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VOLUME 7 ISSUE 13

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**ALLEGED HUMAN
TRAFFICKING
COUPLE
GRANTED BAIL
PG2**



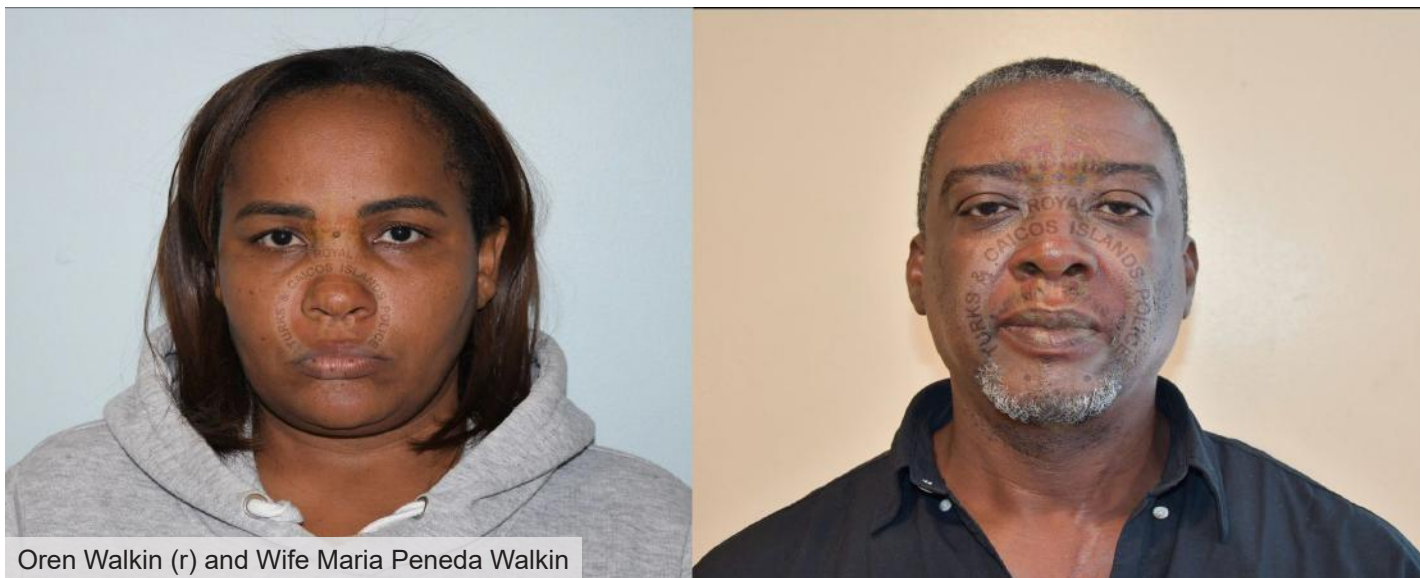
**TURKS AND CAICOS
ISLANDS
NOMINATED FOR 9
WORLD TRAVEL
AWARDS - PG11**

WE HAVE A PROBLEM

- **Students Struggling in Math and English**
- **Experts Say Students Know Math Concepts But Cannot Articulate It On Paper Because They Do Not Read**
- **TCI Education Leaders Call for Data-Driven Reform**

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Husband and Wife Accused of Human Trafficking Granted Bail in Turks and Caicos



Oren Walkin (r) and Wife Maria Peneda Walkin

A husband and wife accused of human trafficking were granted bail today, March 25, 2025, during their appearance before a Magistrate in Providenciales.

Oren Walkin, 50, and his wife, Maria Pineda de Walkin, 45, both of South Dock Road, Providenciales, were each granted bail in the

amount of \$50,000 with one surety. The couple is facing multiple charges related to human trafficking, controlling prostitution, and operating a brothel.

As part of their bail conditions, the Walkins must surrender all travel documents, are prohibited from leaving the Turks and Caicos

Islands without first obtaining permission from the court at least 24 hours in advance, must report to a designated police station on specified days and times, reside at a specified location, notify the court of any change in their residential address, and must not contact the victims in any form, whether di-

rectly or through third parties acting on their behalf.

Oren Walkin is charged with eight counts of Trafficking in Persons and one count of Keeping a Brothel Used for Prostitution. He was arrested on October 11, 2024.

Maria Pineda de Walkin faces eight counts of Trafficking in Persons, six counts of Controlling Prostitution for Gain, and one count of Keeping a Brothel Used for Prostitution. She was arrested on March 20, 2025, by officers from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force's Serious Crimes Unit.

The case has been adjourned to May 2, 2025, for a Sufficiency Hearing, where the court will determine whether there is enough evidence for the matter to proceed to trial.

The charges have sparked growing concern across the territory, as authorities continue their investigations into human trafficking and related offenses.

Justice K. Neville Adderley Appointed Chair of the TCI Judicial Services Commission



Hon. Justice K. Neville Adderley

Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, Governor of

the Turks and Caicos Islands, has announced the appointment of

Hon. Justice K. Neville Adderley M.B. (Ret.) as the new Chair of the Judicial Service Commission (JSC), in accordance with Section 86(2)(a) of the Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order 2021. Justice Adderley's appointment is for a period of three (3) years. He will succeed the current Chair of the JSC, Justice Hilary Phillips, whose term expires on 31st March 2025.

Commenting on the appointment, Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam said: "I am pleased that Justice K. Neville Adderley has accepted the role of Chair of the Judicial Service Commission. With a distinguished judicial tenure, which includes 9 years on the Court of Appeal of the Turks and Caicos Islands, he brings a wealth of experience and is highly regarded across the region.

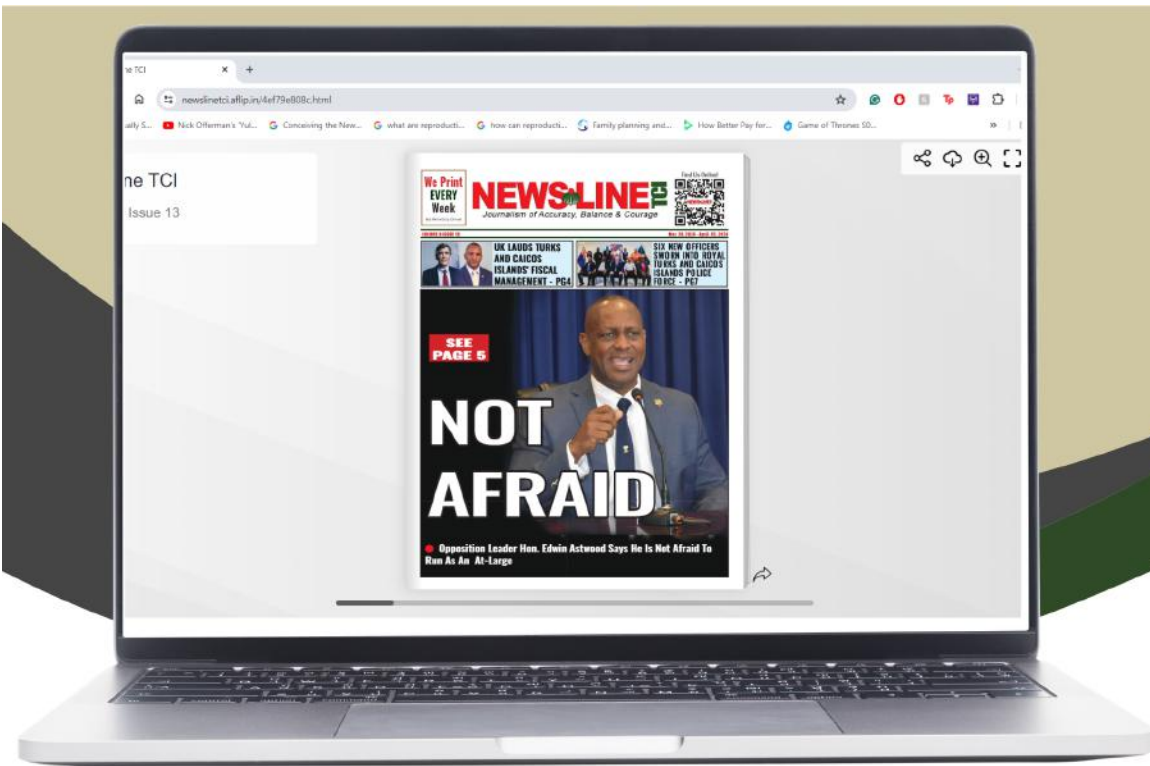
"I am confident that his leadership will continue to uphold the integrity and excellence of our judicial system. I would like to take this opportunity to also express my sincere gratitude to the outgoing Chair, Justice Hilary Phillips, for her dedicated service to the

Judicial Service Commission and her contributions to the development of the judiciary in the Turks and Caicos Islands."

The incoming Chair, in reaction to his appointment, said: "I welcome the opportunity given by Her Excellency, the Governor, to serve in this capacity. Having served on its Court of Appeal for about 9 years including acting as its president, I am personally aware that the Turks and Caicos is a very mature legal jurisdiction with a strong, competent, and impartial Attorney General, Chief Justice and judiciary, and a diverse Bar.

"The jurisdiction deals with a broad range of local and cross-border private and public law matters including constitutional, criminal, civil and commercial law matters of high value. As Chairman of the Judicial Services Commission, I will endeavor to cause Judges and judicial officers to be appointed who will maintain or improve this already high standard."

The instrument of appointment will be published in the Official Gazette.



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Six Turks and Caicos Islands Hotels Among Winners in the 2025 Forbes Star Awards



Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Zhavargo Jolly

Experience Turks and Caicos congratulates the Turks and Caicos Islands properties that are among the winners in the 2025 Forbes Star Awards. Amanyara, Wymara Resort and Villas and Seven Stars Resort were awarded

Four-Star status, given to exceptional properties, offering high levels of service and quality of facility to match. Como Parrot Cay, Grace Bay Club and Somerset on Grace Bay were given a Recommended rating, which awards

them for being excellent properties with consistently good service and facilities.

The Forbes Star Awards is the only independent, global rating system for luxury hotels, restaurants, spas and ocean cruise ships. The awards are determined following visits by incognito inspectors who pose as everyday guests.

They test hundreds of exacting standards that emphasise exceptional service, which accounts for 70 percent of a property's rating. The quality and condition of the facilities account for the remaining 30 percent. The inspectors also assess the intangibles that helps guests to have an unforgettable experience.

Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, congratulated the six properties stating: "Turks and Caicos continues to set the bar for luxury travel, and these awards reaffirm our place among the best in the world. Congratulations to our winning properties and to the dedicated teams that make these achievements possible."

"Their commitment to excellence ensures that Turks and Caicos remains the premier destination for discerning travellers. With several new luxury resorts on the horizon, we are poised for even greater success, creating more opportunities for our people, enhancing visitor experiences, and strengthening our reputation as a leader in high-end hospitality."

Mrs. Stacy Cox, CEO of the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) said: "The TCHTA is very proud of our properties and the consistently high standards they continue to uphold to make the Turks and Caicos a sought-after destination. Every year, our own Star Awards are dedicated to showcasing the excellence across the hospitality sector from the exceptional cuisine to the amazing service that puts us among the best in the world. Congratulations to the six properties and I look forward to seeing even more on that list in the future."

In 2025, Five-Star, Four-Star and Recommended awards honoured more than 2,000 properties in 85 countries.

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<p>◆ Guest Service Expert/Host</p> <p>Job Specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Take food and drink orders from customers accurately and with a positive attitude. • Write patrons' food orders on order slips, memorize orders, or enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff. • Engage with customers in a friendly manner. • Knowledge of the menu, with the ability to make suggestions. • Ensure tables are enjoying their meals and take action to correct any problems. • Collect payments from tables. • Prepare checks that itemize and total meal costs and sales taxes. • Help food preparation staff when necessary. <p>Job Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be able to speak English. • Must have 3-5 years experience as a Server. • Must have good interpersonal skills. • Must have experience working in busy restaurant environment. • Must be able to stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure. <p>Salary expectation - \$9.00 - \$11.00 per hour</p> <p>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</p>	<p>◆ Restaurant Supervisor</p> <p>Job Specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist in the hiring and training of new employees as well as the continuous training of existing staff. • Oversee both front and back of house operations, including wait staff, kitchen crew, and bussing staff. • Maintain high-quality food standards. • Oversee our kitchen staff's compliance with all health code and sanitation requirements. • Provide exceptional customer service and lead staff to do the same. • Respond to customer complaints quickly and resolve them effectively. • Develop strategies for improving our customers' dining experience. • Work with staff to project future needs for kitchen supplies, goods, and cleaning products. • Maintain inventory of all needed supplies. • Identify methods our restaurant can use to cut waste, decrease costs, and improve profits. • Manage the work schedules of our restaurant's staff. <p>Job Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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. <p>Salary expectation - \$34,320- \$38,000 per annum</p>	<p>◆ Maintenance Technician</p> <p>Job Specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inspecting machinery, equipment, buildings and systems, including heating, ventilation and air conditioning. • Performing routine cleaning and sanitising, including specialist cleaning of delicate or high-value items such as entry systems, security equipment, lifts and escalators. • Completing small repairs such as fixing locks, leaky taps and broken windows. • Checking and maintaining safety equipment such as fire alarms, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors. • Performing grounds maintenance such as mowing lawns, trimming bushes and replacing exterior light bulbs. • Inspecting and troubleshooting problems and issues reported by clients or colleagues. • Maintaining vehicles, tools and equipment required to perform the role effectively. • Following a maintenance schedule to ensure that all routine tasks are completed. <p>Job Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must have 2-3 years working in the Maintenance or Mechanical departments. • Must have a good experience in problem solving and fixing issues as required within the hotel environment, water waste, carpentry, mechanical issues, maintenance and fixtures. <p>Salary expectations - \$22,000 - \$35,000 per annum</p>
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Students Struggling in Math and English: TCI Education Leaders Call for Data-Driven Reform

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief



Taylor highlights need for leaders to cultivate authenticity, influence, and data-driven decision-making to enhance school culture and student outcomes

Turks and Caicos Islands' Ministry of Education is ramping up efforts to improve student achievement amid growing concerns over underperformance in critical subject areas like mathematics and English.

