loading and uploading material either into storage or across the property. This will involve manual handling of heavy and/or awkward objects.
2. Adapting to variety of tasks could include cleaning our properties, organizing storage, cleaning windows and other general duties as required.
3. Assist Sales department with daily task.
4. At all times comply with company policies, procedures and instructions.
5. Contribute to improving the business, protecting and enhancing the reputation of the company, by putting forward new ideas and, when requesting them to do so, implementing change.

Compensation

USD\$17,300 per annum.

Deadline:

Positions open to all qualified Turks and Caicos Nationals. Interested applicants can forward their resumes to hrtci@digicelgroup.com The closing date for applications is October 24th 2025.

Griffiths & Partners Welcomes Devon McLean to the Firm

Griffiths & Partners has announced that Devon McLean has joined the firm as a senior attorney, bringing with her a wealth of international experience across litigation and non-contentious matters.

Devon was called to the Bar of Ontario, Canada, and is admitted as an attorney in both the Turks and Caicos Islands and Massachusetts, U.S.A. She is an active member of the legal community, serving on the Bar Council of the Turks and Caicos Islands Bar Association, as a founding member of Women in Law of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and as a member of the Commonwealth Lawyers Association.

Before returning to the Turks and Caicos Islands, Devon practiced in Ontario in both private practice and in-house roles, where she gained broad experience managing complex disputes and providing strategic advice.

At Griffiths & Partners, Devon will focus on employment law, debt enforcement, property disputes, and professional liability, while continuing her full-service approach to client matters. She regularly appears before the courts and tribunals of the Turks and Caicos Islands, including the Court of Appeal.

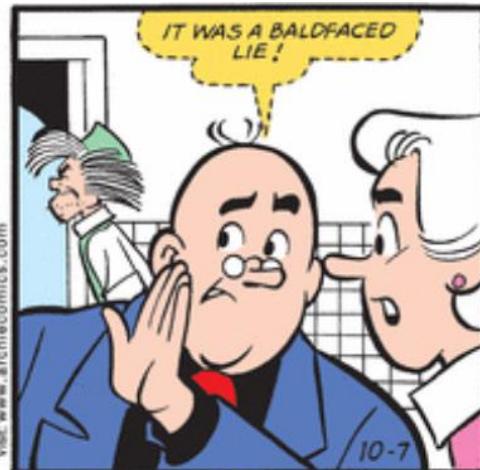
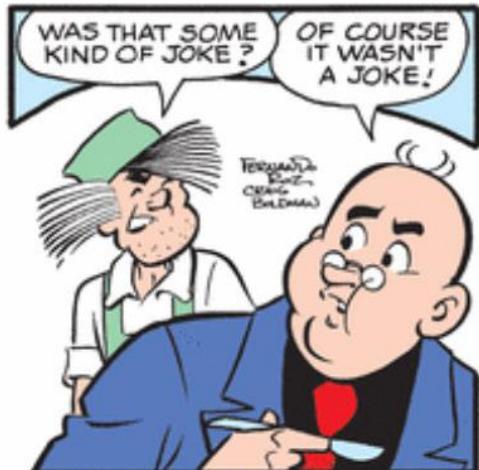
Conrad Griffiths, Senior Partner of Griffiths & Partners, commented:

"We are pleased to welcome Devon to Griffiths & Partners. Her international background, combined with her commitment to the development of the profession in the Turks and Caicos Islands, will be a great asset to our clients and our team. This is a particularly exciting time for the firm as we look ahead to becoming part of Dentons, the world's largest global law firm, and Devon's arrival further strengthens our capabilities and expertise."

With her appointment, Griffiths & Partners continues to build on its strong reputation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, offering clients high-quality legal services across contentious and non-contentious matters.



Devon McLean

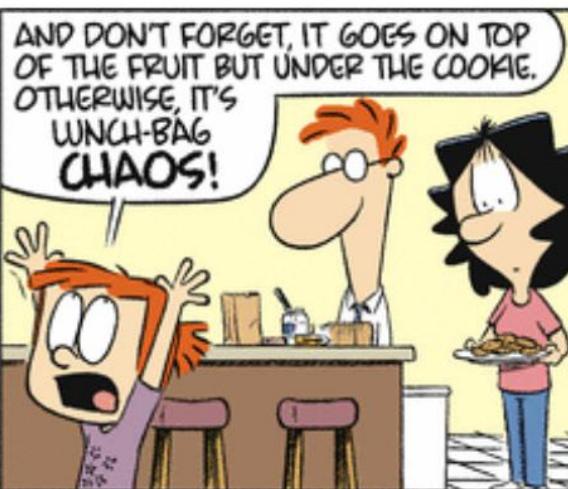


NEWSLINE TCI COMICS



I HAVE NO WORDS
TO DESCRIBE THIS DAY.

I DO HOWEVER,
HAVE A
LOT OF
**HAND
GESTURES!**



"I'D TELL YOU WHAT I DID IN SCHOOL, BUT I THINK IT'D BE LESS PAINFUL IF YOU JUST READ THE NOTE."



TURKS HEAD CACTUS

NEWSLINE[®]
Heritage



A living emblem of our islands—resilient, unique, and deeply rooted in our natural heritage.

The Turks Head cactus (*Melocactus intortus*) is one of the most recognizable native species in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Topped with a bright red, woolly cap called a cephalium, this unusual cactus has long been associated with the identity of the islands. Its striking crown, said to resemble a Turkish fez, is widely believed to be the inspiration behind the name “Turks Islands”

Often found clinging to sun-baked coastal cliffs or growing among the rocky limestone terrain, the Turks Head cactus is a survivor of harsh conditions. Its thick, green body is covered in vertical ribs and stiff spines, adapted to conserve water and withstand long dry periods. From the red cephalium, small pink flowers bloom, followed by bright red fruits that attract birds and insects.

This cactus is more than just a natural curiosity – it is a national symbol. The Turks Head cactus is featured on the Turks and Caicos Islands’ flag and coat of arms, a reflection of its deep connection to the land. It represents not only the islands’ natural heritage but also the strength and uniqueness of the environment that shaped it.

Although still relatively common in some areas, the species faces growing pressure from land clearing and rapid development. Conservation groups and the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) have warned of the need to protect native habitats and preserve plant populations before they decline further. The public is urged not to disturb or remove the cactus from the wild and to support preservation efforts wherever possible.

In addition to its symbolic and ecological value, the Turks Head cactus quietly plays a role in local biodiversity. Its fruit provides food for birds, and its flowers support pollinators – small but vital interactions that help maintain the balance of the islands’ ecosystems.

Rooted in dry soil and crowned in red, the Turks Head cactus stands as a quiet emblem of Turks and Caicos – resilient, distinct, and deeply connected to the story of these islands.

References:

Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Turks and Caicos Islands Government
Plants of the Eastern Caribbean (Botanic Gardens Conservation International / Kew Gardens Project)
The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species
“Wild Plants of the Turks and Caicos Islands” by Sara and Mark Putnam
TCI National Symbols – Turks and Caicos Islands Government Information Service (GIS)
Caribbean Biodiversity Information Network (CBIN)



THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, YOUTH, SPORTS & CULTURE

NATIONAL YOUTH AWARDS 2025

Youth with Purpose: Building a Sustainable TCI

Celebrate Excellence. Nominate Today!

Ages 12–35 | Individuals & Youth Groups
Recognizing leaders, achievers & changemakers

Scan the QR Code to Nominate

To nominate yourself or
someone, access the form
by clicking the QR code or
the use the link below



Nominations close: November 10th, 2025
Nominate a deserving young person today!
Contact info: youthdepartment@gov.tc





The Community Fellowship Centre

This week in Newsline Featured Church, we shine the spotlight on the Community Fellowship Centre church, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The Community Fellowship Centre, which also operates a school – the Community Christian Academy – is led by Pastor Bradley Handfield, who is also a trained teacher. Community Fellowship Centre conducts a series of engagements during the course of each week, starting with divine service on Sunday at 9a.m. On Thursday between 5a.m. and 6a.m. is early morning prayer meeting. Between Monday and Friday at 12noon is midday prayer meeting. Monday to Friday between 7p.m. and 9pm.m, is Bible study, while Youth Meeting is held on Friday.

FEATURED CHURCH



Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International

Lee Street, South Caicos.
Telephone: 649-348-3581

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 Prophesy,
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 Prophesy,
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, Providenciales
Tel:941-4349

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

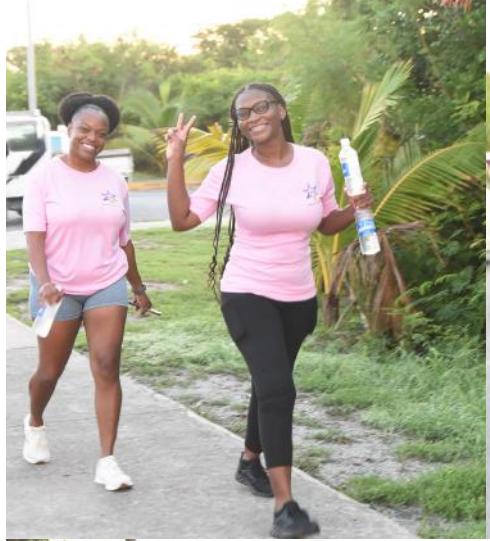
*Editor's Note: If your Ministry is not listed
and/or you would like for it to be part of the
NEWSLINETCI Church Diary,
contact us at:contact@newslinetci.com*



HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE CANCER AWARENESS RUN/WALK/RIDE

Awareness Month, and the Turks and Caicos Islands is truly playing its part in ensuring awareness is promulgated. On Saturday, October 4, the National Cancer Society staged its Cancer Awareness Walk/Run/Ride event in Grace Bay, Providenciales. The event began from the Graceway Gourmet Parking lot to Leeward and back. The event was attended by genuine athletes and amateur, plus bicycle riders. The following are photo highlights of the event.





GUT HEALTH ISN'T JUST ABOUT BLOATING

Your gut is connected to your skin, mood, hormones, and immune health

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos When we think about gut health, bloating usually gets all the attention. But your gut does much more than digest food. It affects nearly every system in the body.

A healthy gut supports your immune system, hormones, mental clarity, and even your skin. It's where 70% of your immune cells live and where most of your serotonin (your feel-good neurotransmitter) is made.

