

**NACAC YOUTH  
SQUAD  
CHOSEN**



# NEWSLINE

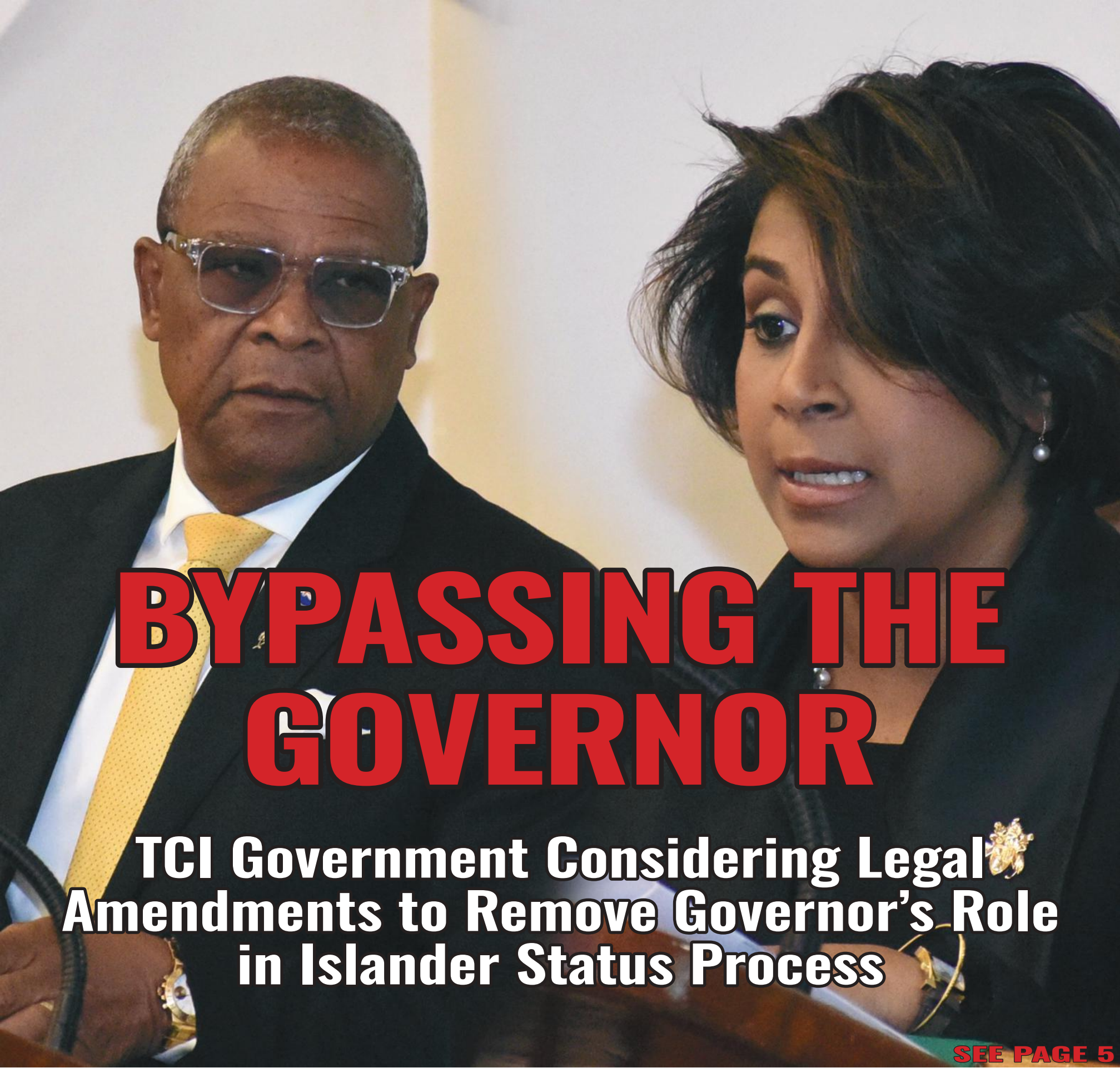
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