At the heart of the response is a nationwide push for data-driven school leadership and targeted instructional reform.

This comes after a three-day workshop from Monday, March 24 to 26, hosted at Beaches Resort, which brought together principals, vice-principals, and education officers from across the territory. The workshop, themed "Reimagining School Leadership: Leading with Purpose", focused on reshaping school management practices to support student success and raise the overall quality of education.

Worrying Trends in Student Achievement

According to Kaydean Cunningham, Quality Assurance Manager at the Ministry of Education, recent exam results from the Caribbean Secondary Education Certificate (CSEC) and the Caribbean Primary Exit Assessment (CPEA) have painted a troubling picture.

"When you look at the performance of students in math and English, it's a worrying trend," Cunningham said. "Math is especially concerning. It's on a downward path. English, while slightly better, has also started to decline. We want our school leaders to look at their own data and ask: Why is this happening, and how can it be improved?"

She stressed that the ministry is not assigning blame but rather urging schools to assess their individual situations and work collaboratively to improve learning outcomes.

"It's not about whether we're pleased or not pleased," she added. "It's about shifting the mindset and using data to make informed decisions."

Embracing a Culture of Data

One of the central goals of the workshop was to encourage school leaders to embrace a data-driven culture, using performance metrics to guide resource allocation, instructional strategies, and school-wide reforms.

"Data is crucial to see where we are as a country and where we want to go," said Cunningham. "From school inspections to international reporting, data needs to be at the core of everything we do."

Michelle Agard, Manager of Policy and Planning, expanded on this point. "Data is the new oil," she said. "It's not personal. It's not about saying a principal is bad or a teacher is bad. It's about looking at the facts and planning strategically."

Agard emphasized that international agencies such as UNESCO and CARICOM are not interested in individual school stories but in national performance data.

"If we can't show that we're taking steps to improve, it affects our funding and our global perception," she noted.

Addressing Language Barriers and Comprehension Challenges

A recurring issue highlighted during the workshop was the impact of reading comprehension and language diversity on student performance. With a multicultural population that includes Haitian (French) Creole and Spanish-speaking students, many learners struggle to fully engage with English-language instruction. Cunningham explained that many students know the content but fail to apply it effectively in exams.

"They struggle with comprehension. It's not that they don't know the math, it's that they can't understand what's being asked."

To combat this, the Ministry is investing in differentiated instruction—an approach that customizes teaching to meet students at their individual levels. Pilot programs are already being launched at both public and private schools, with training for teachers in full swing.

"Differentiated instruction works," said Agard, who previously served in Florida with similar multilingual classroom challenges. "Our job is

to implement it well, support our teachers, and measure the impact."

Partnership Between Schools and the Ministry

While the ministry is taking the lead in policy development, school leaders are being encouraged to conduct internal assessments and communicate their specific needs. The goal is to create a responsive, collaborative system where support is based on real data and school-level realities.

"The ministry can't help if we don't know where the gaps are," said Cunningham. "That's why schools need to look at their data, identify challenges, and work with us to close those gaps."

Looking Forward

The workshop concluded with a renewed sense of purpose among participants, who left with practical tools and strategies to lead meaningful change in their schools. Both Agard and Cunningham emphasized that the journey ahead requires commitment, transparency, and a united focus on what matters most—student achievement.

"We're strategizing for impact," said Agard. "Teaching first. Data-driven leadership second. TCI strong and getting stronger."

For her part, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Hon. Rachel Taylor, has emphasized the importance of transformational leadership in education. She highlighted the need for leaders to cultivate authenticity, influence, and data-driven decision-making to enhance school culture and student outcomes. Taylor stressed that principals and vice-principals must be held accountable, alongside teachers and students, as part of a transparent, inclusive system.

"Key initiatives include increased support for special needs education, introduction of math specialists in primary schools, and expanded access to speech and language therapy through partnerships," she said, adding that the Ministry is also addressing social challenges by offering free lunch, after-school care, and day-care subsidies.

"To inspire the next generation of educators, the government has boosted teacher salaries and expanded internship and scholarship opportunities, making the profession more attractive and accessible," Taylor said.

The Caribbean: Destined to grin and bear consequences

By Ronald Sanders



For decades, many Caribbean nations have grappled with dependence on a small number of powerful countries to supply vital imports, fill hotel rooms with tourists, and grant visas that open doors to opportunity.

These dependencies, while convenient in the short term, have far-reaching implications that undermine the sovereignty, economic resilience, and social cohesion of the region.

The result is a precarious position in which external forces can, at will, stop issuing visas or curtail the flow of remittances, tourism revenues, and imports, thereby threatening local economies and well-being.

Yet, this vulnerability is not imposed solely by big countries outside the region; it is fuelled by our own choices and the persistence of historically ingrained attitudes of dependence.

If the Caribbean is to protect its sovereignty and genuinely chart its own path, urgent action is needed on multiple fronts: strengthening public institutions, embracing import substitution where feasible, boosting food security, and forging deeper regional integration that goes beyond rhetoric.

HIGH COST OF RELIANCE ON FEW SOURCES

Most Caribbean countries have traditionally counted on one or two main trading partners to supply the lion's share of basic goods - food, fuel, and other consumer items. Similarly, the tourist industry often hinges on a narrow band of visitors from North America, and, in some instances, Europe. When these markets thrive, substantial income flows into the region. However, when economic downturns

or political decisions arise in these external sources, local economies can be brought to a standstill overnight.

Adding to this is the strong appetite for visas among Caribbean populations. Many citizens in the region aspire to travel or migrate to a handful of countries; some even sacrifice to ensure that their children are born in these states so it might help secure residence.

There is no denying that social and economic factors underpin this reality. Yet, it inadvertently strengthens these same countries' leverage over Caribbean states. The spectre of visa restrictions or migration clampdowns worries populations who, by this preference, place their personal - and by extension, economic - aspirations into the hands of foreign government policies.

We should note that, it is not a power these foreign governments necessarily seek; it is a power that Caribbean peoples grant by the importance they place on visas and migration.

WEAKENING INDEPENDENCE SOVEREIGNTY

After more than six decades of political independence, Caribbean nations often find their sovereignty limited by those foreign powers on which they still depend. The freedom to determine priorities - be they in food supply, manufacturing policy, or migrant labour regulations - can be undercut by reliance on international tourism, shipping lanes, and external finances.

Additionally, continuing distrust of political governance in the region - often linked to perceptions of corruption, unfair treatment, or non-transparent policies - has eroded public faith. Ironically, many Caribbean citizens remain

more inclined to trust residual colonial-era institutions (such as the British Privy Council) or to seek stability abroad - where they risk facing discrimination and xenophobia - rather than channelling their energies toward homegrown solutions. Collectively, this mindset locks the region into a cycle of dependence and vulnerability.

STRONGER INSTITUTIONS

Breaking these chains of dependency starts with ensuring that public institutions are capable, efficient, and transparent.

The region's public services must curb bureaucratic waste, channel resources more effectively, and provide support for local industries that can scale up and meet domestic demand. This includes building food security, encouraging import substitution, strengthening public services and good governance, and diversifying trade and tourism markets.

CARICOM: FROM TALK TO ACTION

Regional unity, symbolised by the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), has been extolled for decades as the key to addressing persistent vulnerabilities. Indeed, food security, manufacturing, sea and air transportation, and coordinated trade policies are perennial topics on CARICOM's agenda. Yet, the advances have been minimal compared to the region's ever-growing external dependencies. Squabbles between member states, inertia in implementing collective decisions, and the prevalence of insular nationalism undermine the region's potential to pool resources and collaborate on large-scale initiatives.

For the region's sovereignty to be meaningful, CARICOM and its member governments must move decisively from consideration to implementation. Every additional "baby step" is overshadowed by the giant leaps of ongoing external reliance.

EDUCATION AND CULTURAL MINDSET

Despite noteworthy achievements by The University of the West Indies and other institutions, much remains to be done to instil self-belief, civic responsibility, and a willingness to innovate at every level of Caribbean society.

Education must go beyond imparting academic knowledge to embed values of entrepreneurship, resilience, and collective responsibility. It should also build a sense of pride in being Caribbean and an appreciation for our shared cultural heritage.

Caribbean nations must reimagine themselves not just as small states tethered to global powers, but as part of a shared international civilisation with a storied history and a boundless future.

Overcoming tribalism and nationalism to build a strong regional community - and a genuine commitment to it - is not just a political project; it is also a cultural, psychological, and generational one.

COLLECTIVE ACTION TO CHANGE

While there are physical and geographical factors that limit the region, the current vulnerabilities and dependencies that define much of Caribbean economic and social life are neither permanent nor insurmountable. They can be mitigated - if not eliminated - through deliberate, coordinated, and purposeful action.

Governments must enact clear policies to strengthen public institutions and boost local production. Businesses should expand their supplier networks and invest in local production, not just for profit.

CARICOM countries must realise the power and promise of unity; regional economic integration offers a resilient path forward. They must make a reality of all its potential.

True independence cannot thrive on the scaffolding of external reliance. If the people and governments of the region want to exercise full autonomy of their own affairs, they must collectively work to break free from the vulnerabilities that threaten to define us. The alternative is to grin and bear it.

Sir Ronald Sanders is Antigua and Barbuda's ambassador to the US and the OAS. The views expressed are entirely his own. For responses and previous commentaries visit: www.sirronaldsanders.com

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Vivian Tyson - Editorial Department

Turks and Caicos Hosts Historic First International Trade Show, Strengthening Ties with Dominican Republic

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief



Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly (right) speaks with attendees at the Trade Show.

The Turks and Caicos Islands marked a historic milestone on Tuesday with the staging of its first-ever international trade show, the TCI/DR Trade Show, hosted at the elegant Shore Club Resort in Providenciales.

The groundbreaking event brought

together business leaders, exporters, and government officials from both the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Dominican Republic, setting the stage for deeper economic collaboration and regional integration.

Organized by the TCI-DR Trade Al-



Government Backbencher Hon. Willin Belliard talks with members of the local media at the trade show.

liance and its Dominican counterpart, the event was hailed as a success by organizers and participants alike. With more than 30 exporters from the Dominican Republic showcasing goods ranging from construction materials to food products, the show was a bustling marketplace of opportunity for TCI business owners and consumers.

"This is just the beginning," said Norman Hamilton, Director of the TCI-DR Trade Alliance. "We've seen enthusiastic participation from both sides. The level of engagement has surpassed our expectations, and it's clear that there is real appetite for stronger trade ties between our nations."

Hamilton emphasized that the goal of the trade show was to expose local businesses and consumers to the diverse range of products available in the Dominican Republic, many of which offer significant cost advantages due to geographic proximity and economies of scale. "It means opportunity," he said. "Opportunity to lower costs, to diversify suppliers, and to build partnerships."

The event featured remarks from local and Dominican dignitaries, including Hon. Willin Belliard, All-Island Member of Parliament, who has Dominican heritage himself. Calling the event "historic," Belliard noted its significance in helping the Turks and Caicos diversify its trade portfolio amid global supply chain disruptions. "We import more than 80% of our goods from the U.S.," he said. "Establishing a trade

bridge with our neighbor, just 90 miles away, makes both economic and strategic sense."

Sergismundo Morey, representing ProDominicana, the Dominican government's export and investment agency, said the Caribbean is a priority market for the Dominican Republic, and the turnout of 23 exporters—far exceeding initial expectations—is proof of growing interest in the TCI market. "This is the first step of many," Morey said. "Our exporters are seeing real value here."

For Dominican producers, the Turks and Caicos Islands represent a promising and relatively untapped market. The Dominican Republic's strong manufacturing sector, especially in construction and agro-industrial products, is well-positioned to meet TCI's growing demand fueled by a booming tourism and development sector.

Yasmara Mejia, Executive Director of the TCI-DR Chamber of Commerce, who played a central role in organizing the trade show, expressed deep satisfaction with the event's success. "We are so happy," she said. "This is a platform for innovation, partnership, and progress. It's not just about goods—this is about building bridges."