If your gut is struggling, you might notice symptoms beyond digestion:

- Skin flare-ups like acne, eczema, or rashes
- Brain fog, anxiety, or low mood
- Constant food cravings or energy crashes
- Irregular periods or hormonal imbalances
- Low immunity or frequent illness

Even subtle issues like fatigue after meals, bloating at the end of the day,

or trouble focusing can be signs that your gut needs attention. Inflammation in the gut can trigger a cascade of imbalances that go far beyond the digestive system. That's why it's so important to address it gently and consistently. Not with restriction, but with nourishment and nervous system support.

Ways to support your gut daily:

1. Eat 20–30 diverse plant foods each week

This helps feed good bacteria and strengthen your microbiome.

2. Include fermented foods

Yogurt, kimchi, kefir, or sauerkraut offer natural probiotics.

3. Chew slowly and eat in a calm state

Digestion starts in the mouth and depends on a relaxed, safe environment.

4. Avoid over-sanitising and over-restricting

A balanced gut needs exposure, nourishment, and variety—not fear-based elimination.

5. Reduce processed foods and refined sugar

They can feed unhelpful bacteria and contribute to leaky gut.

Your Gut Talks Long Before It Yells

You don't have to wait for bloating, pain, or intense symptoms to begin supporting your gut. Tiny shifts like more plant diversity, chewing slowly, and eating without distractions can send signals of safety to your entire system.

Your gut is like a garden. With the right soil and rhythm, it grows strength that touches everything else: your mood, your skin, your immunity, your ener-

gy. Don't wait until things feel "off". Support your gut now, and your whole body will thank you.

For grounded tips that go beyond the bloat, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

Monica Uttamchandani is a certified Holistic Health Coach based in the Turks and Caicos Islands, supporting men and women in creating grounded, nourishing lives, one breath at a time. She also consults in person at The Elephant Rooms in Salt Mills, Providenciales.



DEAR ADVISOR

A New Feature from NewslineTCI

You, our readers, have been asking for an advice column to help address the diverse challenges you face in everyday life. In response, we have assembled a team of advisors who have generously volunteered their time to answer your questions and concerns. Topics will include love and interpersonal relationships, psychological well-being, environmental issues, education, and more.

Managing Long-Distance Relationships

Dear Advisor,

I am seeking your guidance on managing a long-distance relationship. While we care deeply for each other, the physical distance often makes it challenging to maintain connection and closeness. There are times when loneliness and doubt creep in, and I wonder how best to nurture our bond across the miles.

Could you kindly share your advice on how to keep the relationship strong, healthy, and meaningful despite the distance?

Sincerely,
Heartfelt Wanderer

Dear Heartfelt Wanderer,

Thank you for your heartfelt letter. Managing a long-distance relationship can indeed be challenging, but it is also an opportunity to strengthen communication, trust, and patience. Here are a few suggestions that may help:

Communicate with intention – Regular and honest conversations matter. Use different channels—calls, video chats, messages—while bal-

ancing quality with frequency.

Build trust through transparency – Share your daily experiences, even the small things, so your partner feels included in your life.

Set shared goals – Discuss the future, visits, and milestones you both look forward to. Having something concrete to anticipate helps bridge the emotional distance.

Maintain independence – Continue nurturing your own personal growth, friendships, and hobbies. A strong individual life makes the relationship more fulfilling.

Create rituals – Whether it's a weekly video dinner, a nightly goodnight text, or exchanging letters, these routines can provide comfort and consistency.

Remember, distance doesn't have to weaken a relationship, it can deepen it by teaching both partners resilience and commitment. Stay patient, compassionate, and clear in your communication.

Warm regards,
Advisor

they mean well and want the best for us, but sometimes their advice or expectations feel more like demands. This is putting a strain on my marriage, because my spouse and I occasionally disagree on how to respond. How can we set boundaries without hurting feelings? How do we honor and respect our families while still making decisions that are right for our home? I want peace, but I also want our marriage to grow stronger without outside pressures dividing us.

Sincerely,
"Overwhelmed Newlywed"

Dear Overwhelmed Newlywed,

What you are experiencing is not uncommon, especially in the early years of marriage when both families still feel closely tied to your lives. It's important to remember that while extended family can offer support and wisdom, your marriage is its own sacred circle—and protecting that circle is not selfish, but necessary.

Start by having an honest, calm conversation with your spouse. Share your feelings openly, and listen to theirs without judgment. The two of you must decide what your shared priorities are and where your limits need to be. Once you're united, it becomes easier to approach extended family with clarity and confidence.

When speaking with in-laws, use gentle

but firm communication. Acknowledge their care, "We appreciate your advice" or "We're grateful you want to be involved", but then state your decision as a couple: "We've decided this is what works best for us." By using "we" language, you show that you and your spouse are aligned, which reduces the chance of being pulled in different directions.

It may help to pick your battles. On smaller matters, compromise to show goodwill. On major issues, stand firm together. Boundaries are not walls to shut people out; they are healthy guardrails that keep relationships respectful and loving.

Lastly, remember that peace doesn't always mean agreement. Sometimes peace means lovingly saying "no" and standing by it, even if others are disappointed. Over time, most families learn to adjust and respect a couple's independence. Protecting your marriage ultimately benefits everyone, because a strong, united couple creates a stronger family network.

Take heart, you are not alone. With patience, clarity, and compassion, you can build a marriage that honors family while remaining true to the life you and your spouse are creating together.

Warmly,
The Advisor

es, or even how we raise our children. It's becoming overwhelming, and when I try to please everyone, I end up feeling drained and resentful.

The hardest part is that I don't want to come across as disrespectful or ungrateful. I know

Dear Advisor is an advice column designed to offer thoughtful solutions to everyday challenges, personal dilemmas, and complex life situations. Whether the questions involve relationships, career choices, self-improvement, or navigating difficult decisions, Dear Advisor provides clear, compassionate, and practical guidance to help readers move forward with confidence. Dear Advisor uses pseudonyms rather than your real name, to protect your identity.

Reach out to this column at: contactnewslineTCI.com, using the topic 'Dear Advisor'.

A Thrift Store Reimagined

TCI Red Cross Opens “Red Hot and Thrifty”

The TCI Red Cross celebrated the official opening of its new thrift store, marking a significant milestone in its ongoing mission to strengthen communities through compassion and innovation.

The Red Hot and Thrifty store reimagines the traditional thrift shopping experience, offering quality pre-loved clothing, household items, and accessories at affordable prices, where every purchase directly supports the programs and services of the TCI Red Cross, including disaster preparedness, youth engagement, and community resilience initiatives.

The launch marked an exciting new chapter in sustainability, community empowerment, and humanitarian support across the Turks and Caicos Islands. TCI Red Cross Patron, Her Excellency the Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, who officially cut the ribbon to open the store, was joined by Her Excellency the Deputy Governor Anya Williams, esteemed Board Members, dedicated volunteers, and valued community partners and supporters.

In a welcome remark at the event, TCI Red Cross Director Candianne Williams stated, “This store is more than just a place to store, it’s a beacon of sustainability, dignity, and community resilience. We all understand the environmental cost of fast fashion.

Globally, clothing waste contributes over 1.2 billion tons of greenhouse gas emissions each year. Here in the Turks and Caicos Islands, we are choosing a different path, one

that values reuse, repurpose, and respect.” Williams emphasized that the store is a lifeline for many, serving as a bridge between compassion and community care. “Red Hot and Thrifty is a space where great items find new homes, where donations become acts of kindness, and where shopping becomes a dignified experience for all,” she said.

“We believe that everyone deserves the joy of choosing something beautiful, regardless of their circumstances.”

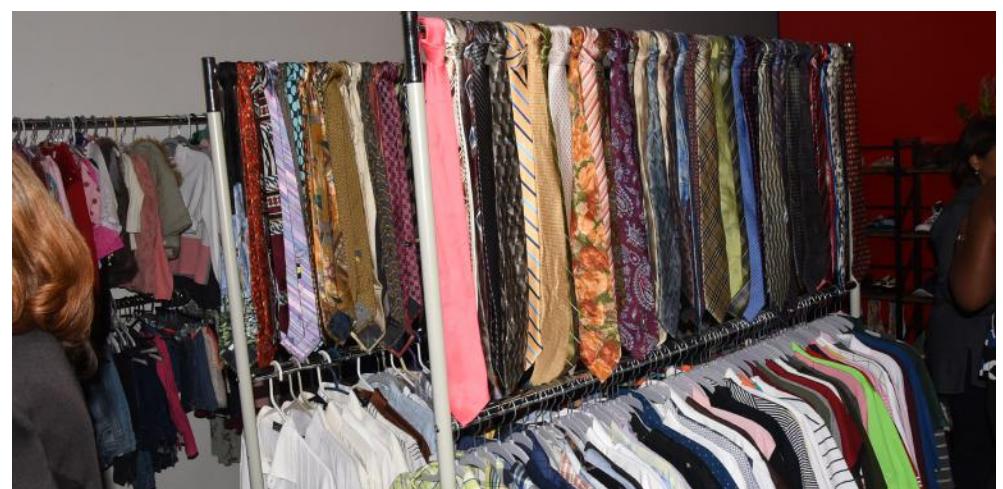
Through partnerships with Social Development, the TCI Border Force, Department of Rehabilitation and Community Services, Witness Protection, DECR, Police Stations, the Safeguarding Unit, TCI Hospitals, NGOs, and churches, the TCI Red Cross continues to support individuals and families facing crises, from fires and displacement to personal hardship.

As part of its Community Wellbeing Program, the organization has introduced Kindness Credit Vouchers, empowering individuals to shop with dignity. These vouchers are distributed on a referral basis through partner agencies and are also available for purchase by the public, allowing anyone to give the gift of kindness to friends, family, or those in need of support.

Her Excellency the Governor also shared her reflections on the occasion, “It is a privilege to open the Red Cross Thrift store, a place that truly embodies the three Ds we celebrate: discretionary effort, donations, and dignity. The discretionary effort of the



Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (fourth from left) cuts the ribbon to officially open the Reimagined Red Cross Thrift Store. From left - Monette Collymore, Esther Hamilton (1st 2 volunteers), Deputy Governor, Paula Garland (thrift store manager), Candianne Williams (director), Dawn O'Sullivan (chair), and L.A. Cardinal (volunteer).



Member of Parliament and Former Minister of Tourism Hon. Josephine Connolly (right), and Candianne Williams of the Red Cross at the event.