**PNP Government to  
Tackle At-Risk Youth  
in New Budget PG4**



**TCI Targets Inclusive,  
Sustainable Growth  
PG8**



# BYPASSING THE GOVERNOR

**TCI Government Considering Legal  
Amendments to Remove Governor's Role  
in Islander Status Process**

**SEE PAGE 5**



# TCI TOPMODEL

BEAUTY PERSONIFIED

Cycle **6**

SHAKEM CHARLES  
TCI Top Model 2025

*Thank you*

## FOR YOUR PARTNERSHIP

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INCREDIBLE PARTNERSHIP AND BELIEF IN OUR VISION TO GIVE THOSE INDIVIDUALS RESIDING IN THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS INTERESTED IN CAREERS IN THE FASHION AND CREATIVE INDUSTRY AN OPPORTUNITY AND THE PLATFORM TO DEBUT AND SHOWCASE THEIR TALENT, WITH THE HOPE THAT IT WILL BE A SPRINGBOARD TO A CAREER LOCALLY OR ABROAD. YOUR PARTNERSHIP HELPED ELEVATE CYCLE 6 OF THE 2025 TCI TOP MODEL CONTEST INTO A SPECTACULAR SUCCESS.

# ROCK HOUSE

TURKS & CAICOS  
GRACE BAY RESORTS

## OPEN JOB POSITION Security Manager

Responsible oversee asset protection for the resort, from the protection of people and staff to the pre-vention of theft and inventory loss. The security Manager will be responsible for developing and im-plementing security standards and ensuring that they are followed by all resort staff. The security Manager will also be responsible for managing a budget for security operations.

### Essential Functions

- Develop and implement of security policies, procedures and protocols.
- Conducting regular security assessment and audits to identify potential vulnerabilities and recommend appropriate solutions.
- Monitoring and analysing security systems, such as CCTV cameras, access control systems.
- Coordinating with other departments to ensure compliance with security protocols and proce-dures.
- Collaborating with law enforcement and emergency services in case of emergencies or security breaches.
- Maintaining accurate records of security incidents, equipment inventory, and training activities.
- Develop and implement emergency response plans and procedures.
- Maintaining accurate records of security incidents, equipment inventory and training activities

### Requirements/Skills

- 5 years of experience in property management and/or a comparable position in hotel opera-tions.
- Any certifications such as Certified Security Manager or training would be considered.
- Experience using relevant technology and equipment (e.g. CCTV)
- Experience in reporting and emergency response planning
- Excellent knowledge of security protocols and procedures
- Solid understanding of budgeting and statistical data analysis
- Working knowledge of MS Office
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Outstanding organizational and leadership skills
- Committed and reliable

### Must have excellent

- Communication skills
- Leadership skills
- Computer literacy
- Ability to train staff

Salary Range: \$42,000 - \$48,000 per annum

Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes to Mrs. Celianise Forbes, Director of Hu-man Resources at Email: [humanresources@rockhouseressort.com](mailto:humanresources@rockhouseressort.com). #1 International Drive, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, TCKA1ZZ. Qualified Belongers need only to apply Positions marked with an are currently being held by a work permit holder. Candidates are also encouraged to submit resumes to the Labour Department. Deadline for submission: July 1, 2025



# PNP Government to Tackle At-Risk Youth in New Budget

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Progressive National Party (PNP) Government has placed the needs of at-risk youth squarely at the center of its new budget, unveiling a series of comprehensive initiatives aimed at transforming education and strengthening social support systems across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Minister of Education, Youth, Sport, and Culture, Hon. Rachel Taylor, delivered a passionate presentation highlighting the government’s renewed focus on vulnerable students who struggle to thrive in traditional learning environments. At the heart of this effort is a thorough review of the Alternative Education Policy, which Taylor described as a key step toward ensuring inclusive and flexible educational opportunities for all learners. “The revised policy will provide customized educational pathways to reduce dropout rates, support re-engagement, and foster innovation,” Taylor explained. She emphasized that the policy is not merely an academic reform but a holistic approach that prioritizes behavioral support, emotional regulation,