Healthcare was also identified as a potential area for collaboration. Hon. Belliard noted the long-standing relationship between the Turks and Caicos and Dominican healthcare providers such as HOMS Hospital and Plaza de la Salud. "Healthcare from the Dominican Republic has served many of our people for years, and formalizing these relationships further could provide more affordable options for our residents," he said.

Looking ahead, the TCI-DR Trade Alliance is planning reciprocal trade missions, including taking local business leaders to Santiago, Dominican Republic, to tour factories and distribution centers. Organizers also hinted at ambitions to establish a formal trade agreement between the two territories within the next five years.

"This isn't just a trade show," said Mejia. "This is the foundation for something much greater."

As the event drew to a close, the sense of optimism was palpable. From the trade floor to the government benches, the consensus was clear: Turks and Caicos is ready to embrace a new era of regional partnership—and this trade show may just be the beginning.

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No later than the 10th of April 2025.

James McAnally Returned Unopposed as President of the TCHTA



Pictured left to right: Aleisa Walkin, Alexandra Resort; Jeff Morgan, The Palms; Alizee Zimmerman, TCI Reef Fund; Yvette Marcelin, TWA Marcelin Wolf; James McAnally, Beaches Turks & Caicos Resort Villages & Spa; S. Omega Simmons, SOS Media; Nikheel Advani, Grace Bay Resorts; Karen Whitt, The Hartling Group; Lindy Rigby, West Bay Club; Andreas Naegele, Turks & Caicos Collection; Stacey-Ann Wharton-Albert, Sailrock South Caicos; Seated: Gerry Dallas, TKCA Villa Rentals; Todd Foss, Grace Bay Car Rentals; Stacy Cox, TCHTA CEO; Snjezana Andrews, Caicos Wheels; John Hazard, Grace Bay Club; Craig James, Wymara Resort & Villas

James McAnally has been returned unopposed as President of the Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA), securing a second consecutive term as head of the organization.

The AGM was held at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa's Key West Village on March 20, 2025.

His unchallenged nomination reflects the confidence and trust of the association's membership, who have endorsed his continued leadership at a critical time for the nation's tourism sector.

McAnally's reappointment was confirmed during the TCHTA's Annual General Meeting (AGM) and bi-annual Board of Directors Elections, held at the Key West Conference Room of Beaches Resort Villages & Spa in Providenciales.

Addressing members following the announcement, McAnally stated: "It has been a profound honor to serve as President, working alongside this dynamic and dedicated team for the past two years. The work we have accomplished together has laid a powerful foundation, and I am more determined than ever to strengthen our collaboration with the Government and

key stakeholders.

"As we move forward, our unified efforts will pave the way for impactful, sustainable growth and prosperity for our tourism industry and the people of these beautiful islands."

The AGM opened with special guest remarks from Premier Hon. C. Washington Misick, who emphasized the Government's keen interest in building stronger, results-driven public-private partnerships with the tourism sector.

"The collaboration we've enjoyed in the past has served us well, but now it must be turbo-charged to meet the growing demands of a rapidly changing tourism landscape," the Premier said.

He touched on the Government's plans to address issues such as crime, the state of financial services, and the future of the newly established tourism authority, Experience Turks & Caicos.

"Tourism is the heartbeat of our economy, and our commitment is to ensure that we are not only promoting the destination but also protecting its integrity and the wellbeing of all who live and work here," he added.

Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo

Jolly also addressed the gathering, expressing his full support for the association and its initiatives. He shared that the Premier has empowered him to "act audaciously" in his role, assuring members that his ministry is ready to partner with the TCHTA to strengthen the industry.

"My door is open, and I am here to work hand in hand with you," he said.

Following updates from Committee Chairs on key areas such as Advocacy, People Development, Sustainable Tourism, and Marketing, the 2023–2025 Board of Directors was formally retired.

CEO Stacy Cox extended heartfelt thanks to the outgoing board for their service, presenting plaques of appreciation in recognition of their contributions. Election ballots were then cast and counted, resulting in the announcement of the new 2025–2027 Board of Directors:

TCHTA 2025–2027 Board of Directors: James McAnally, President; Stacey-Ann Wharton-Albert, Sailrock South Caicos – Vice President; Gerry Dallas, TKCA Villa Rentals – Secretary; Craig James, Wymara Resort & Villas – Treasur-

er; Lindy Rigby, West Bay Club – Director; Aleisa Walkin, Alexandra Resort – Director; Louella Brezovar-Van Veen, The Ritz-Carlton – Director; John Hazard, Grace Bay Club – Director; Jeff Morgan, The Palms – Director; S. Omega Simmons, SOS Media – Director; Snjezana Andrews, Caicos Wheels – Director; Alizee Zimmerman, TCI Reef Fund – Director; Appointed and Ex-Officio Members; Karen Whitt, The Hartling Group – Director; Nikheel Advani, Grace Bay Resorts – Director; Andreas Naegele, Turks & Caicos Collection – Director; Yvette Marcelin, TWA Marcelin Wolf – Ex-Officio Member; Selvyn Hawkin, Turks & Caicos Airports Authority – Ex-Officio Member; and Marie McKenzie, Carnival Corporation & PLC – Ex-Officio Member.

The position of Chairman, which is customarily held by the Immediate Past President, will be filled by Todd Foss.

The TCHTA has expressed appreciation to its members for their engagement in the nomination and election process and extended special thanks to Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort Villages & Spa for hosting the AGM.

TCI Launches First 3D Printed Weather Station at Long Bay High

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief



Dr. Holly Hamilton (third from left), members of her team and from the DDME are photographed with the 3D printed Automatic Weather Station



Dr. Holly Hamilton (fourth from left), along with administrative staff of the A. Louise Garland Thomas High School, along with other members of the TCI National Weather Service and the DDME share lens at the unveiling of the 3D-printed Automatic Weather Station at the school.

In a groundbreaking step for climate monitoring and education, the Turks and Caicos Islands, on Thursday, March 27, launched its very first 3D printed automatic weather station (3DPAWS) at A. Louise Garland Thomas High School in Long Bay, Providenciales. This historic moment marks a leap forward in both meteorological innovation and community engagement across the islands.

Dr. Holly Hamilton, Director of Meteorology at the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority, and head of the Turks and Caicos Islands National Weather Service, proudly led the launch.

"This is a historic day," said Dr. Hamilton. "3DPAWS is an innovative, low-cost way of expanding our weather observation network, using 3D printed materials to build vital weather-monitoring equipment."

Education Meets Innovation

The decision to launch the first station at a school was intentional. According to Dr. Hamilton, the initiative serves a dual purpose: raising awareness among students about the science of weather observation, while also using schools as strategic sites to gather valuable meteorological data.

"We wanted students to see first-hand how weather data is collected. Schools, especially those with active Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) clubs, are ideal for this educational and practical approach," she explained.

From Concept to Completion

The journey to this launch began last year when Dr. Hamilton reached out to the Director of the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME) to propose the initiative. Represent-

tatives from both the Meteorology Department and DDME then traveled to Barbados for hands-on training in building 3DPAWS.

Supported by the National Corporation of Atmospheric Research (NCAR) and funded through US-AID, the program provided 3D printers and materials to produce 20 stations. The assembly process was spearheaded by Mr. Smith, who dedicated the past month to printing and assembling the components for the first installation.

What the Station Tracks

The 3D printed weather station now active at Long Bay High captures essential data such as:

- Wind speed and direction
- Temperature
- Atmospheric pressure
- Humidity

A rain gauge component is still in development and will soon be added to measure rainfall accurately.

A Broader Rollout

With 19 more stations to go, the plan is to deploy them at additional schools and other key locations across the Turks and Caicos Islands. In addition to weather stations, the team also aims to 3D print storm surge sensors, which are critical during hurricane events and high swell conditions.

"We want to be able to collect storm surge data too," Dr. Hamilton added. "It's vital for understanding and preparing for coastal impacts."

Cost-Effective, High-Impact

The 3DPAWS approach offers a budget-friendly alternative to conventional weather stations, such as the widely used Davis systems or large synoptic stations, which are cost-prohibitive for many small island nations.

"With minimal costs—especially compared to traditional systems—



TCI's first 3D-printed Automatic Weather Station at the A. Louise Garland Thomas High School.

this initiative allows us to stretch our resources and expand our network," she said.

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

The increased volume and quality of weather data will enhance forecasting capabilities, feeding into the development of a localized nu-

merical weather model tailored for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"This is about more than just data," concluded Dr. Hamilton. "It's about building a culture of preparedness and giving our people the tools to better understand and respond to their environment."

The Agency Turks and Caicos Launches its Magazine's Third Edition, Spotlighting Outer Islands and Real Estate Opportunities



Sean O'Neill (second from right) and his team from the Agency seize a photo op during the launch of its magazine's third edition at Jai's Turks and Caicos in Grace Bay.



Leading real estate firm, The Agency Turks & Caicos has launched the third edition of its signature magazine in collaboration with Grey Door Publications, aiming to educate buyers, highlight unique property listings, and promote the untapped potential of the islands beyond Providenciales. The launch took place on Thursday, March 27, 2025, at prominent jewellers and perfume store, Jai's Turks and Caicos, located in Grace Bay, Providenciales.

In an interview with the local media at the launch, Sean O'Neill, Manag-

ing Partner of The Agency Turks & Caicos, described the magazine as part of a broader mission to inform and empower buyers while showcasing the diversity and beauty of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"This is a great opportunity for us to not just highlight some of the listings and great partners we work with," said O'Neill, "but to create a publication that educates people on the purchase process here in Turks & Caicos."

While previous issues have focused on real estate in Providenciales (Pro-

vo), this edition takes a broader view — emphasizing the development prospects in North, Middle, and South Caicos, as well as Grand Turk, where O'Neill himself was born.

"So many people are familiar with Provo, but there's a whole country to explore. This issue lets us dive into the opportunities and growth happening across all the islands."

Among the featured topics is the work of Potcake Place, a beloved local dog rescue and adoption charity, which is prominently showcased in this issue. The inclusion reflects The

Agency's interest in balancing luxury real estate with cultural and community-focused content.

Each edition of the magazine is tailored to current trends and seasonal highlights, and this one, O'Neill said, reflects a growing interest in the outer islands, especially as key projects begin to take shape.

"There's strong interest in North and Middle Caicos," he said, pointing to developments like the North Caicos Yacht Club, Royal Reef, the St. Regis refurbishment, and ongoing airport upgrades. "These projects will help build the infrastructure and workforce needed to support sustained growth."

While the magazine serves as a powerful marketing tool, O'Neill was quick to downplay any direct correlation between its release and a spike in property sales.

"I'd love to take credit, but it's really about long-term education," he explained. "We've got \$3.8 billion in development in the pipeline — the interest is already here. What we're doing is helping people navigate the process and integrate into the community."

The magazine is distributed to all clients and available around the islands, particularly aimed at international buyers who may be unfamiliar with the local property market.

"People have questions about ownership, the legal process, and investment potential," O'Neill said. "We want to answer those questions and give them a real sense of what it means to live and invest here."

On the topic of regulation, O'Neill also spoke briefly about the Real Estate Ordinance, which has been in place since 2004 but has recently come under renewed scrutiny. He noted that The Agency's team is made up entirely of Turks and Caicos Islanders and emphasized the importance of responsible growth within the industry.

"There are a lot of great agents doing great work," he said. "We support the direction government is going in, especially when it comes to ensuring professionalism and long-term sustainability."

As The Agency continues to champion both luxury living and local knowledge, its magazine is becoming a key part of how the company shares its vision — one that puts the country first.

"Our goal has always been to support the Turks and Caicos Islands," said O'Neill. "If people decide to buy something, great. If they buy it with us, even better. But first and foremost, we want them to fall in love with this place — and understand it."

Turks and Caicos Islands Nominated for 9 World Travel Awards



The Word Famous
Grace Bay Beach

The Turks and Caicos Islands is once again nominated for several categories in the World Tourism Awards. For 2025, the Turks and Caicos

Islands is nominated in the following categories:

- Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination 2025
- Caribbean's Leading

- Cruise Destination 2025
- Caribbean's Leading Destination 2025
- Caribbean's Leading Dive Destination 2025
- Caribbean's Leading Family Travel Destination 2025
- Caribbean's Leading Honeymoon Destination 2025
- Caribbean's Leading Luxury Island Destination 2025
- Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board 2025
- Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination 2025

The Turks and Caicos Islands won the Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination and the Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination in the 2024 World Travel Awards. The Turks and Caicos Islands won these awards in 2023 and has won the Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination category every year since 2015 and the Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination for six consecutive years.

"The Turks and Caicos Islands continue to set the standard for luxury and adventure in the Caribbean, and these nominations reaffirm our position as a premier destination. While our pristine beaches have long been recognised, we are actively working to elevate other key sectors such as diving, family travel, and honeymoons—areas that bring direct economic benefits to our people. Securing wins in these categories will strengthen our global brand, drive visitor interest, and create more opportunities for our local businesses. I encourage everyone who is eligible to cast their vote and help us showcase the very best of the Turks and Caicos Islands to the world," said Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Zhavargo Jolly. Votes can be cast by travel professionals, media and tourism consumers. Voting is now open and ends on June 22nd.