Red Cross team and its dedicated volunteers drive everything this organization achieves, from advancing environmental sustainability to providing vital crisis response and support. Their volunteer spirit is the backbone of our community and should not be underestimated.”

She added, “Donations, of time, goods, or funds, are the lifeblood of the Red Cross.

Without them, this important work simply could not continue. As we approach Christmas, I encourage everyone to embrace the gift of giving and support the Red Cross in any way they can.”

“And finally, dignity, when individuals and families have lost everything, the Red Cross stands beside them, not only to meet their needs but to restore their sense of worth and hope,” her Excellency concluded.

Looking ahead, the TCI Red Cross will host its highly anticipated Red Hot Fashion event on November 15th at The Palms Resort on Providenciales, a runway celebration of sustainable style featuring local designers, volunteers, and community members.

The store also collaborates with creative local initiatives such as Kite Bags and Anya Willique, breathing new life into old materials and promoting environmental responsibility. The organization also plans to further integrate its Youth Program into climate adaptation and sustainability education.

The TCI Red Cross invites residents to donate their gently used items, volunteer their time, and visit the Red Hot and Thrifty store to discover unique finds, all while helping to make a difference in the community, one purchase at a time.

The thrift store is located at Sunshine Plaza on Leeward Highway and is open Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., and on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. For more information and updates on new arrivals and community highlights, follow @redhotandthrifty on Instagram and Facebook.



Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam was impressed with the store



Member of Parliament and Former Minister of Tourism Hon. Josephine Connolly (right), and Candianne Williams of the Red Cross at the event.



Sponsors and organizers of the Caribbean Food and Wine Festival toast the 15th staging of the event, during a news conference at the Grace Bay Club Resort.

15th Annual Caribbean Food & Wine Festival Set to Dazzle Patrons

The Turks and Caicos Islands will see one of the Caribbean's most anticipated celebrations of taste, talent, and togetherness as Grace Bay Resorts and The Wine Cellar present the 15th Annual Caribbean Food & Wine Festival (CFWF) from November 4–9, 2025. Now celebrating a remarkable 15 years of culinary excellence, the festival continues to bring together world-renowned chefs, celebrated winemakers, and the best of Caribbean hospitality for six unforgettable days of inspired dining, fine wine, and island magic.

This year's lineup features James Beard Award-winning Chef Jeremiah Langhorne, Chef Justin Fourton, and Turks and Caicos' very own Culinary Ambassador, Chef Nikita Skippings each bringing their artistry and passion to the tables of paradise.

The festival's international flavors will be complemented by an impressive roster of winemakers, including Katie Madigan of St. Francis Winery, Curtis McBride of 689 Cellars, and Martin Armour representing Veuve Clicquot, offering expertly curated pairings for every event.

"This collaboration is built on a shared love for extraordinary food, exception-

al wine, and the incredible people of Turks and Caicos," said Tony Garland, Operations Manager of The Wine Cellar. "The energy and excitement this festival brings each year is truly unmatched. We want to highlight our partners and say a big thank you to the committee for bringing what we only imagine to life."

New for 2025: Three Signature Events, One Unforgettable Celebration

The 15th Anniversary edition introduces three exciting new events that celebrate Caribbean culture, community, and creativity in spectacular fashion.

Taste of Turks – Led by Chef Nikita Skippings, this vibrant opening event celebrates the authentic flavors and culinary heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Turks Head Jerk Festival – A lively, family-friendly showcase of Caribbean street food culture featuring local jerk stations and the irresistible aromas of island spice.

Salt, Sand & Fire: A BBQ Feast by Chef Justin Fourton – This extraordinary new signature event promises to make history with the longest dining table the Caribbean has ever seen, set on

the award-winning Grace Bay Beach. Every dish on the menu will "touch the smoke," showcasing the primal art of open-fire cooking in a breathtaking seaside setting.

"It's important that our events highlight the rich culture and flavors of the Turks and Caicos Islands," said Chef Frank Castleton of Grace Bay Club. "We're especially thrilled to add these new experiences, each paying tribute to the Caribbean's culinary soul."

Festival Partners and Sponsors

The 2025 Caribbean Food & Wine Festival is proudly supported by The Palms, The Shore Club, Graceway, Wymara Resort + Villas, The Marine Room, and Coyaba Restaurant who share the festival's passion for excellence, hospitality, and community impact.

"Fifteen years strong, and the excitement only grows," said Nikheel Advani, COO of Grace Bay Resorts and long-time co-chair of CFWF. "This milestone year reflects the very best of our islands the people, the food, and the spirit of togetherness that defines Turks and Caicos. We could not do this without the support our partners and the community."

"Every year, we look forward to add-

ing our flair to the Gourmet Safari," shared Chef Sekar of The Palms Turks and Caicos. "Guests can expect an unforgettable showcase of culinary creativity and island elegance."

Chef Luis Duarte-Penaloza, Executive Chef at The Ritz-Carlton, Turks & Caicos, added, "We're new partners and we are honored to be part of this and to help write the next chapter in this incredible festival's legacy."

Over six extraordinary days, guests will experience elegant dinners, exclusive tastings, intimate beach events, and world-class wine pairings all set against the stunning backdrop of Turks and Caicos' crystal-clear waters and white-sand beaches.

Proceeds from the festival benefit a charitable foundation that provides scholarships and mentorship opportunities for aspiring chefs and hospitality professionals across the Turks and Caicos Islands, ensuring the future of culinary excellence shines bright.

Tickets and full event details are available at:

www.caribbeanfoodandwinefestivaltc.com

or by calling 649.232.1594.

Follow the flavor:

@cfwfci | @foodandwinetc

Ritz-Carlton

Wellness Redefined: From Luxury to Lifestyle

Once considered an indulgence reserved for weekends, wellness has evolved into an essential part of modern living. Over the past decade—and especially in the wake of the pandemic—well-being has become a shared priority. Individuals are reimagining what it truly means to live well, from the nourishment they choose to the ways they work, move, and connect with others.

Health, as defined by the World Health Organization, is not merely the absence of illness, but a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being. Today's wellness movement embraces this holistic view, weaving together nutrition, mindful movement, emotional balance, financial confidence, and spiritual fulfillment into one harmonious pursuit of vitality.

The digital age has brought both connection and fatigue. Constant notifications and an “always-on” culture have left many yearning for intentional stillness. The pandemic, too, reminded us of the importance of preventive care, emotional resilience, and the power of simple, restorative practices.

Now a multi-trillion-dollar global industry, wellness extends from fitness and nutrition to mindfulness, mental health, and wellness travel. Yet, the most profound changes often require no price at all—daily movement, nourishing meals, time spent in nature, and meaningful human connection remain the true cornerstones of well-being. Pillars of Modern Wellness:

- **Mindful Movement:** Engage in activities you genuinely enjoy—whether yoga, dance, or a simple walk—to make movement a natural rhythm of life.

- **Digital Boundaries:** Set aside device-free moments to restore mental clarity and presence.

- **Meaningful Connections:** Nurture friendships and family bonds, proven foundations of long-term happiness and health.

- **Self-Compassion:** Recognize that rest, reflection, and play are not luxuries—they are essential acts of care.

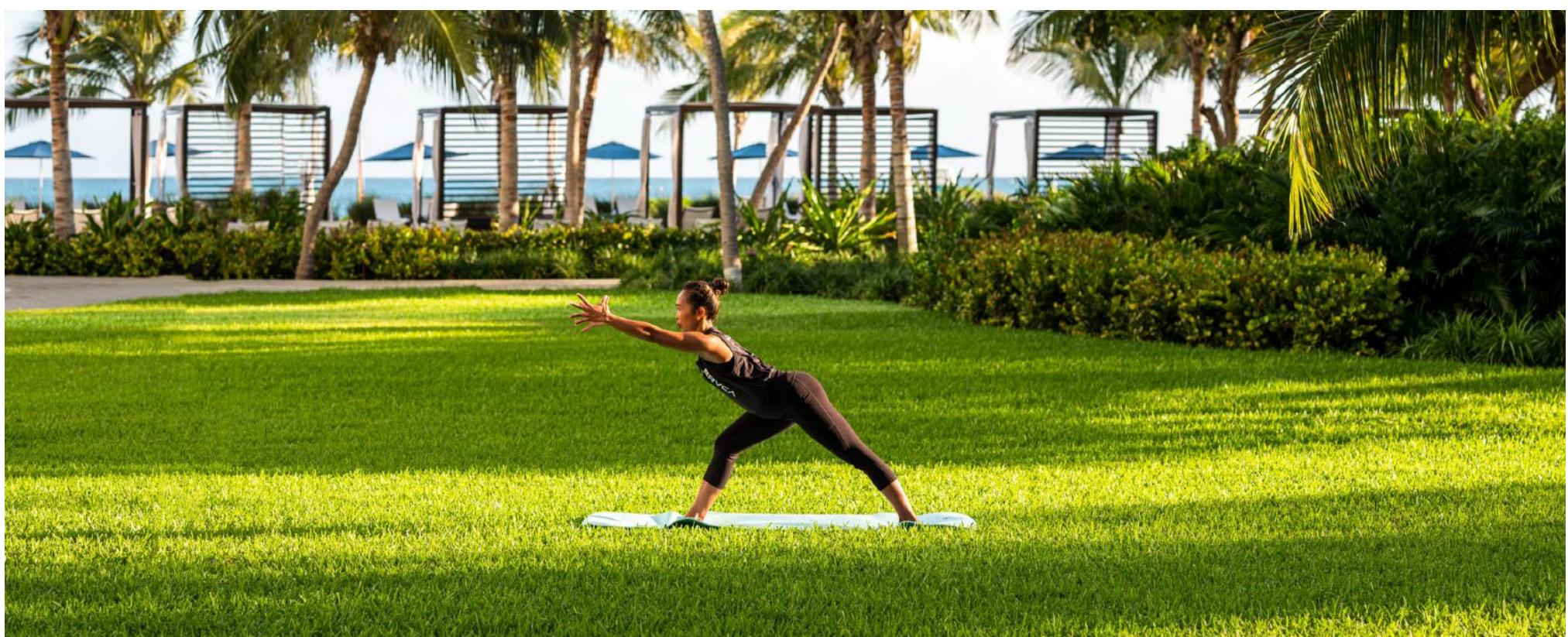
Well-being extends beyond the individual. Thoughtfully designed cities with green spaces, workplaces that honor balance, and communities that ensure access to care all cultivate environments where people can truly flourish.