and essential life skills. These interventions, she added, are designed to lower the risk of reoffending and build self-discipline and accountability in a structured, caring environment. The Minister noted that the implementation of this policy requires a collaborative, multi-agency approach involving the Department of Rehabilitation, Social Services, and mental health services. By working together, these agencies can offer wraparound support that addresses the complex challenges faced by at-risk youth. In addition to policy reform, Taylor announced plans to secure a safe and supportive home for the most vulnerable boys in the community. She revealed that she will lead a delegation to Jamaica in July to attend a conference on boys’ education, bringing back insights to inform local programs and initiatives. The government is also investing in educational quality through a newly established Quality Assurance Unit. Taylor shared that the first cohort of Quality Assurance officers has completed their training and will now begin inspecting schools and learning institutions to ensure con-

sistent, high-quality education. She reaffirmed the government’s commitment to ongoing professional development to maintain high standards. Beyond education, the budget also prioritizes cultural identity and heritage preservation. Taylor unveiled a National Archival and Digitization Project, aimed at safeguarding critical historical documents and materials for future generations. She announced that a Request for Proposals for this project would be published shortly after the budget’s passage. Additionally, a National Artisan Registry—the first of its kind in the territory—will be established to document, celebrate, and empower local cultural practitioners. This registry will include artists, craftsmen, musicians, storytellers, and tradition-bearers, fostering both cultural preservation and creative industry development. Taylor emphasized that this initiative will enable the transfer of cultural knowledge across generations while providing new opportunities for local artists to thrive. The budget also includes funding for the Cultural Ambassador Programme, set to launch in early June 2025, as

well as participation in this year’s CARIFESTA, underscoring the government’s commitment to telling the Turks and Caicos Islands’ story and shaping its national identity. “These investments in education and culture,” Taylor concluded, “represent our commitment to building a brighter future—one that honors our roots while empowering our people to succeed.”



Minister of Education Youth Sport and Culture



The officers who recently completed their Atlantic 85 Rescue and RHIB Maintenance Training take time for a group photo.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) Marine Operations and Training Unit has proudly announced the successful completion of the RNLI Atlantic 85 Rescue and RHIB Maintenance Training. This milestone marks a significant enhancement in the Force’s operational readiness and commitment to maritime safety across the Turks and

Caicos Islands and the wider region. The training, funded by the UK’s Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), is part of a broader UK Government initiative to strengthen maritime search and rescue capabilities in its Overseas Territories. In a demonstration of this commitment, the UK has recently delivered Atlantic 85 rescue vessels to

## RT&CIPF Marine Unit Successfully Completes Atlantic 85 Rescue and RHIB Maintenance Training

Montserrat, Anguilla, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. These state-of-the-art vessels are designed for high-speed response and challenging marine conditions, reinforcing the region’s capacity to protect lives at sea. Participants in the training received comprehensive instruction covering both practical and technical aspects of operating and maintaining the Atlantic 85 vessel. Key components of the training included pre- and post-sail inspection procedures to ensure vessel readiness and safety, as well as routine maintenance and accurate record-keeping to maintain operational reliability. Technical training modules delved into the Atlantic 85’s engine systems, electrical and hydraulic systems, and the intricacies of its jet-drive mechanisms. These skills are essential for

ensuring the vessel’s optimal performance during critical rescue operations, where every second counts. The RT&CIPF Marine Unit expressed heartfelt gratitude to the RNLI instructors, whose expertise and dedication were instrumental in delivering this training. The Force also extended thanks to the FCDO and all partner agencies involved in making this training a reality, recognizing the collaborative effort required to bolster regional maritime response. This successful completion of the RNLI Atlantic 85 training represents a key milestone in the RT&CIPF’s ongoing mission to enhance its marine operations. With continued investment in training and equipment, the Force remains dedicated to protecting lives at sea and ensuring a safe maritime environment for all.



# TCI Government Moves to Curb Governor's Role in Granting Islander Status

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government is considering legal amendments that would remove the Governor's authority in the approval process for Turks and Caicos Islander Status, following a controversial decision by Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam to approve 49 applicants previously rejected by the Islander Status Commission.