Environmental Health Department Hosts Follow-Up Community Meeting on Middle Caicos



The attendees being addressed by members of the Environmental Health Department

The Environmental Health Department recently hosted a follow-up community meeting on Middle Caicos on Monday, March 17, 2025 to address ongoing concerns about mosquito control and other environmental health issues. This meeting served as a continu-

ation of discussions held last year, allowing residents to provide feedback on any improvements observed since the department's initial strategy revision to align with community concerns.

Community members expressed positive feedback regarding mos-


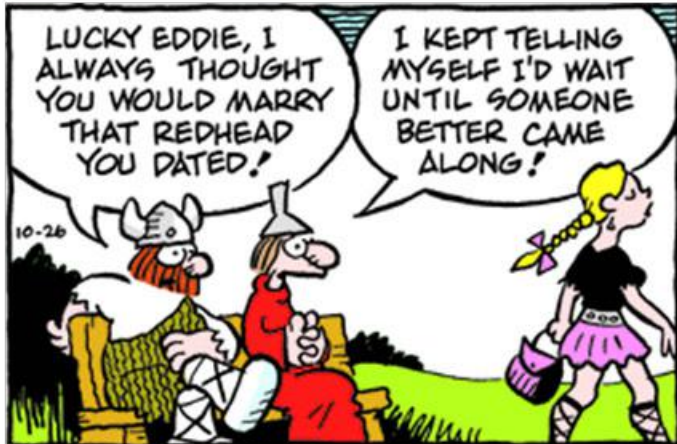
quito control efforts making note of decreased mosquito activity and improved communication between the community and officers of the Environmental Health Department. Environmental Health officers also delivered informative presentations on two key public

health nuisances, mosquitoes and roaches, highlighting their impact and best practices for control and prevention.

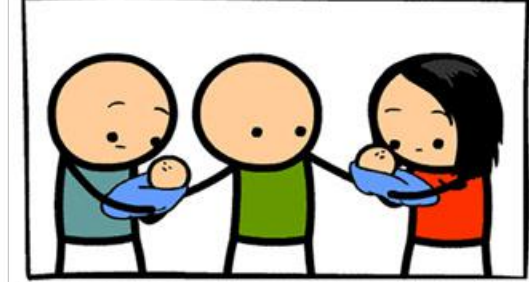
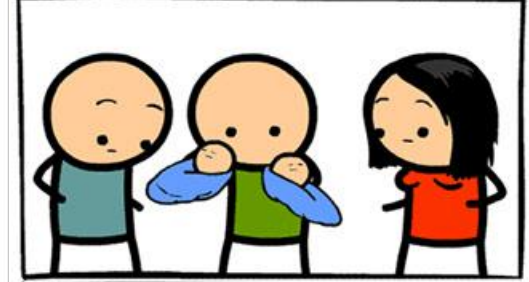
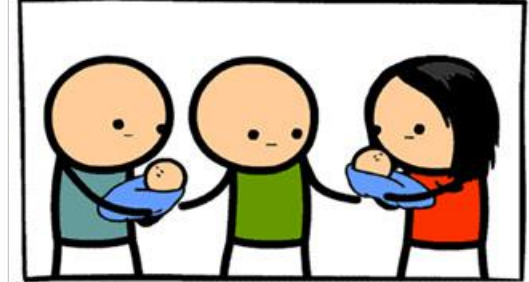
Beyond vector concerns, residents raised additional environmental health issues, including improper waste disposal at the designated site. Reports of individuals disposing of garbage in a careless manner underscored the need for a designated dump attendant. Littering in certain areas was also discussed, with suggestions including the organization of community clean-up initiatives in collaboration with other departments and local groups, as well as enhanced enforcement measures.

The Environmental Health Department remains committed to working alongside the community to address these issues and improve public health standards. Residents are encouraged to stay engaged and support ongoing efforts to maintain a clean and healthy environment for all.

Hank Ketchum's **Dennis the Menace**
Miss NO-it-all

NEWSLINE COMICS



Cheshire Hall Plantation

NEWSLINE
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



Thomas Stubbs, brother of Wade Stubbs owner of Wade's Green Plantation (Bellefield) convinced Thomas to seek his fortune in the Caicos Islands. Thomas Stubbs settled on Providenciales (then known as Blue Caicos) in the late 1700s and name his plantation after his home county. The buildings were constructed from locally cut limestone.

Up to the early 1800s, Cheshire Hall was the most important site on Providenciales and at its height was comprised of about five thousand acres and employed hundreds of slaves.

After a few decades of mild success, the boll weevil insect, soil degradation and hurricane damage put an end to the cotton industry in the Turks and Caicos.

Turks and Caicos Launches New Emergency Alert System with Common Alerting Protocol

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



From left (seated) Dr. Holly Hamilton, Director of Meteorology; Minister for Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove; Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly; and Director of the DDME Alison Gordon share lens with other stakeholders at the launch of the CAP Launch at the Atrium in Leeward, Providenciales.

The Turks and Caicos Islands took a major step forward in bolstering national disaster preparedness with the official launch of the Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) and the TCI Emergency Alert News Feed, marking a significant milestone in the territory's ongoing efforts to close the early warning gap by 2027.

In a well-attended ceremony hosted by the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies (DDME) and the TCI Airports Authority Meteorology Department, local, regional, and international stakeholders gathered in person and virtual, to celebrate the rollout of this critical emergency communication system. The CAP launch aligns with this year's World Meteorological Day theme: "Closing the Early Warning Gap Together."

Director of the DDME Alison Gordon, emphasized the importance of partnerships in achieving resilient, people-centered disaster readiness.

"The launch of the TCI Emergency Alerts News Feed is something that has been long in coming,"

Gordon said. "It cannot be accomplished in silo, but together we can achieve early warning for all." The CAP system was developed through collaboration with the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and funding from the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative.

Dr. Arlene Lange, CMO's Coordinating Director, commended TCI for becoming one of the few Caribbean nations to implement the international standard for emergency alerts. She noted that CAP allows for "multi-hazard, all-media alerting in a structured and standardized format."

Mr. Rodney Martinez-Wiggler, WMO Representative for North America, Central America, and the Caribbean, hailed the move as a turning point.

"This is a significant step to increase resilience, save lives and mitigate impacts. CAP is no longer just a protocol — it's part of a global movement to ensure early warning systems protect every-

one, everywhere," he said.

CAP in Action: Modernizing Disaster Communication

Dr. Holly Hamilton, Director of Meteorology for TCI, provided a compelling technical overview of the system, highlighting that CAP enables real-time alerts across multiple platforms — from radio and television to SMS, apps, and eventually sirens and cell broadcasts.

"With CAP, alerts can be issued in seconds rather than hours," said Dr. Hamilton. "This isn't just a tech upgrade — it's a life-saving tool that will reach people in English, Spanish, and Haitian (French) Creole."

The Meteorology Department also announced a nationwide educational initiative to install 3D-printed weather stations in schools, starting with A. Louise Garland High School this week. The initiative is designed to increase youth awareness and strengthen the observation network.

Learning from Hurricane Oscar

The urgency behind the CAP launch was underscored by the lessons learned from Hurricane

Oscar, which rapidly intensified and caught much of the region off guard in October 2024.

"Oscar was a wake-up call," said Dr. Hamilton. "It exposed gaps that we're now closing."

Government Commitment to Resilience

Minister for Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development, Hon. Arlington Musgrove, reaffirmed the government's commitment to disaster resilience.

"This initiative is not just about technology — it's about safeguarding lives," Minister Musgrove said. "Early warning systems are only effective if our people understand and respond to the alerts."

He also encouraged public participation and cross-sector collaboration to build a truly resilient nation.

With the CAP system now active, TCI is positioning itself as a regional leader in disaster communication. Future developments include expanding automatic sirens, enabling broadcast interruptions, and adopting cell broadcast technology to reach tourists and those without local mobile service.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Welcome to New Birth Agape Fellowship International, under the auspices of Apostle Cindy Jarrett, our founder, Minister, Teacher, Prophetess, Preacher & Apostle.

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

In this week's edition of Newline Featured Church, we turn the spotlight on New Birth Agape Fellowship International.

The church is pastored by Cindy Jarrett, founder, Minister, Teacher, Prophetess, Preacher & Apostle. It is located at 233 Millennium Highway, Providenciales, on the left side of the road, passing the Maranatha High School.

The Ministry holds Prayer Meetings on Wednesdays at 7:00 pm & Youth Night on Fridays at 7pm, with Sunday morning service at 11am.

The Ministry started in 2009 in the country's capital, Grand Turk, on the Old Airport, but later transitioned Providenciales in 2015.

Its Pentecost Ministry believes in the Father, Son & Holy Spirit.

For contact, call +1 (649) 245-9807 and leave a message or email at newbirthagapefellowshipintl@gmail.com.

Should you wish to experience that church's messages, listen at 3pm on Sundays on 89.1fm or subscriber to their podcast or YouTube page @apostlecindyjarrett

NEW BIRTH AGAPE FELLOWSHIP INTERNATIONAL



LIFE LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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 Grand Turk,
Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

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

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

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

HIGHLIGHTS FORM THE TCI/DR TRADE SHOW

The Turks and Caicos Islands – Dominican Republic (TCI-DR) Trade Alliance staged its first Trade Show, which was held at Shore Club Resort in Long Bay, Providenciales on Tuesday, March 25, 2025. The show saw a number of vendors from the Dominican Republic showcasing their product from construction material to process foodstuff, to ground provision to clothing items to medical provision. The event was endorsed by the local government, and was attended by several elected politicians, including Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly and Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove, Member of Parliament for South Caicos Hon. Tamell Seymour, as well as Hon. Willin Belliard. The following are photo highlights of the event.





Over 200 Police Officers Complete Landmark Sandals Corporate University Leadership Training



Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts, Adam Stewart, presents Assistant Commissioner of Police and Area One Commander Glenford Miller with his certificate for completing Sandals Corporate University's leadership training programme.

In a landmark collaboration between law enforcement and Sandals Resorts, 210 senior officers from the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) have successfully completed an intensive leadership training programme designed and delivered by the Sandals Corporate University (SCU). Their achievement was celebrated on Thursday, March 13, at Sandals Montego Bay, marking a significant step in strengthening leadership within the force and reinforcing the critical link between security and Jamaica's tourism industry.

Spearheaded by Sandals and Beaches Resorts Executive Chairman Adam Stewart, the leadership training programme was developed through discussions between the JCF and the tourism business community in St. James to enhance leadership skills within the force.

The intensive training session equipped JCF officers with key leadership and self-development principles, strengthening their ability to lead effectively within their ranks and engage with the public.

This first cohort represents the successful completion of the pilot phase, which trained over 50 percent of the leadership team of 400 officers from the Area One division—comprising Trelawny, St. James, Hanover and Westmoreland. The training was

when St. James alone exceeded that number.

Meanwhile, the Security Minister also applauded the SCU, emphasising what he indicated was its growing national significance. "Knowing the history of Sandals, I am confident that the Sandals Corporate University will soon become one of Jamaica's most important educational institutions. It is a pleasure and a privilege to have the police force being part of the groups that are working with the Sandals Corporate University," Dr. Chang said.

The Importance of Security in Tourism

Commissioner of Police Dr. Kevin Blake added that the SCU's initiative underscores the importance Sandals places on security in the tourism industry.

try," Stewart told the JCF leaders. "Tourism is a key pillar of our economy, and the JCF's role in safeguarding this sector is absolutely paramount. This ecosystem thrives on the linkages we create, and I am privileged to work alongside individuals committed to making Jamaica a better place through collaboration between the private sector and policymakers."

With the successful completion of the pilot phase and 210 JCF leaders now trained and certified, Senior Corporate Director of the Sandals Corporate University Dr. Luz Longworth announced that SCU is advancing to phase two. This next stage will facilitate training for additional leadership team members as well as rank-and-file officers, guided by



Seated in front of a group of officers from the Area One division who completed the Sandals Corporate University (SCU) leadership training programme are (L-R): Minister of National Security Dr. Horace Chang, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts Adam Stewart, Commissioner of Police Dr. Kevin Blake, Senior Corporate Director of SCU Dr. Luz Longworth, and Deputy Commissioner of Police Warren Clarke.

conducted over 10 days, from November 11, 2024, to January 9, 2025.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of National Security Dr. Horace Chang commended the Sandals Corporate University and highlighted the reduction in crime that Area One is now experiencing.

"Area One has seen the largest reduction in homicides this year, particularly over the last eight weeks," Dr. Chang stated. If this trend continues, the area will have recorded just over 100 homicides across all four parishes this year—compared to last year,

"I want to acknowledge the visionary leadership of Sandals and the wider St. James tourism business community for this outstanding example of corporate responsibility and their deep understanding of security's role in protecting this essential industry," Commissioner Blake stated. During the event, Sandals' Executive Chairman, Stewart presented the graduating officers with their certifications, stressing that the programme is not just about learning new concepts, it's about transforming leadership in Jamaica.

"Your leadership will continue to shape the future of this coun-

findings from a training needs assessment.