This cultural shift redefines what it means to succeed. True achievement now encompasses the depth of our relationships, the vitality of our bodies, and the serenity of our minds. In an ever-evolving world, wellness is no longer a fleeting trend—it is the foundation of a life well-lived.

At The Ritz-Carlton Spa, Turks & Caicos, the art of well-being is both elevated and personal. With world-class treatments, tranquil design, and intuitive care, the spa invites guests to disconnect from the demands of daily life and reconnect with themselves—restoring balance, rejuvenating the spirit, and setting a lasting course toward holistic wellness.



Osama Soliman SPA Manager,
The Ritz-Carlton, Turks & Caicos



Sickle cell warriors are survivors

THREE YEARS ago, Latoya Minott Smikle's world plunged into darkness. After five-and-a-half years of fighting courageously, her son Aiden-Jon Hall passed away due to complications of the deadly Sickle Cell Disease in 2022.

From her painful loss, she has transformed her healing into establishing the Aiden-Jon Amir Hall Foundation, which is seeking to raise \$1 million this year to provide financial support to six individuals with sickle cell disease.

The foundation, launched under the patronage of the Custos Rotulorum of the parish of Manchester, Lieutenant Colonel Garfield Green, is also looking to raise awareness about the disease.

Sickle cell disease is an inherited blood disorder that arose thousands of years ago in Africa to provide a protective advantage against malaria. In the early 1900s, western medicine identified the characteristic sickled red blood cells and in 1949, scientists discovered the underlying cause: a mutation in the haemoglobin protein.

The disease's connection to malaria is why it disproportionately affects populations with African ancestry, and in the 1960s and 1970s, it became a significant focus of the civil rights movement due to its widespread impact on communities of colour.

During her fourth pregnancy, Minott Smikle, now mother of five, learnt that her four-week-old baby had sickle cell disease. At the time, she also found out that she, her partner, and their three other children were carriers of the sickle cell trait. Subsequent checks would later reveal that it was likely her mother who had the sickle cell trait.

"The Aiden-Jon Amir Hall Foundation was

founded in August 2024 as a personal and spiritual action, as a response to the struggles of persons in central Jamaica, especially small children who are ailing with sickle cell disease," Minott Smikle said.

One of our objectives is to provide, not only medical and support-based activities to sickle cell warriors, but to provide a scholarship for at least one child living with the disease who is proven to be resilient in his or her studies despite the limitations imposed upon him/her by the disease," she added.

Minott Smikle said they envision a world where every child living with sickle cell disease has access to the care, support and opportunities they deserve; free from stigma, isolation, need and inequality.

"Through increased public awareness, early intervention and community-driven advocacy, we will strive to create a future where challenges of the disease are met with compassion, understanding and lasting solutions," Minott Smikle said.

Aiden-Jon she said, was a happy, loving and playful boy who loved helping others even at his age. "He was a real charmer with the ladies and they liked to give him flowers. He was with us for a short while, but was like an angel, touching the lives of so many adults and children alike. He was five and a half, when he left us. His memory remains as a key motivation for the work at hand," Minott Smikle said.

Dr Martina Clarke-Robe, public health specialist at the Trelawny Health Department who was a presenter at the launch held recently, said one in 150 Jamaicans have sickle cell, while one in 10 are living with the trait. Many of those who have the trait, she said, have never been sick, while persons living with sickle cell can be

described as sickle cell warriors.

"A person with sickle cell disease experiences chronic pain from sickle cell crises, increased susceptibility to infections, and other complications like anaemia, stroke, and organ damage," Dr Clarke-Robe said. "A hallmark of the condition is painful episodes, known as sickle cell crises, caused by blocked blood flow through blood vessels. An abnormally shaped red blood cell shortage can lead to more serious infections, requiring preventative antibiotics and vaccinations. Shortages of healthy red blood cells result in anaemia, causing extreme tiredness. Potential long-term issues include stroke, eye problems, organ damage, and painful swelling of the hands and feet," she added.

Minott Smikle said other objectives include promoting sickle cell disease testing, spreading the word about SCD online; in schools; in communities; in churches and GOs and NGOs through workshops; give SCD warriors a voice to share how they feel with the formation of support group

and a community where they can get not just help but counselling and building and engaging communities.

Their vision also includes partnering with entities such as the Sickle Cell Unit to share best practices and research information.

Minott Smikle said it is also their intention to lobby the Ministry of Labour Welfare and Social Security to include sickle cell disease on the list of disabilities. This she said can be supported by the fact that SCD patients suffer long-term medical impacts that often time render them incapable of working or to be out of work and school for extended periods of time.

The foundation's first major event and its main fundraiser will be held on October 25 at the Church Teachers' College poolside in Manchester; while the final activity for the year will be a warm clothes treat for sickle cell warriors. Blankets, sweaters, hot/water bottles, socks, etc, will be provided to help with the upcoming cold season.



**Sickle Cell Disease
an Overview**

Diabetics, stop testing just your sugar

TOO OFTEN in clinics across Jamaica, a patient walks in and says, "Mi sugar good", pointing to a blood glucose result from a week ago. But when I ask about their HbA1c, kidney function, cholesterol, or eye screening, they haven't done them. Sometimes not in years.

Here is the truth: if you're only checking your blood sugar, you're not really managing your diabetes.

Glucose checks are important, but they're just one snapshot. Diabetes is a full-body disease, and it needs a full-body approach. Without regular, comprehensive testing, serious complications can creep in silently: kidney failure, nerve damage, blindness, amputations, heart attacks, strokes.

And by the time symptoms show up, the damage is often harder and more expensive to reverse.

WHAT IS A FULL DIABETIC PANEL?

A full diabetic panel goes far beyond a finger prick. It gives you and your doctor the full picture of how your diabetes is affecting your body. It typically includes:

. HbA1c: Shows your average blood sugar over three months (not just one day).

. Kidney function tests: Creatinine and urea to catch early kidney damage.



. Urine microalbumin: Detects tiny amounts of protein in the urine, a silent sign of kidney stress.

. Cholesterol panel: Diabetes increases your risk of clogged arteries and heart disease.

. Liver function tests: Important for patients on certain medications.

. Electrolytes: Imbalances can be dangerous, especially if you are on diuretics.

. Eye and nerve screening referrals: To catch complications before they cause vision loss or numbness.

WHY JAMAICANS CAN'T AFFORD TO SKIP THESE TESTS

Jamaica has one of the highest diabetes

rates in the Caribbean. But many people are being falsely reassured by 'normal sugar' readings while silent damage continues. Even worse, many only find out something is wrong when it is too late when they are in the hospital, losing a limb or on dialysis. A full diabetic panel is not a luxury, it is a necessity, and it's now more accessible than ever. At MDLink, we've made it easy to book your full panel online, do your test discreetly at a lab or at home, and get fast results with digital doctor support. No guessing. No runaround. Just answers.

If you are living with diabetes, demand more than just a sugar check. Book your full diabetic panel today at www.themdlink.com or visit our accredited diagnostic laboratory. If your doctor hasn't ordered one yet, ask them: "Doc, how do we know if diabetes is affecting my kidneys, heart, or nerves?" Because managing diabetes is not just about today's sugar reading. It is about protecting your future.

Dr Ché Bowen is a medical doctor, digital health entrepreneur, and CEO of MDLink Group Ltd. He leads innovations in lab testing, telemedicine, and e-prescription technology across the Caribbean. Contact: drchेबोवن@themdlink.com

Join our team

Food and Beverage Manager

Job Specification:

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

Job Requirements:

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

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

Sean 'Diddy' Combs' lawyers want him sent to a New Jersey federal prison that offers drug treatment



Sean 'Diddy' Combs' lawyers want the hip-hop mogul sent to a low-security federal prison in New Jersey to serve his four-year, two-month prison sentence, telling a judge Monday that the facility's drug treatment programme will help him stay clean. In a letter, Combs' lawyers urged the judge presiding over his case, Arun Subramanian, to "strongly recommend" that the federal Bureau of Prisons place Combs at FCI Fort Dix, a massive prison located on the grounds of the joint military base McGuire-Dix-Lakehurst.

FCI Fort Dix, one of several dozen federal prisons with a residential drug treatment programme, will best allow Combs "to address drug abuse issues and to maximise family visitation and rehabilitative efforts," Combs lawyer Teny Geragos wrote. Also Monday, President Donald Trump told reporters that Combs had asked him for a pardon. Trump, referring to Combs by the nickname "Puff Daddy," did not say if he would grant the request. Messages seeking comment on Trump's remarks was left for Combs' lawyers and his publicity team. Combs' sentencing Friday on charges he transported people across state lines for sexual encounters capped a federal case that featured harrowing testimony about violence, drugs and so-called "freak-offs," and exposed the sordid private life of one of the most influential figures in music.

The "I'll Be Missing You" singer was convicted in July under the federal Mann Act, which bans transporting people across state lines for any sexual crime. His trial ended in a split verdict, with acquittals on sex trafficking and racketeering charges that could have put him behind bars for life. Combs has been locked up at a federal jail in Brooklyn, the Metropolitan Detention Center, since his September 2024 arrest. His time there will be subtracted from his sentence, meaning he could get out in about three years.

In a letter to Subramanian on the eve of sentencing, Combs said he has gone through a "spiritual reset" in jail and is "committed to the journey of remaining a drug free, non-violent and peaceful person."

"I thank God that I'm stronger, wiser, clean, clear and sober," he wrote.

Subramanian has not yet acted on the request to recommend placement at FCI Fort Dix.

Judges often make recommendations about where inmates should serve time, but it's up to the Bureau of Prisons to decide. Those decisions, the agency has said, are based on a variety of factors, including the severity of the offence, the required security level and an inmate's programming needs.

FCI Fort Dix, the largest single federal prison by population with just under 3,900 inmates, is about 64 miles (103 kilometres) southwest of New York City, where Combs was born and rose to fame as a rapper and entrepreneur in an array of businesses, including fashion, television and liquor. An adjacent minimum-security prison camp has 210 inmates.

Combs once owned a home in New Jersey, selling it nearly a decade ago.

His primary residence, according to court papers, has been a \$48 million mansion on an island near Miami. That home and a mansion he owns in Los Angeles were raided by federal agents last year during the investigation that led to his arrest.