In a recent statement, Premier Hon. Washington Misick announced that the Government will immediately review the legal framework governing the process. The review could result in a significant shift of authority, transferring final decision-making powers from the Governor to the independent Status Commission. Premier Misick said the current system contains a legal "loop-hole" that allowed individuals "of dubious loyalty" to receive Islander Status, despite being turned down by the Commission.

"My ministerial colleagues and I adamantly opposed the grant of Islander Status to many of the individuals recently approved by the Governor," the Premier stated. "We formally communicated our objections more than three weeks ago."

The 49 applications were originally submitted between 2016 and 2018 and reviewed by the Commission in 2021, which recommended their rejection. However, following a judicial review, the Supreme Court ruled in July 2024 that the Commission had overstepped its legal authority by applying discretionary vetting standards not prescribed in law.

According to the ruling, under Section 132(2) of the Constitution, any conditions for granting Islander Status must be formally established in legislation. The Court found that the Commission's broader assessment of applicants' character and community contributions was unlawful, and that its role was limited to verifying basic eligibility criteria under Section 4(2) of the TCI Status Ordinance — including British Overseas Territory Citizenship (BOTC), permanent residency,



Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (left) and Premier Hon. Washington Misick. File Photo

and no custodial sentence over one year.

With no binding legal framework in place, the Court affirmed the Governor's discretion to grant Islander Status.

While the Premier acknowledged the Court's decision, he emphasized that it exposed a serious flaw in the current law — one that undermined the intent of reforms introduced in 2015 to increase transparency and reduce political interference in status grants. The Status Commission was created in 2021 as an independent vetting body in response to growing public concerns about fairness in the process.

"We must act decisively to ensure that such a situation does not repeat itself," Misick said. "The grant of Islander Status is a privilege, not a right. It should be reserved for individuals who have integrated into our society and contributed meaningfully to our Islands."

The Government has since introduced a points-based system to evaluate applicants more objectively. However, the Governor still retains the final say in granting status. Premier Misick indicated the Government will now explore legislative changes to remove that power, pending further consultation.

He added that the elected Government has a responsibility to ensure laws reflect the will and values of the people, and that the integrity of the Islander Status process is maintained.

**Public Reaction: Mixed Views and Community Division**

The Governor's decision has sparked widespread debate across the Turks and Caicos Islands — even within churches — with public opinion sharply divided.

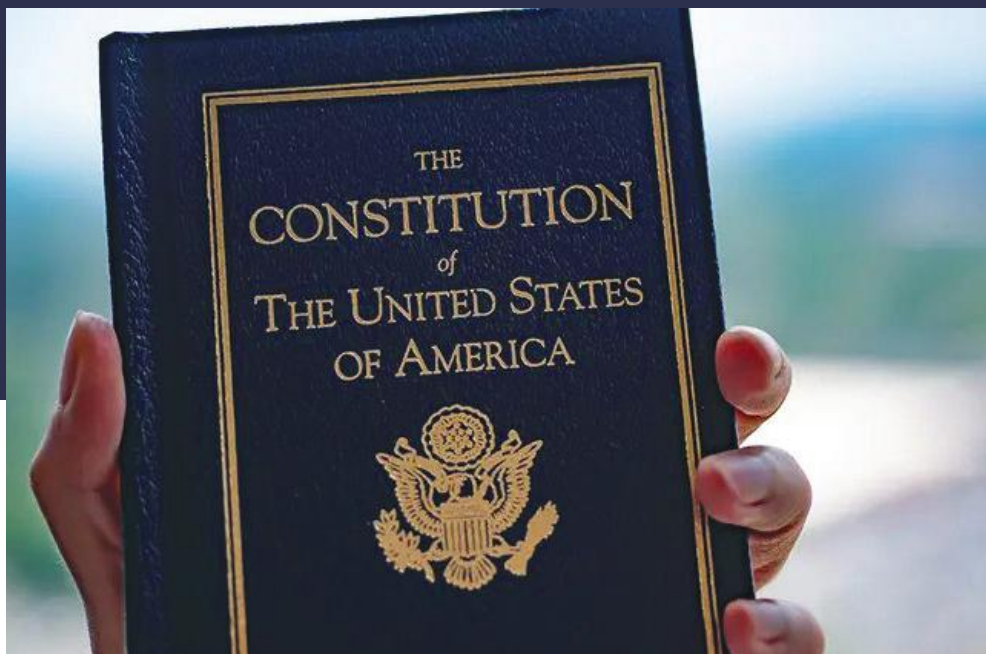
Some residents have expressed support for the individuals granted status, noting that many have lived in the country for years and