SCU is the educational arm of Sandals and Beaches Resorts, providing team members across nine countries in the region with opportunities for academic and professional growth. Through partnerships with internationally recognised universities, professional organisations, and local educational institutions, SCU offers programmes ranging from basic hospitality training to structured learning pathways that can ultimately lead not only to higher education degrees but also to community development.



OPEN JOB OPENINGS

<p>A&G Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Owners Relations <p>To improve and cultivate relationships with the owners of South Bank in the area of property management, operating models & efficiencies, integration with resort, residential standards, operational policy and procedures and enhancing homeowner experiences. This role also oversees all maintenance and repairs to the owner’s property grounds and villa and coordinates events and functions that the owners wish to host with the resort for execution. The Director of Owner Relations will also responsible for managing estates' budgets and accounts so that an accurate report can be relayed to the owners.</p> <p>Job Specification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Technically savvy and familiar with Guest Services operating/budgeting systems and spreadsheets. • Basic Accounting skills/ experience is preferred. • Ability to identify and solve problems. • Professional & appropriate business appearance and demeanor. • Excellent English verbal and written communication skills. • Flexibility to meet the demands of a 24-hour operation <p>Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A post-secondary diploma or degree in a field of study related to this profession, Hospitality or Project Management. • 5 years of experience in a comparable position and/or an equivalent combination of education and experience. • Minimum 3 years’ experience in a management/ leadership role. • Experience in working in a 5-star resort. • Experience successfully leading in a fast-paced environment and prioritizing demands. <p>Reports: General Manager Salary: \$84,000.00- per annum</p> <p>Food and Beverage Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Director of Food and Beverage • Bartender • Server <p>Job Description</p> <p>Provides functional assistance and direction to the Food and Beverage operation, Pool and Beach operation and interacts with resort members and individuals outside the Resort including, but not limited to suppliers, competitors and other members of the local community. Responsible for coordinating functions and activities with department heads as appropriate. The Director of Food & Beverage will be responsible for the operations of Food & Beverage, Pool and Beach Department and special events/ functions, as well as the VIP facilities behind the scenes management.</p> <p>Job Specification</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Organizing - To plan all operational procedures, to plan and organize all recruitment, grow revenue of the F&B Department and Pool and Beach Department and to improve service and quality. • To coordinate with the heads of P&B and F&B departments to ensure adequate coordination and operations implementation • Implement departmental strategies and action plans in accordance with the resort’s strategic and sales plans • To plan the yearly revenue target • To plan and get the desired cost price for products sold by the resort • To plan on upgrading the standards within the Resort • To liaise with the sales & marketing manager to set the strategy for the F&B department 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • • At least 5 years of experience in a management role, preferably within a well-reputed 5-star exclusive resort/ luxury country-club • Strong command of the operations of restaurants and accommodations facilities • Good understanding of procurement functions, pricing strategies as well as sales & marketing methods <p>Salary: \$102,000.00- per annum</p> <p>Pool and Beach Department:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pool and Beach Manager <p>The Pool & Beach Manager directs and organizes the activities of the Pool & Beach departments to maintain the high standards of the service offered</p> <p>Job Specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning and Organizing - To plan all operational procedures, to plan and organize all recruitment of the Pool & Beach areas to improve service and quality. • Manage and oversee Pool & Beach Supervisors and Attendants • Ensure that all equipment and tools are available and to give the guests the best vacation possible • Must be detailed oriented with an ability to handle multiple priorities • Ensure guest satisfaction within the Pool & Beach department <p>Reports: Director of Food & Beverage Salary: \$54,000.00- per annum</p> <p>Kitchen Department</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Executive Chef - Executive Sous Chef <p>The Executive Chef is responsible for all culinary activities for the Resort. This position will oversee all activity in the kitchen, train personnel, plan menus, oversee product purchasing and manage culinary budget. The Executive Chef needs to be able to assist the Group Director of Food & Beverage in required projects.</p> <p>Job Specification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in the production of all pastry items. • Create centerpieces in a timely manner, utilizing chocolate, pastille, sugar, and dead dough. • Plate desserts. • Ensure that all ingredients, supplies, and equipment are properly stored. • Maintain production records. <p>Qualifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Minimum 3 years of hands-on pastry shop experience in a fast-paced, hotel environment. • Excellent communication skills. • Ability to convert formulas and follow production lists. • Strong time management skills and ability to work effectively in a fast-paced environment. • Ability to lift and move materials of various weights and sizes. <p>Reports: General Manager Salary: \$104,000 per annum</p>
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Kitchen Department:

- Senior Chef de Partie
- Chef de Partie
- Sushi Chef
- Wok Chef
- Cook

Job Specification:

- Prepare all types of sushi, including maki, nigiri and sashimi;
- Prepare appetizers, soups and salads that are close to the philosophy of Japanese cuisine;
- Add additional flavors to sushi rolls with ginger, rice vinegar, wasabi and soy sauce, when appropriate.
- Must be knowledgeable with handling the Wok.

Qualifications:

- Must have at least 3 to 5 years' experience with making sushi and Wok skills
- Must be experienced in Asian cuisine, particularly in Wok skills

Reports: Sous Chef

Salary: \$24,000 – \$27,600- per annum

Rooms Division Department:

- Director of Rooms

The Director of Rooms is responsible for overseeing the Guest Services, Personal Concierge, Housekeeping and Laundry Departments. This role also includes developing and implementing strategies to increase revenue and profitability to ensure a high level of efficiency and satisfaction for guests and team members.

Job Specification

- Understanding market dynamics, enterprise level objectives and important aspects of the company's business to accurately diagnose strengths and weaknesses, anticipate opportunities and risks, identify issues, and develop strategies and plans. Aligning individual and team actions with strategies and plans to drive business results.
- Obtaining and seeing to the appropriate use of equipment, facilities, and materials needed to do certain work.
- Works with Resort's leadership team to determine areas of concern and develops strategies to improve the departments' financial performance.
- Establishes challenging, realistic and obtainable goals to guide Rooms Division operation and performance.
- Strives to improve service performance
- Develops and manages Resort budgets.
- Focuses on maintaining profit margins without compromising guest or employee satisfaction
- Ensures that the individual departments are focused on daily labour, expense and revenue management
- Analyses and assesses each department's capital needs in order to prepare the Rooms Division's capital requests in to ensure that divisional needs are met

Requirement

- A post-secondary diploma or degree in a field of study related to this profession; 5 years of experience in a comparable position and/or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Detailed hotel Rooms Division operating knowledge; demonstrated strong leadership and strategic planning skills; and proven achievements in optimizing guest and team member engagement and financial performance.
- Experience successfully leading in a fast-paced environment and prioritizing demands.
- Strong interpersonal, team member relations and leadership abilities.
- Well versed in hotel Rooms Division financial aspects

Reports: General Manager

Salary: \$102,000 per annum

Guest Service Department

- Guest Services Director

The Director of Guest Services will have accountability to ensure performance, guest satisfaction, continual review and improvement of processes related to the Guest Services, Concierge, Loss Prevention, Valet and Call Center oversight. They would be responsible for providing strategic leadership and direction to

ensure the Guest Services department drives guest and team member engagement, achieves operational and financial excellence and upholds brand standards.

Job Specification

- Understanding market dynamics, enterprise level objectives and important aspects of the company's business to accurately diagnose strengths and weaknesses, anticipate opportunities and risks, identify issues, and develop strategies and plans. Aligning individual and team actions with strategies and plans to drive business results.
- Obtaining and seeing to the appropriate use of equipment, facilities, and materials needed to do certain work.
- Works with Resort's leadership team to determine areas of concern and develops strategies to improve the departments' financial performance.
- Establishes challenging, realistic and obtainable goals to guide the Guest Services Department's operation and performance.

Qualifications:

- A post-secondary diploma or degree in a field of study related to this profession; 5 years of experience in a comparable position and/or an equivalent combination of education and experience.
- Detailed hotel Guest Services operating knowledge; demonstrated strong leadership and strategic planning skills; and proven achievements in optimizing guest and team member engagement and financial performance.
- Experience successfully leading in a fast-paced environment and prioritizing demands.
- Strong interpersonal, team member relations and leadership abilities.
- Well versed in hotel Guest Services financial aspects

- **Reservation Manager**

Reservations Manager will be responsible of aligning goals and strategies to increase conversion rates and drive ancillary revenue following the guidelines and training in line with Grace Bay Resorts brand standards that ensure delivering a superior guest experience. They will support the remote Leisure and Group Sales team with availability inquires and leads. They will set the standards for reservations & pre-arrivals and resolve guest issues and complaints and will build reports, manage guest profiles and work closely with Director of Reservations, Grace Bay Resorts and Vice President of Sales and Marketing to manage inventory, rates and promotions that ensure resort revenue budgets are met monthly.

Job Specification

- Must be trained on all Grace Bay Resorts properties in order to cross sell as needed including Grace Bay Club, Point Grace, West Bay Club, Rock House and Private Villa Collection
- Maintain efficient sales office procedures and ensures the maintenance of accurate and updated account files and follow-up procedures
- Maintain all sales systems, such as sales records and reports, conference calendar, travel calendar and database and any other systems that are in place or are added
- Assist in designing new sales promotions and campaigns to drive additional sales from various markets
- Identify and analyze competition in both local and regional markets
- Periodic international travel as may be required

Qualifications:

- Strong established relationship with key partners: Virtuoso, Signature, Ensemble, Leading Hotels of The World, and American Express Fine Hotels & Resorts
- Working knowledge of Synxis and Opera is required and interfaces
- Proficient in setting room rate structures within GDS and PMS
- Third party extranet partner sites experience
- Previous working knowledge of Preferred Hotels & Resorts extranet site

Reports: Director of Rooms

Salary: \$37,941 per annum

- Spa Supervisor
- Spa Therapist

Job Specification:

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

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

- Head Butler
- Junior Butler

Job Specification:

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

Qualifications:

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

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

Housekeeping Department:

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

Job Specification:

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

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

Qualifications:

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

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

Engineering Department:

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

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

Job Specification:

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

Qualifications:

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

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

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

5 Signs of Skin Cancer Other Than an Abnormal Mole

By Sarah Klein



The American Academy of Dermatology Association (AAD) recommends performing regular skin checks at home.¹ But do you know what you're looking for during those self-tests?

One of the most obvious signs of skin cancer is an abnormal-looking mole. A spot that has grown or changed since the last time you checked is one of the most common signs of melanoma. Per the AAD, you should use the ABCDEs of melanoma to check your moles, which include the following:²

- Asymmetry
- Uneven borders
- Color
- Diameter
- Evolution

However, those are not the only warning signs.

The three major types of skin cancer—basal and squamous cell carcinomas and melanoma—often look different. And some rare types of skin cancer might be mistaken for other skin conditions entirely.

Here's what you need to know about checking your skin the next time you give your largest organ a once-over.

A Translucent, Waxy Bump

Sometimes skin cancer shows up as a clear or skin-colored bump.³ "A lot of people don't know what it is at first and think it's a pimple or a bug bite and give it a chance to heal," Susan Y. Chon, MD, associate professor in the department of dermatology at the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, told Health.

According to Dr. Chon, a translucent, waxy bump could be an early-stage basal or squamous cell

skin cancer. The bump may never even hurt, bleed, or cause other symptoms.

"It doesn't have to be dramatic. But it's not supposed to be there," added Dr. Chon.

A hard bump on your eyelid may signify rare skin cancer called sebaceous gland carcinoma, which starts in oil glands.⁴ And a shiny or firm nodule under the skin—usually on your head, neck, or torso—could be a sign of rare skin cancer called Merkel cell carcinoma (MCC).

Other causes of clear or skin-colored bumps on your skin include:

Molluscum contagiosum: This is a benign, mild skin disease characterized by lesions (growths) that may appear anywhere on the body.⁶

Warts: These are benign skin growths that appear when a virus infects the top layer of the skin. Often skin-colored and feel rough, but they can be dark (brown or gray-black), flat, and smooth.⁷

Dermatosis papulosa nigra (DPN): This is a benign epidermal growth that presents as hyperpigmented or skin-colored bumps. DPN may develop on the face and neck beginning in adolescence.⁸

Keratosis pilaris: These are rough-feeling bumps of different colors, including skin-colored and white, that can appear anywhere except on your palms and soles.⁹

A Scaly Patch

It's easy to brush off a bit of scaly skin as eczema or dryness. But if you moisturize or treat dry patches with over-the-counter (OTC) ointments, and it doesn't go away, your rash could be a sign of basal

or squamous cell carcinoma.¹⁰ "It's just a little patch of skin that's kind of scaly and not healing," said Dr. Chon, adding that the patch might also grow slowly.

Other possible causes of scaly patches include:

Seborrheic dermatitis: This is a prevalent skin disease that causes a rash, swollen and greasy appearance, and white or yellowish crusty scale on the surface.

Eczema: This group of skin conditions causes inflamed, irritated, and often itchy skin.

Psoriasis: This condition causes thick, scaly patches of skin.

Anything Crusty or Oozing

Dr. Chon explained a "classic" basal cell carcinoma lesion oozes, crusts over, and won't heal.

"It's like a chronic wound. The center doesn't hold together," added Dr. Chon.

Dr. Chon said you should bring any spots that bleed, ooze, or crust to your dermatologist's attention.