FCI Fort Dix has been home to a number of high-profile inmates over the years, including reputed mobsters, drug traffickers, corrupt politicians and "Pharma Bro" Martin Shkreli. For a time, it was run by the warden who had been in charge of a Manhattan federal jail when financier Jeffrey Epstein killed himself at the jail in 2019. That warden, Lamine N'Diaye, has since retired.

In 2021, a 27-year-old Fort Dix inmate was stabbed in the eyeball by a fellow prisoner. In 2019, a Fort Dix inmate, a former inmate and two other people were arrested for using a drone to smuggle in contraband including cellphones, tobacco, weight-loss supplements and eyeglasses. The same year, a Fort Dix correctional officer pleaded guilty in a separate case to pocketing bribes to smuggle in contraband.

During his time at Fort Dix, Shkreli ended up in solitary confinement amid allegations he was using a contraband smartphone to run his drug company from behind bars.

Inmates are forbidden from conducting business and possessing cellphones.

Bad Bunny kicks off 'SNL' 51st season with new faces, jabs at Super Bowl critics

Bad Bunny kicked off the 51st season of Saturday Night Live with a few timely jokes about his next high-profile gig: the Super Bowl.

"I think everybody is happy about it – even Fox News," the music superstar quipped in his monologue, referring to opposition in some quarters to his being named headliner of the Super Bowl halftime show.

He segued into a few sentences in Spanish, expressing Latino pride and joy over the achievement, after which he noted: "If you didn't understand what I just said, you have four months to learn!"

Bad Bunny will be making history by performing entirely in Spanish, a landmark moment for Latino culture.

Launching a season that introduces some new faces in the cast, the show's cold open featured a sketch mocking Defence Secretary Pete Hegseth's presentation to generals earlier this week. Weekend Update host Colin Jost played Hegseth, highlighting the defence secretary's remarks in which he said it's "tiring to look out at combat formations or really any formation and see fat troops" and said it was unacceptable to see fat generals and admirals at the Pentagon.

"No fatties, no facial hair, no body



Benito Antonio Martinez Ocasio (aka Bad Bunny) attends the première of 'Caught Stealing' at Regal Union Square in New York on Tuesday, August 26.

hair," Jost's Hegseth said. "Just hot, shredded hairless men who are definitely not gay ... Because this is serious, we are facing the greatest threat to freedom and democracy the world has ever known. And we all know what that threat is."

Late Night TV! replied with James Austin Johnson as President Donald Trump, bursting in. "'SNL' 51 off to a rough start," Johnson's Trump add-

ed. "Seventeen new cast members and they got the 'Update' guy doing the open."

Looking to the future

After a fanfare-filled 50th season celebrating the past, Saturday Night Live is looking to the future with a cast that includes five new featured players. Ben Marshall, already an SNL writer, becomes a featured player, along with newcomers Tom-

my Brennan, Jeremy Culhane, Kam Patterson and Veronika Slowikowska.

Bad Bunny is having what can only be described as an enormous week: in addition to hosting SNL, he's coming off a historic residency in Puerto Rico. The Puerto Rican artiste has said one of the reasons his residency bypassed the continental US was a concern that US Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials could target immigrants for deportation outside his shows.

Asked Friday by a podcaster whether ICE officials would be conducting enforcement at the Super Bowl, Homeland Security Secretary Kristi Noem said they would, because DHS "is responsible for keeping it safe".

The issue made for a key joke in the Weekend Update segment. "A Trump adviser said ICE agents will attend the Super Bowl after Bad Bunny was announced as the half-time performer," noted co-host Michael Che, then quipping: "You know, to catch all those farmworkers who can afford Super Bowl tickets."

In his second SNL hosting gig, Bad Bunny was joined by musical guest Doja Cat, making her début in that role.

AI-assisted album submitted in Reggae Grammy category

When the list of albums accepted for consideration in the Best Reggae Album category of the Grammy Awards is revealed today, an AI-assisted album could very well make the list.

The album is titled Dem Can't Stop My Joy (Rastafari Forever) by Adrian Donsome Hanson and Forever Roots Band. The 12-track album was released on August 29 under Donsome Records LLC.

Hanson, a well known producer, is not intending to rock the reggae boat with this project, instead he is using AI to his advantage in a world in which artificial intelligence cannot be ignored. The vocals are "refined" by AI with Hanson credited as vocalist. His reason for doing this sounds pragmatic.

"Over the years I've been writing and producing many songs and albums, and one of the biggest challenges has been that most reggae artistes charge a producer to voice on their riddim. Once they collect the fee and record, that's usually the end of their involvement – promotion, marketing, or even sharing the track on social media becomes the producer's burden. You're basically on your own until the song "buss" or takes off," Hanson shared with The Gleaner.

He explained that with this album, which has already passed 45,000 streams on Spotify, he wanted more independence. "I do about 90 per cent of the work myself – building the riddim, writing the lyrics, shaping the melodies, and even recording demo vocals. I also worked with Shan Blair to provide the female vocals ad libs. Then I use AI for maybe 10 per cent of the process – mostly to experiment with sound textures or to adjust how a vocal feels. So it's not a fully AI-driven album; it's human-led from start to finish, with AI only supporting my vision. I control the process, and that human direction is what gives the album its soul," added Hanson.

That 10 per cent, however, was significant enough for him to have to declare it when filling out the forms to submit Stop My Joy (Rastafari Forever) in the Best Reggae Album category of the Grammy Awards.

"What's interesting is that this is actually the first time I'm publicly saying AI was involved. The only place I've declared it before was during my Grammy submission, where I had to explain exactly how AI played a role in the project," Hanson continued.

The use of AI often triggers conversations grounded in ethical/moral concerns. When asked how he reconciled those concerns Hanson said he had none.

"I never asked AI to "make" the project for me. I just use AI to enhance certain parts, whether it's adjusting a sound or shaping a vocal to match the vibe I want. So at the end of the day, the soul and authorship of the music is fully mine," Hanson emphasised.

He added that the human element "is everything in this project" which he described as "freeing" because he didn't have to wait on artistes or features to complete his vision. His message is simple: "If you're going to use AI, you have to lead it and maintain your creativity. Don't let AI lead you."

Grammy watcher Sean 'Contractor' Edwards, who is "from the era of authenticity where reggae has the passion and the cry," noted however, that AI technology is here to stay "and will only grow exponentially in music".

"I see AI as a tool of technology that can be used in music like auto tune, which alters the pitch of vocals. For Grammy eligibility, however, a human must ultimately be the creative force behind the work.

Also, while a song containing AI elements can win, the award itself recognises only the human creators involved, not the AI material," Edwards stated.

First round of voting for the 2026 Grammys takes place from October 3-15. Recording Academy members will vote to determine the nominees across the various categories. The nominees will be announced November 7.



Producer Donsome uses artificial intelligence to enhance vocals on new album



Join our team

THE
STRAND
TURKS & CAICOS

◆ Guest Environment Expert/Room Attendant

Job Specification:

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

Job Requirements:

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

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

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

Gardener/Landscaper

Job Specification:

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

Job Requirements:

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

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

APPLY NOW!

Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

Director of Recreation & Activities

Job Specification:

- Collaborate with staff and clinicians to understand the ways in which activities can promote healing and belonging for our guest
- Conduct needs assessments to ascertain physical, cognitive, and emotional abilities.
- Determine individual interests and expectations regarding leisure time.
- Determine and overseeing the use of available finances.
- Develop an activities programme that is both sufficiently diverse and sensitive to our occupants' requirements.
- Purchase or leasing supplies for all activities.
- Source, training, and monitoring the work of Activities Assistants.
- Advertise events well in advance of their scheduled times.
- Supervise and participate in events alongside staff and occupants.
- Compile reports that outline successes, constraints, and the way forward.
- Demonstrable experience as an Activities Director for a similar group.
- Computer literate, with sound knowledge of budgeting tools.
- Excellent programme, event planning, and supervision skills.
- Upbeat, communicative, and empathetic disposition.
- Committed to fostering well-being and fun.
- Willingness to avail yourself for occasional weekend work.
- Appropriate training and/or certification is highly advantageous.

Job Requirements:

- Must have experience managing Recreation Activities
- Must have 3+ years as a Recreation Manager + demonstrate management certifications
- Must have a good experience in managing diverse teams.
- Must be able to work outdoors: stand for long hours and work efficiently under pressure

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

◆ Rooms Division Specialist

Job Specification:

- Assist management in hiring, training, scheduling, evaluating, counseling, disciplining, and motivating and coaching employees; and serve as a role model and first point of contact of the Guarantee of Fair Treatment/Open Door Policy process.
- Follow all company and safety and security policies and procedures; report accidents, injuries, and unsafe work conditions to manager; and complete safety training and certifications.
- Welcome and acknowledge all guests according to company standards, anticipate and address guests' service needs, assist individuals with disabilities, and thank guests with genuine appreciation.
- Speak with others using clear and professional language.
- Develop and maintain positive working relationships with others, support team to reach common goals, and listen and respond appropriately to the concerns of other employees.
- Ensure adherence to quality expectations and standards; and identify, recommend, develop, and implement new ways to increase organizational efficiency, productivity, quality, safety, and/or cost-savings.
- Enter and locate work-related information using computers and/or point of sale systems.
- Stand, sit, or walk for an extended period of time or for an entire work shift. Move, lift, carry, push, pull, and place objects weighing less than or equal to 25 pounds without assistance.

Job Requirements:

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

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

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

Jnr. Cook

Job Specification:

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

Job Requirements:

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

Salary expectations - \$9.00 - 12.00 per hour

APPLY NOW!

Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

Reservations Manager

Job Specification:

- Team leadership
- Provide leadership, guidance, and direction to the reservation team, including recruitment, training, performance management, and professional development, to foster a high-performing and motivated workforce.
- Reservation management
- Oversee all aspects of the reservation process, including handling inquiries, managing bookings, confirming reservations, and resolving issues or discrepancies, ensuring accuracy, efficiency, and compliance with hotel policies and procedures.
- Revenue optimization
- Develop and implement strategies to maximize room revenue and occupancy levels, including setting pricing strategies, managing inventory, and implementing upselling and cross-selling initiatives to achieve revenue targets.
- Distribution channel management
- Manage relationships with distribution partners, online travel agencies (OTAs), and global distribution systems (GDS), negotiating contracts, optimizing distribution channels, and monitoring performance to increase market share and revenue.
- Forecasting and analysis
- Analyze reservation trends, booking patterns, and market demand data to forecast occupancy levels, identify opportunities for revenue growth, and make data-driven decisions to optimize pricing and inventory management strategies.
- Guest experience enhancement
- Collaborate with other hotel departments, including front office, sales, and marketing, to ensure a seamless and personalized guest experience from booking to check-out, implementing initiatives to enhance guest satisfaction and loyalty.
- Technology integration
- Evaluate and implement reservation management systems, booking engines, and revenue management tools to streamline processes, enhance efficiency, and improve the guest booking experience.
- Reporting and analytics
- Generate reports and analytics related to reservation performance, revenue metrics, and market trends, providing insights and recommendations to senior management for strategic planning and decision-making.
- Quality assurance

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 3-5 years as a Reservations Manager + management certifications
- Must have a good experience in sales and revenue management.
- Must be articulate, professional and able to meet targets set for revenue generation.

Salary expectations - \$50,000 - \$65,000 per annum

PALEIS VAN JUSTITIE



The residents.... 'With this lawsuit, we are saying: enough is enough – we demand protection.'

The Bonaire Climate Case has begun. Residents of Bonaire and Greenpeace Netherlands are facing the Dutch State in court in The Hague today and tomorrow to demand fair climate policy.

The government is violating human rights by failing to provide adequate protection against the effects of climate change. Bonaire is one of the Dutch municipalities hardest hit by the climate crisis. Through the courts, they are demanding that the government reduce CO2 emissions to zero by 2040 at the latest and come up with concrete plans to protect Bonaire.

Residents of Bonaire are already experiencing the consequences of the climate crisis. Judmar Emerenciana, plaintiff in the Bonaire Climate Case:

"I look forward to standing in court opposite

a government that has looked the other way for years. As a taxi driver and tour guide, I drive around the island a lot and notice all the consequences of the climate crisis. Heavy rainfall and flooding have caused streets to flood and roads to become impassable in some places.

"I am concerned about the southern part of the island, where our slave huts and salt pans are located. If this part of the island is flooded, this important cultural and historical heritage will be lost. This will erase a part of our history, which I will no longer be able to show to people. I am not standing here alone, but on behalf of everyone on Bonaire. With this lawsuit, we are saying: enough is enough – we demand protection."

First climate case after groundbreaking rulings

Bonaire Residents, Greenpeace in Court For Climate Change Case

It's the first case in Europe that combines the demand for climate change adaptation measures in an overseas territory and increased mitigation measures to keep warming below 1.5°C.

It also represents one of the first opportunities to see how recent landmark decisions on climate change, such as the International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion on the obligations of states with respect to climate change, will be used in a national court.

In July, ICJ judges unanimously ruled that states must keep global warming below 1.5°C and that their climate plans must show maximum ambition, taking into account historical emissions and national cir-

cumstances.

Current climate policy falls short

Particularly for low-lying islands like Bonaire, keeping global warming below 1.5°C is non-negotiable, it's central to the well-being and livelihood of the residents. The Netherlands' government is currently not complying with the Dutch Climate Act and is instead protecting major polluters by providing fossil fuel subsidies and rolling back climate policy.

The inhabitants of Bonaire and Greenpeace Netherlands demand that the Dutch State make its fair contribution to achieving global climate goals. Given its historical emissions, this means becoming climate neutral as soon as possible, by 2040 at the latest.



Bonaire residents and Greenpeace activists in court

Snapchat users share fury at upcoming fees for storing old photos and videos

"Half of my life is on this app and now they expect us to pay for it."

One-star reviews and a sense of injustice have dominated online discussion since the popular messaging app Snapchat became the latest tech firm to put a price tag on a service people previously enjoyed using for free.

The app's parent company Snap announced in September it would start charging people if they have more than five gigabytes worth of previously shared images and videos saved as Memories.

For many, these retro posts act as a window to the past- leading some to accuse the firm of "corporate greed" in posts on social media and negative reviews on Google and Apple's app stores.

Snap has compared its paid storage plans to those provided by Apple and Google for smartphones.

And as an alternative for those who don't want to pay, users can download their Memories, which for some span tens of gigabytes of data, to their device.

The firm told the BBC only a small number of users would be affected by the changes. It also acknowledged it was "never easy to transition from receiving a service for free to paying for it" - but suggested it would be "worth the cost" for users.

Many criticising the move online seem to disagree.

An online petition dubbed the fee a "memory tax", with commenters calling it "dystopian" and "ridiculous" - while one person threatened never to use the app again.

Meanwhile, in a one-star review on the Goo-

gle Play store, a person calling themselves Natacha Jonsson said it felt "very unethical". "If I know millennials right, most of us have years worth of memories on Snapchat," they said.

"5GB is absolutely nothing when you have years worth of memories... Bye Snap."

And Guste Ven, a 20-year-old journalism student in London, shared on TikTok her plans to delete the app.

"I decided that I needed to download all my memories as soon as I could," she told BBC News.

"Almost all of my teenage years have been documented through my Snapchat memories, all of the photos in there are really important to me."

"It just doesn't make sense to start charging people for something that has been free for so many years."

Snapchat has not yet said how much storage plans would cost in the UK- only that they are part of a "gradual global rollout".

But 23-year-old Amber Daley, who also lives in London, said in a post on TikTok she would be "distraught" by such charges.

Amber told the BBC the app had become "a part of everyday life" since she started using it in 2014.

While she said she understood the platform needed to make money, Amber suggested the Memories feature means more to users than the company may have realised.

'Emotional artefacts'

Companies deciding to charge users for a service that was previously free is nothing new, and millions pay for services like iCloud and Google Drive to backup their photos

and videos from their smartphone. The reality of storing data in the cloud - which some in the tech industry like to refer to as simply "somebody else's computer" - is it costs money.

"Hosting trillions of Memories on Snapchat isn't a trivial amount," social media consultant Matt Navarra told the BBC.

"Snapchat has to try to find a way to cover the cost of storage, bandwidth, back-ups, content delivery, encryption- all that stuff."

Evan Spiegel, Snap's boss, said in September that the company was poised to reach one billion Snapchat users and generate "record revenues"

But Mr Navarra said introducing fees for a service that had previously been free, and users had been encouraged to use as such, may feel like a "bait and switch" for some.

"Moving the goalposts after people have built this huge digital archive doesn't really sit right," he said.

And for many, he added, "Memories aren't just data dumps, they're emotional artefacts".

Dr Taylor Annabell, a postdoctoral researcher at Utrecht University in the Netherlands, said Snapchat's move shows the implications of commercial platforms being used to store sentimental personal content.

"They benefit from this trust, interdependence, and presumption of never-ending access, which even incentivises some users to remain with the platform or continue to use it in order to scroll back through their archive," she told the BBC.

"But these are not benevolent guardians of personal memory."



CCJ president touts value of regional court

NEWLY installed Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) President Justice Winston Anderson on Monday pointed out that even while seven states have continued to take their appeals in criminal and civil matters to the United Kingdom Privy Council, they have increasingly cited and relied on judgments handed down by the regional court.

Speaking during a Special Sitting at the Seat of the Court in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, to commemorate his elevation to the office of CCJ president, Justice Anderson said whilst the accession of the seven remaining jurisdictions is anticipated, this "important phenomenon should not go unnoticed".

"CCJ decisions in the appellate jurisdiction are given favourable treatment and are increasingly being cited and relied upon by judiciaries in countries which have not yet acceded to the appellate jurisdiction," Justice Anderson stated.

He said a recent study indicates that there are at least 450 instances in which courts in non-appellate jurisdiction countries have accepted and relied upon CCJ decisions in numerous areas such as constitutional and statutory interpretation, criminal law and sentencing, enforcement of foreign judgments and awards, commercial law, and adverse possession.

The CCJ was established in 2005 as an appellate jurisdiction and an original jurisdiction. All 12 Caricom member states have signed the agreement establishing the CCJ in its original jurisdiction as the court of first instance which applies rules of international law in respect of the interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty of Chaguanas. However, in its appellate jurisdiction the CCJ serves as



Caribbean Court of Justice President Justice Winston Anderson speaking during a Special Sitting to commemorate his inauguration, at the Seat of the Court in Port-of-Spain, Trinidad, on Monday, October 6, 2025.

the final court of appeal in civil and criminal matters for only five countries — Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana, and Saint Lucia.

On Monday, Justice Anderson said, "the existence of the CCJ has significantly increased the access by Caribbean citizens to final appellate justice".

"For example, there were 19 appeals from Barbados to the Privy Council in the 20 years immediately before 2005. In the 20 years since then there have been 105 appeals from Barbados to the CCJ, an increase of over 450 per cent. In the case of Belize there were 33 appeals to the Privy Council in the 15 years before accession to the CCJ's appellate juris-

diction in 2010. Since then, there have been 56 appeals from Belize to the CCJ, an increase of over 69 per cent," he said.

Justice Anderson said for Dominica, the numbers were three to the Privy Council in the 10 years before joining in 2015 and 10 in the 10 years since then, an increase of 233 per cent. "St Lucia sent one appeal to the Privy Council in the two years immediately before joining the appellate jurisdiction in 2023 and sent five to the CCJ in the two years since — an increase of 400 per cent. The average increase in appeals has been 288 per cent. I should say that Guyana is the court's largest or best consumer of appellate services but the com-

parisons are not easily made, given that that member State abolished appeals to the Privy Council in 1970," he noted.

"On the hypotheses of an average increase of 288 per cent in appeals, there would have been a significantly larger number of CCJ appellate jurisdictions decisions had there been full compliance with the obligation in the CCJ agreement for all member states to join the appellate jurisdiction of the court," Justice Anderson opined.

"Instead of 307 decisions there would have been approximately 1,200 decisions. The opportunity cost of non-accession can therefore be measured in terms of reduced access to justice, which is also a denial of justice. Equally, there is a corresponding loss — the opportunity to fulfil the mandate of the CCJ agreement to develop a Caribbean jurisprudence that is responsive to all areas of Caribbean life," he said further.

In the meantime, Justice Anderson said in the 20 years of its existence, the CCJ has accumulated a significant body of judicial precedence, delivering a total of 347 decisions comprising 40 in the original jurisdiction — including one advisory opinion — and 307 decisions in the appellate jurisdiction.