contributed to the community. Others, however, argue that regardless of the individual merits, the Governor's unilateral action undermined the role of the Status Commission and eroded public trust in the process. Critics also contend that several of the applicants have not yet demonstrated sufficient cultural assimilation or long-term commitment to the Islands to merit such recognition.

In one notable act of protest, a billboard listing the names of the 49 approved individuals was erected by concerned citizens. However, NewslineTCI understands that authorities have since ordered its removal.

The Government's proposed legislative reforms signal a growing push to close the legal gaps exposed by the court ruling and to ensure that future decisions about Islander Status are made through a more accountable, community-led process.





I have lived within the continental United States for several decades now. Before that I attended one of the historically black colleges and universities for four years in Washington, DC. I have not only experienced the freezing cold and the deluge of snow of the north, but also the glaring sun and the sweltering heat of the south. I have not been to many states, but I have had the opportunity to, physically, touch the ground on the east as well as on the west coast.

Socially I have summered and wintered here in the United States — having gotten married here, attended the weddings of others, attended funerals of the young and the old — including that of my mother-in-law who died in New York, and that of my mother who had died years before in Maryland, just a few days before the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York and on the Pentagon building in Washington, DC. In fact, those attacks occurred the day before her memorial service was scheduled to take place in Washington, DC.

I can recall being caught in traffic in my brother's vehicle, driving up from Florida, along with my sister-in-law and my wife as we listened to the breaking news on the radio, and as we watched the tragedy in New York unfold on a small, portable television screen that we had in the car, and as we saw black smoke billowing from the Pentagon in the distance.

While we were stuck in traffic, sirens blared in the streets from emergency vehicles as they sped to and fro like angry hornets. Those were stressful times but I was able to weather the mental and emotional storms and keep my wits about me.

I have been there for graduation ceremonies, for US naturalisation citizenship ceremonies, for the births of babies and for their blessings in churches. I have been to birthday parties, get-togethers of family and friends, and I have attended office parties and picnics. I have been interviewed, rejected and hired for various jobs.

I have experienced the intrigues of office politics, the joys of promotions, the pain of company closures and layoffs. I have collected unemployment cheques. I know what it is to be rehired. I have paid my federal taxes, and I have paid into social security and into Medicare. Those experiences presented challenges but there, too, I was able to confront, to survive, and to overcome them. I have, like millions of Americans, cast my vote during the various election cycles in polling booths, and I have nervously watched on television as the results slowly came in. I know the disappointment when my candidates did not win and the sheer relief when they actually did.

I know what it is to stand in the freezing cold on the Washington Mall to witness a presidential inauguration. I have read the US Constitution several times — that to which I took a solemn oath — and I did so within the broader context of my reading of US history.

I have read books on American law so that I could better understand and appreciate the social, cultural, political and economic dynamics of national life. I have read about the lives of such people who laid the groundwork on which we operate today — George Washington, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, Alexander Hamilton, Benjamin Franklin, Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Jackson, Theodore Roosevelt and Franklin D Roosevelt.

I was told how such men, along with many others, had built this nation on the ideas of the vaunted civilisations of ancient Greece and of Rome. I have been told that getting a good dose of Western philosophy and politics would inoculate me against the scurvy of “wokeness”. The advice, under normal circumstances, might have seemed logical, but for the fact that most Americans, I have found, do not like to read, and frown upon those who do as elites.