Other possible causes of crusty or oozing lesions include:

Weeping eczema: This chronic disease is characterized by dry, itchy skin that can weep clear fluid when scratched.

Impetigo: This skin infection is caused by one or both of the following bacteria: Group A Streptococcus and Staphylococcus aureus. Symptoms include red, itchy sores that break open and leak a clear fluid or pus for a few days.¹⁶

Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA): This infection may look like a bump on the skin that may be red, swollen, warm to the touch, painful, filled with pus, or draining.

Red or Purple Lesions

MCC is a rare skin cancer that looks harmless, is painless, and is often mistaken for other common skin lesions. MCCs can also appear as blue, red, or purple nodules.

The bumps grow quickly over a few weeks to months. Additionally, MCCs often develop on the head or neck, places that have received a lot of sun over the years.

Another rare cancer, Kaposi sarcoma, can also appear as discolored skin. Kaposi sarcoma starts in blood vessels but can result in red, purple, or brown tumors or patches on the skin. The cancer can also develop on mucous membranes, like the inside of your mouth.

Kaposi sarcoma usually only occurs in people with weak immune systems, including people who are positive for the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).

Other possible causes of red or purple lesions include:

- Insect bites
- Sores
- Cysts
- Styes
- Pimples

Anything That Doesn't Go Away

Sometimes other skin cancer symptoms aren't all that obvious, according to Dr. Chon. But one tell-tale sign is that whatever spot you notice doesn't go away.

"People get little bumps all the time from inflammation or bug bites, but they go away in a few weeks," said Dr. Chon. "Most things should flatten out and get gradually better and better."

Skin cancer, said Dr. Chon, doesn't. Instead, "it persists" and may eventually become symptomatic. Those spots are worth bringing up to your dermatologist.

When To See a Healthcare Provider

Skin cancer is one of the most common cancers in the United States. And it's also one of the most preventable cancers. Skin cancer is highly treatable when detected early.

If you habitually check your skin often, you are more likely to notice changes. Monthly self-checks can be a good frequency but check with your dermatologist for their recommendation.

If you find a spot on your skin that could be skin cancer, make an appointment to see a dermatologist immediately. Note that the area doesn't have to itch, bleed, or feel painful. Often a dermatologist can treat early skin cancer by removing the cancer and some of the nearby skin.

Grace Jones' 'Pull up to the Bumper' makes Billboard list



Grace Jones

Pull Up to the Bumper, a 1981 hit song by Jamaican-born Grace Jones that didn't make the cut on

a previous album, ranks at #82 on Billboard magazine's 100 Best Dance Songs of All-Time list.

The respected music and trade publication revealed the first 20 songs on its list and will continue to reveal 20 more songs each day until Friday, March 28.

Pull Up to the Bumper, which was the third single from Jones' Island Records album *Nightclubbing*, is an electro-disco, post-punk, disco-pop record. It was recorded at the famous Compass Point Studios in Nassau, Bahamas.

Among the Jamaican musicians

who worked on the track were guitarist Mikey Chung, percussionist Uziah Thompson, bass guitarist Robbie Shakespeare, and drummer Sly Dunbar.

Pull Up to the Bumper was a global hit, making charts in Australia, Spain, West Germany, New Zealand, Netherlands, Ireland, Belgium and Finland. In the United Kingdom (UK), the song rose to #53, however, a re-release of the song in 1986, saw it placing much higher, topping out at #12 on the UK Singles chart.

In its first run, Pull Up to My

Bumper peaked at number five on Billboard's R&B Singles chart and number two for seven weeks on the Hot Dance Music/Club Play chart.

Dancehall artiste Patra covered Pull Up to My Bumper for her 1995 sophomore 550 Music/Epic Records album *Scent of Attraction*. Her version peaked at #60 on the Billboard Hot 100, #21 R&B and #15 on the Hot Dance Music/Club Play chart. It also dented charts in Australia and New Zealand, while making it to #50 on the UK Singles chart.

New Snow White tops N-America box office despite grumpy reviews



US actress Rachel Zegler attends the world premiere of Disney's *Snow White* at the El Capitan theatre in Los Angeles, on March 15, 2025.

Disney's remake of *Snow White* topped the North American box office this weekend with an estimated take of US\$43 million, but faces stiff winds — and some horrendous reviews — to make up its huge production costs.

The new live-action version starring Rachel Zegler, which comes

90 years after the original blockbuster, has faced a series of woes — from the COVID pandemic to criticism of its use of computer-generated imagery (CGI) to portray the seven dwarves.

The film's budget topped out at an estimated US\$250 million and it has become "one of the most

troubled projects in Disney's 102-year history", according to *The New York Times*.

Some reviews have been scathing — the *Guardian* called it "toe-curlingly terrible" — while others were a bit kinder, with *The Washington Post* calling it "surprisingly entertaining" and au-

diences giving generally positive feedback.

"While it's a disappointing opening weekend, we can't write off the film's performance until we see how it holds up in the coming weeks," said Daniel Loria, senior vice-president at the Boxoffice Company.

Focus Features' spy thriller *Black Bag*, starring Michael Fassbender and Cate Blanchett, ticked up a notch from last weekend to second place, earning US\$4.4 million, industry watcher Exhibitor Relations reported Sunday.

In third place, also up one spot from last weekend, was Marvel and Disney's *Captain America: Brave New World*, at US\$4.1 million. Anthony Mackie and Harrison Ford star in the latest installment in the Marvel Cinematic Universe.

Mickey 17 from Oscar-winning director Bong Joon-ho slipped to fourth place at US\$3.9 million.

Robert Pattinson, Steven Yeun, Toni Collette, and Mark Ruffalo star in the Warner Bros sci-fi tale about the many lives — and deaths — of a man who volunteers for hazardous space missions.

And last weekend's leader, Paramount's action-comedy *Novocaine*, suffered a painful drop in ticket sales, taking in just US\$3.8 million. Jack Quaid plays a banker who, unlike Hollywood studios, cannot feel pain.

Judge rules Mariah Carey didn't steal Christmas hit



Mariah Carey performs during a concert celebrating Dubai Expo 2020 One Year to Go in Dubai, United Arab Emirates on October 20, 2019.

A federal judge in Los Angeles has ruled that Mariah Carey did not steal her perennial megahit All I Want for Christmas Is You from other songwriters.

Judge Mónica Ramírez Almadani granted Carey's request for summary judgment on Wednesday, giving her and co-writer and co-defendant Walter Afanasieff a victory without going to trial.

In 2023, songwriters Andy Stone of Louisiana – who goes by the stage name Vince Vance – and Troy Powers of Tennessee filed the \$20-million lawsuit alleging that Carey's 1994 song, which has since become a holiday standard and annual streaming sensation, infringed the copyright of their country 1989 song with the same title.

Their lawyer Gerard P. Fox said he's

“disappointed” in an email to The Associated Press. Fox said it is his experience that judges at this level “nearly always now dismiss a music copyright case and that one must appeal to reverse and get the case to the jury. My client will make a decision shortly on whether to appeal. We filed based on the opinions of two esteemed musicologists who teach at great colleges.” Stone and Powers' suit said their All I Want For Christmas Is You contains a unique linguistic structure where a person, disillusioned with expensive gifts and seasonal comforts, wants to be with their loved one, and accordingly writes a letter to Santa Claus.”

They said there was an “overwhelming likelihood” Carey and Afanasieff had heard their song — which at one point reached No. 31 on Billboard's Hot Country chart — and infringed their copyright by taking significant elements from it. After hearing from two experts for each side, Ramírez Almadani agreed with those from the defence, who said the writers employed common Christmas clichés that existed prior to both songs, and that Carey's song used them

differently. She said the plaintiffs had not met the burden of showing that the songs are substantially similar.

Ramírez Almadani also ordered sanctions against the plaintiffs and their lawyers, saying their suit and subsequent filings were frivolous and that the plaintiffs' attorneys “made no reasonable effort to ensure that the factual contentions asserted have evidentiary support”.

She said they must pay at least part of the defendants' attorney fees.

Defence attorneys and publicists for Carey did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Carey's Christmas colossus has become an even bigger hit in recent years than it was in the 1990s. It has reached No. 1 on Billboard's Hot 100 chart the past six years in a row — measuring the most popular songs each week — not just the holiday-themed — by airplay, sales and streaming.

Carey and Afanasieff have had their own public disagreement — though not one that's gone to court — over who wrote how much of the song. But the case made them at least temporary allies.

Beenie Man 'hurt' by daughter's criticism of him



Dancehall Artist Beenie Man

Veteran dancehall artiste Beenie Man says he is hurt by comments made by his daughter Desha Davis alleging a lack of financial support from her father following a house gift dispute earlier this year.

Beenie Man, whose given name is Moses Anthony Davis, made the

revelation during a Monday interview on The Breakfast Club to promote his upcoming “King of the Dancehall” Tour.

“Sometimes the people that you think aren't gonna do certain things, they're the ones that surprise you,” the dancehall artiste

said.

Desha had in February taken to social media to disown her father following a house gift dispute. Addressing an Instagram live audience then, the dancer, who is more widely known as Desha Ravers, shared that her father had promised her a home space then retracted the offer once she started showing genuine interest.

“It's so heartbreaking that it has to come to this, but obviously me and him, we nah go have no ties,” she had said back then, “Because me feel like over the years mi go through so much and mi endure so much and mi stay quiet and everybody feel like him a this good fada, and him always a take care of his pickney dem.”

“Paying school fee is not being a father, and that is all you've done for your kids,” she added.

Responding to questions about whether the social media exchange had hurt his feelings, Beenie Man told The Breakfast Club, “Yeah of course.”

“Only your own kid can make you feel a certain way,” he explained.

“When you dedicate your life to

take care of a person and the person dedicates their life to bringing you down, you're gonna be hurt.”

“Yes she did hurt some feelings but I move on and I get over that,” he continued.

Addressing whether or not he is now on good terms with his daughter, Beenie Man said, “She's good. She's a thirty-odd-year-old woman so she knows the balance of herself.”

“It's always one thing or the other. Someone asks for one thing and didn't get it at the time that they want it and just take it out on you but yours is yours and you work for yours so all you have to do it be humble, mild it down and know that's your daughter,” he shared, adding “She speaks foul things and things that she's not supposed to speak and those are all lies. It's not true.”

Using humour to lighten the mood of the conversation, the artiste said, “It's not like she burst any secrets. The only secret she burst was talking about my Maserati when I didn't want anyone to know I'm gonna bring it to Jamaica.”

CDB Strengthens Regional Development with USD 323M in Investments



CDB's Director of Projects (Ag), Mr. L. O'Reilly Lewis

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) continued to drive sustainable development across the Region in 2024, approving USD 304 million and disbursing USD 323 million across the transport, renewable energy, education, private and agriculture sectors, while strengthening strategic partnerships.

The Bank secured financing to advance its water and energy security

efforts through key partnerships, including a EUR 100 million loan agreement with the European Investment Bank for water supply expansion, wastewater treatment, solid waste management, and flood protection, along with a CAD 58 million envelope from Global Affairs Canada for resilient energy projects.

"Strategic partnerships amplified our reach enabling us to secure signif-

icant funding and achieve unprecedented milestones in energy and infrastructure development across the region," said CDB's Director of Projects (Ag), Mr. L. O'Reilly Lewis, addressing the Bank's Annual News Conference on Wednesday, March 19, 2025.

Notably, CDB achieved two significant firsts: a USD 34.8 million loan for the construction of a geothermal power plant in Dominica, marking its first private-sector limited-recourse financing in energy, co-financed by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Government of Canada, as well as a USD 5 million grant for rural electrification in Haiti.

The Bank demonstrated its commitment to advancing education by investing USD 60 million to expand access to inclusive learning for students with special education needs in Saint Lucia, Grenada, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, strengthen climate-resilient schools, and integrate digital technology in classrooms. Additionally, the Bank provided USD 13 million for primary education in Haiti.

Recognising the financing challenges faced by regional businesses, CDB approved a USD 30 million line of credit to support private sector infrastructure and energy projects, as well as USD 20 million for student loans, low-income housing, renewable energy, and MSMEs in agriculture and industry in Belize. The Bank also commissioned a study on a Regional Credit Enhancement Facility designed to strengthen local credit markets.

To support agriculture, in the face

of global supply chain disruptions, CDB provided USD 26 million to expand agricultural development in Jamaica. A further USD 7 million was committed to increase productivity and market access in Haiti. The Bank launched a call for proposals under the EU-CDB Food Security Programme to improve access to finance, innovation, and distribution for micro, small and medium-sized agri-businesses and producers in CARIFORUM countries.

Investments in water security and coastal resilience will benefit almost 50,000 people in the Eastern Caribbean with USD 22.8 million to upgrade the John Compton Dam's water supply and transmission system in Saint Lucia, USD 15 million for the Sauteurs Coastal Protection Project in Grenada. A further USD 1.4 million was dedicated to support pre-investment studies related to Jamaica's Kingston Harbour Walk Project.

The Bank's flagship poverty reduction programme, the Basic Needs Trust Fund, delivered tangible results, with over 4,750 individuals benefitting from enhanced roads and 271 educators receiving training to support students with learning disabilities.