Justice Anderson, a Jamaican who succeeded former CCJ President Justice Adrian Saunders, was on Sunday, July 6, 2025 officially sworn in as the fourth president of the CCJ during the 49th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of Caricom, chaired by Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness in Montego Bay, St James. He was first sworn in as a judge of the CCJ in June 2010 and was the first Jamaican and the youngest judge ever appointed to the CCJ at age 49.

World Bank says Caribbean economies outpaced economies in Central America

The World Bank on Tuesday said that Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) can break its low-growth cycle by harnessing entrepreneurship to create jobs, boost productivity, and accelerate innovation.

In the latest publication, the financial institution said that constrained by stubborn inflation, rising debt, weak investment, and ongoing global uncertainty, the forecast is for the region to grow by 2.3 per cent in 2025 and 2.5 per cent in 2026, the slowest among global regions.

"Governments in the region have steered their economies through repeated shocks while preserving stability," said Susana Cordeiro Guerra, vice president for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank.

"Now is the time to continue building on that foundation—accelerating reforms to improve the business climate, invest in enabling infrastructure, and mobilise private capital," she told reporters.

According to the publication, titled "Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Review, Transformational Entrepreneurship for Jobs and Growth," the external environment remains challenging, with falling global demand and commodity prices projected to drop around 10 per cent in 2025 and another five per cent in 2026, hurting key sectors.

It said trade policy uncertainty also threatens market access and nearshoring.

Domestically, inflation persists, and public debt is high, with the debt-to-GDP ratio rising to 63.8 per cent in 2024 from 59.9 per cent in 2019. Slower monetary easing in advanced economies is keeping debt servicing costs high and credit expensive, further dampening investment, job creation, and productivity growth.

Against this backdrop, the report calls for domestic reforms to attract investment and promote "transformational" entrepreneurship: high-growth firms that diffuse technology, create jobs, and raise productivity.

"The entrepreneur is the critical actor in development, identifying opportunities, innovating, and taking the risks needed to create value added and jobs," said William Maloney, chief economist for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank.

"Creating more dynamic economies in Latin America and the Caribbean will require strengthening our pipeline of entrepreneurial talent, while undertaking the systemic reforms necessary for them to thrive," he told a news conference on Tuesday.

Although support for entrepreneurship is strong, the World Bank said most firms in the region are micro or small businesses with limited paths to scale, accounting for up to 70 per cent of enterprises in some countries.

It said a smaller group of "transformational" firms could drive productivity and innovation, but face familiar obstacles: scarce financing, heavy regulation, skills gaps, and weak infrastructure.

To stimulate private sector-led growth and jobs, the report proposes a three-point agenda. It said the region needs to invest in human capital, which is critical to job creation.

"Strengthen education quality at all levels and expand managerial support to grow the pipeline of capable entrepreneurs. Scale up short-cycle trainings, align workforce programmes with private sector needs, and update labor regulations to protect workers and support business growth," it said.

The report also calls for supporting policy and regulatory reforms that establish a business-friendly environment.

"Eliminate distortionary subsidies, reform taxes to boost investment, and invest in logistics, energy, and digital infrastructure to lower entry barriers," the report said.

There is also a need to expand access to finance, including private investment, with the report noting that over a quarter of firms face credit constraints, about twice the Organization

for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) rate.

"Strengthen risk-sharing, streamline dispute resolution, and modernize bankruptcy laws to improve capital allocation and protect creditors and entrepreneurs," said the report.

It notes that with the right reforms, Latin America and the Caribbean can foster entrepreneurship to fuel innovation, expand opportunities, and build more dynamic, competitive economies.



William Maloney, World Bank's chief economist for the Latin America and Caribbean region

OMAR'S, GK FOODS TO RUMBLE AGAIN



*Last Season's Champions, Runners-Up Renew
Rivalry in Cricket Senior Men's Final*

See Story on Page 32

Mbappe undergoing treatment for 'small niggle', says Deschamps

Kylian Mbappe is receiving treatment for a "small niggle" in his right ankle after meeting up with his international teammates ahead of the latest round of 2026 World Cup qualifiers, France Coach Didier Deschamps said Monday. The France captain sustained the knock at the end of Real Madrid's 3-1 La Liga victory over Villarreal on Saturday, casting doubts over his availability to the national team for their upcoming qualifying matches against Azerbaijan and Iceland.

"I spoke with Kylian, he had a small niggle but it's not serious, otherwise he wouldn't be here today," Deschamps told reporters at the French team's Clairefontaine base near Paris.

"We will take the time with the medical staff to assess the situation and then see how it develops."

Liverpool defender Ibrahima Konate also underwent tests after coming off injured in the Reds' 2-1 defeat at Chelsea on Saturday.

The pair received treatment on Monday during training and are set to continue treatment on Tuesday, according to the French national team's coaching staff. The French football federation (FFF) also confirmed Paris Saint-Germain forward

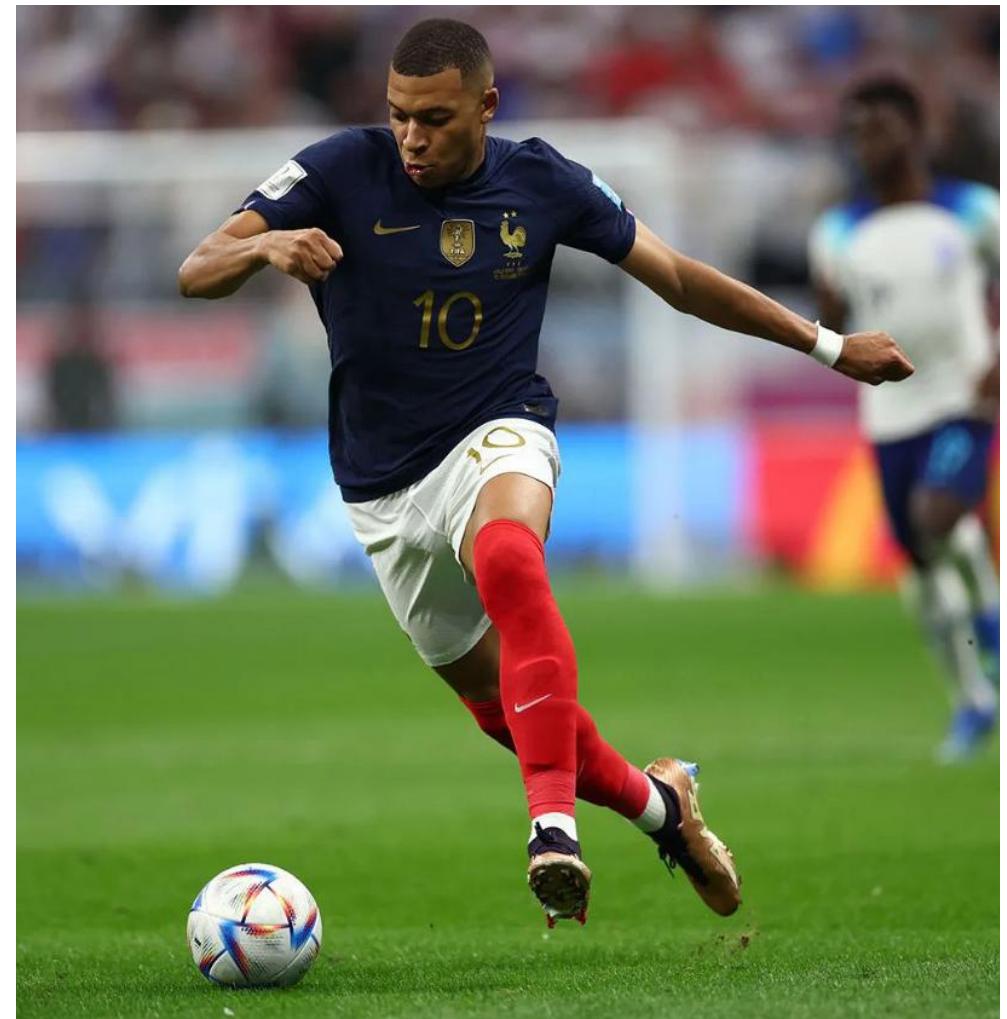
Bradley Barcola would be sent home from Clairefontaine due to a hamstring injury.

"After consulting with the French national team doctor... [Barcola] has been diagnosed with a chronic injury to his right hamstring since Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League match against Atalanta [on September 17]," the FFF said.

PSG then publicly rejected the diagnosis of the 23-year-old by France's medical team.

"The information published in this statement does not correspond in any way to the medical information provided by Paris Saint-Germain's medical teams," the club posted on social media.

"Prior to the gathering [at Clairefontaine] and following the Ligue 1 match day 7 fixture against Lille, Paris Saint-Germain provided the French national team with a medical report on Bradley Barcola that made no mention of any chronic injury following the match against Atalanta." The attacker played 60 minutes of PSG's Ligue 1 draw at Lille on Sunday before being replaced, showing no apparent signs of injury during the encounter. Should Barcola end up facing time on the sidelines, he would be a further ad-



Kylian Mbappe

dition to PSG's lengthy injury list which already includes fellow France forwards Ousmane Dembele and Desire Doue, as well as Marquinhos, Khvicha Kvaratskhelia, Fabian Ruiz and Joao Neves. Last month there was friction between the two parties after PSG criticised the French national team staff following in-

juries suffered by Dembele and Doue during France's opening Group D win over Ukraine.

Les Bleus are top of their group with two wins from two so far in qualifying. They host Azerbaijan on Friday at PSG's Parc des Princes stadium before travelling to Iceland three days later.



Andre Blake (right) of Philadelphia Union holds the Supporters' Shield as he celebrates with teammates on Saturday. (Photo: Philadelphia Union)

Jamaica's national goalkeeper and captain, Andre Blake, has added another major honour to his illustrious career as Philadelphia Union were crowned Supporters' Shield champions in the 2025 Major League Soccer (MLS) season. The Supporters' Shield is awarded to the

team with the best record across the league after the regular season. Philadelphia's triumph comes in a year when MLS saw record spending, led by Lionel Messi's Inter Miami. Despite not matching the star power or payroll of some rivals, the Union, led by their lon-

Reggae Boy Blake lifts Supporters' Shield with Philadelphia Union

gest-serving player, outperformed the rest of the league.

Blake maintained a clean sheet in the decisive match in which they defeated New York City FC 1-0 at Subaru Park on Saturday. It was his third clean sheet in as many games, underlining the defensive consistency that powered the team to the Supporters' Shield.