"Our focus remains on supporting sustainable development initiatives that address the critical needs of the Caribbean. These investments are all essential for long-term economic growth and stability. By reducing the risk of loss of life, physical and economic damage, and post-disaster recovery time, these projects will improve long-term Caribbean resilience," Mr. Lewis said.

CARPHA Builds Capacity with Sandals Resorts International for Healthier Safer Tourism

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA), through its Regional Tourism and Health Program (THP), continues to collaborate with Sandals Resorts International (SRI), to build capacity to promote healthier, safer tourism to protect the health and well-being of both visitor and local populations in the Caribbean.

This training was conducted by Mr. Keston Daniel, Coordinator, Visitor-Based Surveillance and Dr. Sastee Kissoondan, Technical Officer of CARPHA. Significantly, a grand total of four hundred and forty-eight (448) persons from eighteen (18) SRI resorts across the Caribbean region participated

in CARPHA's virtual "Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases for the Hospitality Sector" training on February 19, 2025. Participants were from accommodation, food and beverages and housekeeping departments.

Dr Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA remarked, "This training provided SRI with the essential knowledge, capacity and practical examples of prevention and control measures of infectious diseases in the hospitality sector. With the completion of this training, all resorts under the SRI group would achieve the Healthier Safer Tourism (HST) award. This remarkable achievement elevates SRI as

the only group with all of its resorts awarded the regional HST award for implementing proactive health measures in tourism".

Mr. Gavin Palmer, Corporate Manager, Environment, Health & Safety, SRI, shared, "Sandals is very grateful to partner with CARPHA and this training will allow Sandals resorts to be branded as a Healthier, Safer Tourism facility through CARPHA which we look forward to".

SRI has been partnering with CARPHA's THP since 2019. To date, all twenty (20) of its resorts are registered in the confidential health monitoring Tourism and Health Informa-

tion System (THIS), 1300 employees were trained in Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases for the Hospitality Sector and twelve (12) resorts having received the Healthier Safer Tourism (HST) Award.

This 15-year partnership is crucial in promoting a Caribbean sustainable and resilient tourism product, particularly given the current global and regional landscape of infectious diseases. Public and private partnerships, real-time, electronic surveillance and a coordinated public health response for the tourism sector, are integral to safeguarding health and safety of both locals and visitors to the Caribbean.

Venezuela-hired lawyers ask Salvadoran court for migrants' freedom



Alleged Venezuelan gang members at an El Salvadoran prison facility on March 16.

A law firm hired by Caracas filed a petition in El Salvador's Supreme Court Monday for the liberation of dozens of the 238 Venezuelans deported from the United States to a notoriously harsh prison in the Central American country.

US President Donald Trump in-

voked rarely-used wartime legislation to fly the men to El Salvador on March 16 without any kind of court hearing, alleging they were members of the violent Tren de Aragua gang, which their families and lawyers deny.

The deportations took place de-

spite a US federal judge granting a temporary suspension of the expulsion order, and the men were taken in chains, their heads freshly shorn, to El Salvador's maximum security "Terrorism Confinement Center" (CECOT).

On Monday, lawyer Jaime Ortega filed a habeas corpus petition, demanding justification be provided for the migrants' continued detention.

"They have not committed any crimes in our country," Ortega said at the court, while elsewhere in San Salvador, hundreds of protesters clamored for the Venezuelans' freedom.

Ortega said he was hired by the Venezuelan government and a committee of relatives of detained Venezuelans.

He added he had a mandate from families of 30 of the prisoners, but would work for the release of the entire group.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said the motion seeks the release of countrymen he described as having been kidnapped.

"A week after being taken to con-

centration camps, neither the government of the United States nor Nayib Bukele has published a list of who they have kidnapped in El Salvador," Maduro said during an event broadcast on national TV, referring to the president of El Salvador.

Bukele is hailed at home for his crackdown on violent crime — with tens of thousands of suspected gangsters sent to the CECOT, which he had specially built.

Human rights groups have criticized the drive for a wide range of alleged abuses.

Bukele replaced senior judges and the attorney general, and a new-look Supreme Court, friendly to the president, allowed him to seek reelection last year despite a constitutional single-term limit. He won.

"Bukele already violates the human rights of thousands of Salvadorans... and now he is preparing to violate the rights of these people from Venezuela who have not been proven guilty of a crime," protester Antonio Medrano, 47, said in the capital Monday.

Antigua PM warns US policy will significantly affect its economy



Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne

Prime Minister of Antigua and Barbuda Gaston Browne says his government is concerned that moves by the United States to impose a levy on Chinese-built ships that operate in US ports could have a significant impact on the country's economy.

The United States Trade Representative has proposed fines of up to US\$1.5 million on China-made

ships or vessels from fleets that include ships made in China.

Browne, speaking on his weekly radio programme over the last weekend, said that the issue has been discussed by cabinet over the past several weeks amid concerns by ministers that such a move will likely have a negative impact on the economy.

"An analysis has been done and we have been advised that shipping a container could increase by about US\$3,000 to US\$4,000," Browne told radio listeners.

"Now if that happens, you are talking about an increase in prices of between eight and 10 per cent easily, which would be extremely inflationary at this time considering that there is already an elevated rate of inflation of about 4.5 per cent at the moment. This means that inflation could trend to up to 12 or 14 per cent," he added.

Last Saturday, Guyana's president, Irfaan Ali in a statement said that the issue was among matters raised by the Regional Private Sector Organisation during a recent

emergency virtual meeting held by CARICOM leaders.

"The US is our partner, the region recognises that the US is an important partner and the Regional Private Sector will be having some conversations with the US. We will also be having conversations with various actors in the US, the Secretary of State for example and also the Chair of CARICOM will be seeking to have a meeting with the White House to go through some of these challenges that we may face and to have a better understanding of each other positions," Ali said.

Browne said the move by Washington would be devastating for the national economy and for consumers generally and that the cabinet has been discussing a number of options of likely actions should this measure go into effect.

He said that in addition, discussions are also taking place at the level of CARICOM and Prime Minister of Barbados, Mia Mottley, the current chair of the 15-member regional grouping, has been asked

to write to the US President Donald Trump on behalf of CARICOM to explain the impact this move would have on the Caribbean as it would 'literally' destabilise the region.

"What we are asking for is a 'carve out' under the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) as one of the objectives of the CBI is to ensure economic and social stability within the region. The United States, obviously, should be concerned about its southern 'third border' and to lessen any unintended consequences of any policies that it would implement," Browne said.

He said that while he does not want the region to get involved in the "geopolitical spats" between the US and China, however, where it affects the region, Washington must be engaged and regional leaders are of the view that some favourable consideration should be given to CARICOM states.

Caribbean leaders are due to meet with the US Secretary of State, Marco Rubio, in Jamaica on Wednesday.

Jamaica Beachgoers Urged to be Vigilant during Crocodile Nesting Season



Female crocodile Xena keeps a careful watch over her nest during a recent media tour of the Holland Bay Crocodile Sanctuary in St Thomas.

Beachgoers are being urged to exercise vigilance during the crocodile nesting season, which lasts from November to June.

Founder and administrator of the Holland Bay Crocodile Sanctuary in St Thomas, Lawrence Henriques, informed that during this period, female crocodiles are protective of

their nests.

“The thing with crocodiles is, know your seasons. Know that November to June is the nesting period, which is reproduction, gestation of the eggs, laying of the eggs, incubation of the eggs in the ground for three months and some hatching around the end of May to June,”

Henriques explained.

He was speaking to journalists during a recent media tour of the sanctuary, organised by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

“If you do meet up with a crocodile... if you happen to be walking along the beach and you’re walk-

ing near the edge of the beach towards the land, especially if there is water behind like in the bushes or the mangroves, then always be vigilant. Female crocodiles are not going to normally nest in an area far away from a water source,” Henriques said.

He pointed out that this occurrence “happens a lot” in St Elizabeth along Jamaica’s southern coastline, and in some cases there may be signs that indicate a crocodile has nested.

“You can even see tracks sometimes. You look around, you’ll see track marks sometimes, and if you see something like a mound or a disturbed area, give it a little wide berth, because the female may be close by and you don’t want to be surprised by her,” Henriques said.

“Some won’t do much, but one or two might actually come towards you and the best thing to do in that type of situation is politely turn around and discreetly go the other way.”

Medical Director Says Gambling Addiction Rising Among Young People



Dr. Sean Knowles

Gambling addiction among young people in The Bahamas is becoming a growing concern, with experts warning of its connection to substance abuse, mental health issues, and even suicide.

Medical professionals are pushing for urgent interventions as new data reveals the impact of gambling disorder on the country. Delvarado Emmanuel has more. Dr. Sean Knowles, medical director of The Bahamas Department of Corrections and the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, is sounding the alarm on the rising cases of gambling addiction, particularly among young people.

He says the link between gambling, substance abuse, and mental health issues is stronger than many realize and intervention is crucial. Gambling among school students is becoming a growing concern, with many young people engaging in betting activities at an alarming rate.

Medical professionals warn that

early exposure to gambling could lead to long-term addiction and other mental health issues. Gambling addiction, often hidden in plain sight, has long been a silent struggle for many Bahamians. But now, medical professionals are working to quantify its true impact. Dr. Knowles, who has worked extensively with substance abuse patients, emphasizing the strong connection between gambling disorder and substance use. Dr. Knowles says gambling disorder, like other behavioral addictions, can lead to severe mental health issues. The link between mental health challenges and suicide rates is also raising alarms, with the country already seeing six suicides in just three months.

Dr. Knowles emphasizes that mental health services must be expanded across the country—from Abaco to Inagua—to truly make a difference. Education, awareness, and accessibility, he says, will be key in turning the tide.

ITS ALGTHS AGAIN



A. Louise Garland Thomas High School Retain Annual Inter-High School Track and Field Championship Title

See Story on Page 32

Champs' fastest runners to compete at inaugural Grand Slam Track



Michael Johnson (left), the four-time Olympic Games champion and founder of Grand Slam Track, speaks during the press conference to announce the Kingston leg of the event at Jamaica Pegasus hotel in November 2024. Looking on is veteran sport administrator Mike Fennell.

THE eight fastest girls and eight fastest boys from the ISSA/Grace Kennedy Boys' and Girls' Athletics Championships, across all age groups in the 100m, 200m, and 400m, are to be invited to compete in exhibition races over those distances during the inaugural Grand Slam Track (GST) at the National Stadium in Kingston from April 4-6, 2025.

The collaboration involves Grand Slam Track, the global professional track competition launched by four-time Olympic Games champion Michael Johnson, and the ISSA Boys' and Girls' Championships.

The Boys' and Girls' Championships began on Tuesday and is to end on Saturday. The event is recognised worldwide as an incredible spectacle of excitement, energy, and high-calibre competition.

In a press release, GST said the ISSA boys and girls who are invited to attend will compete on Saturday's second day of the Grand Slam Track meet, in advance of the professional races at Na-

tional Stadium. They will experience the same race protocols, equipment, and event presentation show as Grand Slam Track competitors. It said ISSA will serve as the race promoter, finalising the list of invitees to create the fastest fields based on performances at the 2025 Champs.

Track fans who attend the Kingston leg of Grand Slam Track will see the fastest professional track competitors in the world plus the fastest Jamaican high school athletes, fresh off their successes at Champs.

A total of 17 Jamaicans are down to perform at the inaugural Grand Slam Track on the newly renovated track at the National Stadium. The list of Jamaicans comprises Oblique Seville, Hansle Parchment, Alana Reid, Ackera Nugent, Kemba Nelson, Stacy-Ann Williams, Rushell Clayton, Nickisha Pryce, Shiann Salmon, Andrenette Knight, Danielle Williams, Natoya Goule-Toppin, Roshawn Clarke, Malik James-King, Ackeem Blake, Dean-dre Watkins and Orlando Bennett.

World Boxing president to visit Jamaica



World Boxing President Boris van der Vorst

WORLD Boxing President Boris van der Vorst will begin an official visit to the island on Saturday when he

lands at Donald Sangster International Airport in Montego Bay. He will depart on Tuesday April 2.

Van der Vorst will get the opportunity to see, first-hand, Jamaica's boxing on display in Montego Bay when he visits the Jamaica Boxing Board's gym in the second city. He will also see the schools' programme which is under development at St Andrew Technical High School in Kingston.

The Jamaica Boxing Association (JBA) says van der Vorst will be exposed to some of Jamaica's loved cultural spaces to experience what it describes as the warmth, beauty, culinary delights and essence of the island. Additionally, he will be involved in discussions with stakeholders in the sports and boxing community to strengthen, support and endorse the development of the sport.

JBA President Stephen Jones welcomes van der Vorst's visit.

"Jamaica will be welcoming the president of World Boxing for the very first time, which is a really big deal especially with boxing now officially included in the 2028 Olympic Games," Jones said. "We've been putting in the work here — the entire boxing fraternity from the grass roots level right up to the elite — and I'm very proud that Jamaica is play-

ing its part in boxing development across the region. So, a regional goal is to make the Caribbean a real force to be reckoned with on the global stage, and having the president here gives us a chance to show what we're building and, hopefully, get his endorsement before he leaves, so we are looking forward to welcoming him for a couple days."

JBA describes van der Vorst as an experienced and passionate boxing administrator with a track record of transformative leadership and an accomplished entrepreneur in the health-care industry.

It says he has what it considers a rich history and commitment to keeping boxing at the heart of the Olympic movement and fostering its sustainable development. That, it says, was the driving force behind his desire to keep boxing in the Olympics when he became a founding member of World Boxing and its first president in 2023. The JBA says van der Vorst sees Jamaica as an important plank in the development of the sport of boxing in the Caribbean region and the world.

First reported in the Jamaica Observer

Trinidad's Wilson cut from ICC panel of elite umpires



Wilson and Gough have made way for Allahudien Paleker and Alex Wharf.

Trinidad and Tobago's international cricket umpire Joel Wilson has been removed from the International Cricket Council's (ICC) Elite Panel of Umpires.

The 58-year-old Wilson, who has umpired in 67 Test matches, 140 One-Day Internationals (ODIs), and 71 Twenty20 Internationals is sidelined along with England's Michael Gough.

Wilson was the lone umpire from the region selected as a match official for the recently concluded

ICC Men's Champions Trophy.

Wilson and Gough have made way for Allahudien Paleker and Alex Wharf.

Paleker, a former first-class cricketer from South Africa, has officiated in four Tests, 23 ODIs and 67 T20Is in men's international cricket and a total of 17 women's international games.

He has officiated at major ICC tournaments, including the 2024 Men's T20 World Cup, and the 2024 Under-19 Men's Cricket

World Cup.

Meanwhile, Wharf brings a wealth of experience from his 16-year first-class career — having also featured in 13 ODIs for England.

He has officiated on-field in seven Tests, 33 ODIs, and 45 T20Is in men's international cricket.

Wharf stood at the recent ICC Men's and Women's Cricket World Cups, the Men's and Women's T20 World Cups in 2024, and the Men's Champions Trophy in 2025.

- First reported by CMC

Adam Stewart wants half-marathon for 10th anniversary of Jill Stewart MoBay City Run



Adam Stewart, executive chairman of Sandals Resort International, is recommending that a half-marathon be part of next year's 10th anniversary staging of the Jill Stewart MoBay City Run (JSMCR) 10K/5K walk-run event, which was renamed in honour of his late wife, Jill Stewart, in 2024.

Stewart made the suggestion while addressing Monday's media launch of the JSMCR at Sandals Montego Bay in St James, Jamaica, where plans were also announced for the annual sporting event to be launched in Miami and New York, in the United States, for its 10th anniversary. This year's staging of the event will take place in Montego

Bay on Sunday, May 4.

"If you say it publicly, then it has to happen, so we should make this event a half-marathon next year and bring it to the next level. I think it would really be 'next level' to the town of Montego Bay, so we have the 5K and the 10K walk, and we extend it to a half-marathon," Stewart told the launch, drawing cheers of approval from the attendees.

"This will bring the 'next level' to the town. That is what we do: push boundaries and take it to the next level," Stewart continued, referencing the potential impact of the proposed change to the JSMCR on Montego Bay.

A half-marathon is a road running

event with a distance of approximately 21 kilometres, or 13 miles. If implemented, it would be more than double the current maximum distance of 10 kilometres covered under the JSMCR's 10K and 5K route.

Stewart also expressed renewed appreciation to the JSMCR's organisers for upholding the memory of Jill Stewart, who was a major supporter and contributor to the annual event prior to her death from cancer in July 2023. The run, which was launched in 2013 and was formerly named simply the MoBay City Run, was renamed in her honour in 2024. "This event pulls our city together, and it unifies us overall. It is marry-

ing wellness, clarity, state of mind, and, of course, benefiting education," said Stewart. "My wife was a trained educator. She believed in education, and her passion was sport, and particularly, running. This is everything that Jill would have wanted to be a part of."

Meanwhile, in his address at Monday's launch, Montego Bay Mayor Richard Vernon said the week leading up to this year's staging of the JSMCR on May 4 will be treated as a wellness week in recognition of the health and wellness aspect of the run.

"Where health is concerned, we have had some challenges, with cardiovascular disease and hypertension being among the leaders. Events like these help us to focus on health and wellness, and that is why I am happy with the new model that has been adopted for this event, where great emphasis will be placed on that component of our productivity," said Vernon. "With the privilege I have in the office of the mayor, I want to declare the week leading up to the culmination of the run the Jill Stewart MoBay City Run Wellness Week."

The route for this year's 5K run and walk will see participants going from Harmony Beach Park in downtown Montego Bay, along Howard Cooke Boulevard going towards Alice Eledemire Drive, and then making a U-turn at the Coconut Drive roundabout to return to Harmony Beach Park. Participants in the 10K run will go from Harmony Beach Park to the Montego Bay Freeport Police Station and back.

TCI Chooses Team for 2025 CARIFTA Aquatics



Head Coach
Benneth Williams

The Turks and Caicos Islands Swim

Federation (TCISF) has named a dynamic team of eight athletes for the XXXVIII CARIFTA Aquatic Championships, scheduled for April 17–24, 2025, in Trinidad and Tobago. The announcement marks more than just a team reveal — it signals the rapid rise of Turks and Caicos as an emerging force in Caribbean swimming.

Swimmers Representing Team TCI:

- Isaac Farley (11–12 age group)
- Anaiyah Alleyne (11–12 age group)
- Annabella Albert (11–12 age group)
- Hayley Williams (13–14 age group)
- Danielle Burgess (13–14 age group)
- Rishith Gururaja (13–14 age group)

- Ethan Gardiner (15–17 age group)
- Gabrielle Martin (15–17 age group)

With representation across all three competitive junior age groups, this team reflects the Federation's long-term investment in youth development, coaching excellence, and increased access to high-performance training.

The team Officials are Benneth Williams – Head Coach; Lincoln Martin – Assistant Coach; Roydoya Alleyne – Team Manager; and Pekeira Brooks – Physiotherapist.

"We're not just sending swimmers — we're sending a signal," said Head Coach Benneth Williams. "Turks and Caicos is growing fast in aquatics, and this team is proof that our future is bright."

The CARIFTA Aquatic Championships are a cornerstone of regional junior competition, providing a launchpad for many Caribbean athletes who go on to compete at the Commonwealth, Pan-Am, and Olympic levels. For Turks and Caicos, the competition is both a test and a showcase.

Over the past few years, TCISF has focused on strengthening grassroots development, increasing local meet opportunities, and investing in coaching. This year's CARIFTA team is one of the strongest and most balanced the nations that has been fielded to date. As the team prepares to depart for Trinidad, national pride is swelling across the islands. With a full support staff, structured training, and a powerful spirit of unity, the athletes are not only looking to compete — they're looking to make history.

Kishco Triumphs in Tense T20 Clash Against Air Cool Knight Riders



The Kishco Team

In a gripping third-round T20 encounter, Kishco secured a thrilling victory over the Air Cool Knight Riders by 7 wickets with four overs to spare, chasing down 137 with a composed batting display.

Air Cool Knight Riders Falter at the Crease

After winning the toss, Kishco elect-

ed to bowl first. The decision quickly paid off as Air Cool struggled to build momentum. Mario Smith offered a brief spark with a solid 31 off 64 balls, but wickets fell at regular intervals due to disciplined bowling from Kishco.

Richard Gardiner and Arun Paris were standout performers with the

ball. Gardiner picked up 2 wickets for just 6 runs in his 3 overs, while Paris snagged 3 crucial scalps, breaking the spine of the Knight Riders' middle order. Iram Mack also chipped in with 2 wickets. The bowling unit's tight lines and intelligent variations ensured Air Cool was restricted to a modest total of 136 all out in 20 overs.

Kishco's Chase Anchored by Gareth and Zeddy

Kishco's reply began with early hiccups as Sam Gardiner and Edward Butler fell cheaply. But a composed and counter-attacking partnership between Gareth Butler and Zeddy Lord turned the tide. Gareth remained unbeaten on 42, steering the innings with maturity, while Zeddy added a quickfire 30, keeping the required run rate in check.

Kevin Hinds contributed a handy 17 before falling, but the job was nearly done. Gareth Butler, cool under pressure, ensured Kishco crossed the line in the 16th over, finishing at 140/3.

Bowling Highlights from Air Cool

For Air Cool, Pavon Kumar's early breakthroughs (2 wickets for 30 runs) gave them hope, but the total on the board wasn't enough. Mario Smith and Yogesh Khule tried to apply pressure, but the batsmen held firm.

Match Summary:

Air Cool Knight Riders: 136 all out in 20 overs

Kishco: 140/3 in 16 overs

Result: Kishco won by 7 wickets

Player of the Match: Gareth Butler (Kishco) – 42* (Match-winning knock)

The competition is being played at the Downtown Ball Park.

CIBC CRICKET DONATION



In its quest to support the growth of Cricket in the Turks and Caicos Islands, CIBC donated \$2,000 to the Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association recently. The presentation was made by CIBC Country Manager Terrence Gibson (left – standing behind cheque). Accepting on behalf of the Cricket Association was President Michael Pereira (right). Sharing in the moment are players who participate in the Turks and Caicos Cricket Competition. The Turks and Caicos Islands National Cricket Squad are invited to participate in the Central America Tournament from April 17 to 21 in Panama.

ALGTHS Defends Title at National Inter-High School Athletics Meet



The A. Louise Garland Thomas High School aggregation celebrate their Inter-High School Championship win

The celebrations continue at A. Louise Garland Thomas High School following a stunning display of resilience and athletic dominance, as the Long Bay-based institution successfully defended its championship title at the National Inter-High School Athletics Meet.

Held over three action-packed days from March 20 to 22 at the National Stadium in Providenciales, the event brought together top athletes from ten schools across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The defending champions topped the medal standings with an impressive haul of 55 medals, including 26 gold, 19 silver, and 10 bronze. Their path to victory was anything but easy, as fierce competitors Clement Howell High and H.J. Robinson High applied constant pressure throughout the meet. Clement Howell finished a close second with 23 gold, 15 silver, and 15 bronze, while H.J. Robinson secured third with 16 gold, 23 silver, and 12 bronze.

The meet culminated in a dra-

matic final day that saw A. Louise Garland Thomas High rally from behind, winning crucial events in the final relays.

“We fought a lovely battle today,” said Coach Courtney Missick of the winning team. “It’s not about how you start, it’s about how you finish. We took a few blows on days one and two, but day three, we came out on top.”

Missick praised his team’s perseverance and gave credit to the hard work and dedication of the coaching staff and athletes, who have been preparing since September. He also highlighted the pivotal role H.J. Robinson played in the final relays, which indirectly helped seal the championship for Garland Thomas by defeating Clement Howell High in key races.

Raymond Gardiner High of North Caicos finished fourth with a respectable 15 medals (3 gold, 4 silver, 12 bronze), while Majorie Basden High took fifth with 18 medals (3 gold, 3 silver, 12 bronze). Other schools that participated

included Wesley Methodist (13 medals), Maranatha Academy (2 medals), Elite High (2 medals), British West Indies Collegiate (10 medals), and Precious Treasures International School (2 medals).

Rising Standards and Growing Support Jarrett Forbes, Director of the Sports Commission, hailed the championships as a milestone in youth athletics.

“This year’s championship was definitely one for the history books,” said Forbes. “The kids performed with passion and grit. From an event standpoint, things are improving, and with continued corporate support and passionate involvement, it’s only going to get better.”

He also emphasized the importance of recognizing officials and coaches as the backbone of sport development, expressing plans to improve support and resources for these key stakeholders.

HJ Robinson was the Surprise Edith Skippings, President of the Turks and Caicos Amateur Athletic Association (TCAAA),

praised the high level of competition and singled out H.J. Robinson High School as the surprise standout, especially since they did not participate in any of the earlier development meets.

“There were big surprises, but great surprises,” said Skippings. “All of it speaks to the quality of coaching and preparation.”

Looking ahead, Skippings revealed that planning is already underway to select the CARIFTA Games team, combining performances from the inter-high championships with those of athletes studying abroad. Special run-offs may be held to ensure fair selection for athletes who could not compete in finals due to school eligibility but are still within the age bracket.

With airline logistics and costs presenting challenges, Skippings noted that meticulous planning and partnerships have made early reservations possible for the anticipated 18–20 member team traveling to Trinidad and Tobago.

Final Standings: A. Louise Garland Thomas High – 55 medals (26 gold); Clement Howell High – 53 medals (23 gold); H.J. Robinson High – 51 medals (16 gold); Raymond Gardiner High – 15 medals (3 gold); Majorie Basden High – 18 medals (3 gold); Wesley Methodist – 13 medals (1 gold); Maranatha Academy – 2 medals (1 gold); Elite High – 2 medals (1 gold); British West Indies Collegiate – 10 medals (0 gold); Precious Treasures Int’l – 2 medals (0 gold).

The Inter-High School Athletics Meet once again proved to be a thrilling showcase of talent, teamwork, and tenacity, with youth athletes pushing boundaries and setting new standards for the future of track and field in the Turks and Caicos Islands.