The trophy is the second Supporters' Shield of Blake's career, following the club's first win in 2020, and further cements his legacy as one of the greatest goalkeepers in MLS history.

"It's just hard work paying off, there's no better feeling," Blake said after the team's title-clinching match. "I always say I prefer team trophies, team accolades over individual accolades. And just being able to celebrate this moment with the team, words can't describe

how I feel right now."

The Jamaican shot-stopper also collected MLS Save of the Month honours in April.

Off the field, Blake recently welcomed a daughter, adding even more joy to a memorable year both professionally and personally.

"Things are going my way right now, and I'm just grateful," he added. "I'm living in the moment, and when it's your time, it's your time."

Blake is set to join Jamaica's Reggae Boyz squad for upcoming FIFA World Cup qualifiers after missing the previous international window through injury. As one of the country's most decorated players his leadership and experience will be key as the Boyz aim to take another step towards World Cup qualification.

Fraser-Pryce announces retirement after historic 18-year sprinting career

Jamaican sprint legend Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce, the most decorated 100-metre sprinter in history, has officially announced her retirement from competitive track and field, bringing the curtain down on an illustrious 18-year career that has inspired millions worldwide.

A three-time Olympic gold medalist and ten-time World Champion, Fraser-Pryce has been a dominant force in global athletics since her stunning breakthrough at the 2008 Beijing Olympics. Her announcement marks the end of an era for one of the sport's most celebrated athletes.

In a statement on Tuesday, the 38-year-old reflected on the central role of time in her life and career. She expressed deep gratitude to God, her family and Jamaica, noting that sprinting had shaped and disciplined her while bringing her "joy beyond measure".

Fraser-Pryce paid special tribute to her husband, Jason, whom she described as her "anchor and greatest

teammate", and to her son Zyon, whose arrival, she said, gave her "a new purpose" and reminded her that her greatest title would always be "mom".

The Waterhouse native also extended heartfelt thanks to Jamaicans for their unwavering support over the years.

"It has been the greatest honour to carry our flag across the world. We may be small, but we are mighty," she said.

Fraser-Pryce emphasised that while her competitive career is ending, her journey is far from over. She plans to focus on advocacy, mentorship and inspiring the next generation.

"My race is not finished; it is simply a lane change," she said.

Fraser-Pryce has accumulated a record-breaking list of achievements. She has won eight Olympic medals and 16 World Championship medals, including five world titles in the 100m, a feat unmatched by any other sprinter, male or female.



Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce



CHASE... I think the systems in the Caribbean are a bit poor in terms of training facilities

Financial struggles and inferior playing conditions in the Caribbean are contributing to the West Indies' poor performances on the cricket field, says Test Captain Roston Chase.

Chase made the comments following his side's humiliating loss by an innings and 140 runs to hosts India inside three days in the opening Test match on Saturday.

However, he maintained that he was not looking for an excuse for his side's recent struggles after they slumped to their fifth Test defeat in six matches this year.

It was also the fourth consecutive Test match that the West Indies had lost inside three days, dating back to the home series against Australia in July.

Speaking in a post-match press

Chase calls for better infrastructure in the West Indies

conference on Saturday, Chase said there was a need for improved infrastructure as well as better pitches and playing conditions.

"...What I would say is that obviously there is a struggle in the Caribbean for finances, so whatever help we can get I hope that they do get it so that they can strengthen the infrastructure for the cricket."

"I think the systems in the Caribbean are a bit poor in terms of training facilities and stuff, but I'm not using that as an excuse or something to hide behind for our poor performances that we've been putting out lately. I still think the onus is on the players to find some way to churn out runs and wickets," Chase said.

The skipper said playing conditions in the region made it difficult for them to be competitive on the international stage.

He said batters in particular found it challenging to score runs, as was evident in the series against Australia where not a single batsman scored a century.

"...The pitches in the Caribbean are not really batsmen friendly, so guys don't really bat for long periods and score those big scores."

"And the outfields in the Caribbean are really slow, so when you hit the ball in the gaps and you think you have four you probably end up with just two, so those are some of the problems that we're faced with in the Caribbean, so that's why you see guys averaging so low," Chase explained.

"If you look at the past series that we had against Australia, I think that's the first time I've ever played an international series and a batsman never scored a hundred in three matches."

Inter-Primary Football League Kicks Off November 1

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands are brimming with excitement as the countdown begins for the return of the Inter-Primary Football League. On November 1, 2025, the fields will come alive with cheers, colors, and fierce competition as young athletes from across the islands kick off one of the most anticipated sporting events of the school year.

This year's tournament, themed "The Battle Begins," is powered by the Turks & Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) and the Sports Commission, alongside dedicated sponsors Brighter Futures, The Salvation Army, and Grace Bay Car Rentals. Their combined support ensures that the tournament is not only a competition, but also a celebration of community spirit, discipline, and the transformative power of sport.

The Inter-Primary Football League has always been more than a set of matches, it is a meeting ground for schools, families, and entire communities. From Providenciales to North and Middle Caicos, the excitement is spreading as classrooms and playgrounds echo with talk of teams, tactics, and dreams of glory.

The tournament unites a rich mix of institutions: long-standing community schools, private academies, and faith-based establishments. Familiar names like Eliza Simmons, Ianthe Pratt, Ona Glinton, and Enid Capron are preparing their students to step confidently onto the pitch, while schools such as Provo Primary and Thelma Lightbourne are

determined to show their trademark grit. Private schools including Precious Treasures, Shining Stars Preparatory, and the International School bring fresh energy and flair, while faith-driven academies such as Provo Christian, Alpha Christian, and Community Christian promise discipline and determination in every match. Rising contenders like Elite Primary, BEST Institute, and Mills Institute also enter the fray, hoping to carve out their moment of glory and surprise seasoned opponents.

Four Groups, One Dream

The league is divided into four competitive groups. Group A is loaded with teams that know how to handle the pressure of big matches, while Group B is shaping up to be a stage for dramatic clashes where every goal could decide the outcome. Group C will see spirited underdogs battling for recognition, while Group D, though smaller, promises a fierce showdown with teams determined to prove that size does not dictate success.

The road to victory will not be easy. Each school must face off against determined rivals, and the journey from group stages to the final will test not just skill, but resilience, teamwork, and heart.

The Inter-Primary Football League is not only about scoring goals, it is about shaping character. The discipline of training, the joy of teamwork, and the resilience learned in both victory and defeat are lessons that will last long after the final whistle. For many young players, this is the first step in their football journey, sparking dreams that may one day lead to the national team or even profession-

al careers abroad.

But even more importantly, the league is about togetherness. It is about parents filling the stands, coaches guiding with patience, and classmates rallying around their heroes on the field. Football, in this moment, becomes a unifier, a celebration of youth, potential, and community pride.

When the whistle blows on opening day, the Turks and Caicos Islands will witness not just the start of a tournament, but the beginning of new memories, friendships, and stories of triumph. The battle for primary school glory is about to begin, and with it comes a season of unforgettable football.



TCIFA'S REF HEAD PATRICE SENIOR REPRESENTS TCI IN CONCACAF WORKSHOP

Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) Council Member and Head of Referees, Patrice Senior (6th from left), recently participated in the Concacaf Head of Refereeing Workshop. This particular workshop plays a crucial role in Concacaf's overall strategy to continue elevating the level of refereeing across the region. It serves as a platform for sharing essential knowledge and insights aimed at equipping Member Associations to lead their refereeing departments with greater clarity and strategic focus.





The GK Foods Team take time for a team photo shortly after defeating the Police in the second semifinal at the Downtown Ball Park on Sunday, October 4.



Baranidharan Thirunavukkarasu of KG Foods accepts his Man of the Match Award from Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey

Omar's and GK Foods Set for Repeat Showdown in TCICA Cricket Final

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The stage is set for a repeat of last season's championship clash as defending champions Omar's and last year's runners-up GK Foods will once again battle for supremacy in the Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association (TCICA) Senior Men's Competition Final. The second semifinal, played on Sunday, October 5, 2025, at the Downtown Ball Park in Providenciales, saw GK Foods earn their ticket to the final with a gritty win over the Mighty Police.

GK Foods Survive Police Challenge

After winning the toss, Police opted to bowl first, hoping to capitalize on early conditions. Their strategy initially paid off as GK Foods struggled to build momentum, eventually being bowled out for a modest 115 runs in 19.1 overs.

The batting effort was anchored by Baranidharan Thirunavukkarasu, who struck five bound-

aries in his 31-run knock, while Vijah Daniel chipped in with 15 runs that included three crisp fours. However, frequent wickets kept GK Foods on the back foot.

The Police bowlers delivered a disciplined performance, led by Aaron Charlie with 3 wickets for 32 runs from his 4 overs. Sabuton John was even more economical, snaring 3 wickets for just 14 runs. Lyndon Tyson chipped in with 2 for 22, while Hayden Spring and Damian St. Ange took a wicket each to round out the innings.

Police Falter in the Chase
Chasing 116 for victory, Police appeared confident but faltered against a determined GK Foods bowling unit. They were bundled out for 93 runs in 18 overs, falling 22 runs short of the target.

Garvin Bruno tried to rally the chase with 18 runs, striking four boundaries, while all-rounder Sabuton John added 17 runs with two fours. Yet, their efforts were not enough to withstand

the pressure applied by GK Foods' bowlers.

Leading the charge was Ashok Kumar, who claimed 3 wickets for 28 runs from 4 overs. The spin duo of Ganesan Kuthalingham (2 for 19) and Baranidharan Thirunavukkarasu (2 for 11) tightened the screws. Brothers Ariharan and Naga Kuthalingham chipped in with a wicket apiece to close out the innings. For his all-round performance – 31 runs with the bat and 2 wickets for 11 runs with the ball – Baranidharan Thirunavukkarasu was named Man of the Match, a fitting recognition for his match-winning contributions.

A week prior, Omar's booked their spot in the final after getting by Air Cool in the semifinal. A Familiar Final Awaits
The victory means GK Foods advance to face Omar's, setting up a highly anticipated rematch of last season's final. Last year, Omar's prevailed to lift the title, but GK Foods will be determined to turn the tables and

claim redemption.

The TCICA has announced that the exact date of the final will be shared soon on its official Facebook page, where fans are encouraged to follow for updates.

With both teams boasting proven match-winners and a fierce rivalry renewed, cricket fans across the Turks and Caicos Islands can look forward to another enthralling battle for the championship crown.

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