And just to be on the safe side, in order to get as broad a perspective of this country as I could, as a black man from the Caribbean I made sure that all of my bases were covered by reading about the lives and learning from the testimonies of black folk like Frederick Douglass, Harriet Tubman, Sojourner Truth, Booker T Washington, Marcus Garvey, Mary McCloed Bethune, Dr WEB Du Bois, Ida B Wells, Dr Alain Locke, Dr Carter G Woodson, Zora Neale Hurston, Claude McKay, Dr E Franklin Frazier, Dr Martin Luther King, jr, James Baldwin, and Malcolm X.

My desire was not just to live among the people in my adopted homeland but, again, to be able to know enough about them in order to be as one of them. I had drawn my line in the sand and I had wanted, through the process of enculturation, to consolidate or to solidify my place in the American society, for good or ill.

But what had all that effort managed to accomplish for me when I am now being told by the US Government that the words contained in the Constitution — especially those aspects that a child just having learned to read can understand — do not mean what they actually say, in very plain language? I think the medical and psychological professionals have a term for such behaviour, that being, “cognitive dissonance”.

Psychology, which I minored in while I was at university, outlined cognitive dissonance as a mental phenomenon in which people unknowingly hold fundamentally conflicting cognitions. Being confronted by situations that challenge this dissonance may ultimately result in some change in their cognitions or actions to cause greater alignment between them so as to reduce this dissonance. Relevant items of cognition include peoples' actions, feelings, ideas, beliefs, values, and things in the environment. Cognitive dissonance exists without signs but it surfaces through psychological stress when people participate in an action that goes against one or more conflicting things.

# Doctor, I still have hopes for America — am I mad?

“Maybe the greatest madness is to see life as it is rather than what it could be.” — Don Quixote, Cervantes

According to this theory, when an action or idea is psychologically inconsistent with the other, people automatically try to resolve the conflict, usually by reframing a side to make the combination congruent.

Discomfort is triggered by beliefs clashing with new information or by having to conceptually resolve a matter that involves conflicting sides, whereby the individual tries to find a way to reconcile contradictions to reduce their discomfort. From all that I have been witnessing in the news, this seems to describe America today, and I do not want to come down with that malady. But, I digress. Let me resume my trend of thought.

What am I to think when some among us have chosen to interpret the words of the US Constitution to mean, for example, that corporations are like people, having the same rights and privileges as flesh and blood individuals, and that we can have law and order without having “due process of law”? What am I to tell outsiders when the document that is so unambiguous, so unequivocal, and so vociferous about people having been born here being citizens, raises questions among some within society about what “birthright citizenship” really means?

What do I tell the peoples of the world about guardrails installed to protect us from the whims of felons in our streets, in our homes, in our places of work and of play, in our churches and in the marketplace, but not against any of them holding the reins of national political power, especially as unqualified, reckless and vindictive individuals?

What do I say when the courts ban abortions because they kill babies, only to save them as future prey in schools to be hunted and gunned down by deranged perpetrators? What do I say to those who ask why the teaching of African American history, and why the teaching on “cultural inclusion” — done in order to foster a better understanding of those in the populace — are banned, but, on the other hand, why the sky is the limit on any way which can be conceived of by some who wish to undermine our democracy in order to build a tall, hard, and cold edifice dedicated to oligarchy and totalitarianism?

How do I explain how our traditional, life-long international partners became our enemies overnight, and how our sworn, mortal enemies became our bedfellows?

How did the philosophy of the “Fairness Doctrine”, which was created to protect free speech for all, for both rich and poor, become deemed as unfair, and was, consequently, abolished so that free speech is now, largely, part of the preserve of the wealthy? Why is it, in recent times, that it is so very hard for me to focus on or to take seriously anything written by or about Americans?

Whence this apoplexy of heart and of mind for the much-heralded American idealism? Whence this patriotic funk? Whence this sense of being housed in a literal insane asylum? I do not expect any improvement in our standing on the international stage ever

again, with our current, chronic viral infection of isolationist American exceptionalism, which history has proven does not work.

I think the country, having been teed off the green from the outset of its founding, has found itself far from the endgame that has been marked by its flag, having found itself mired very deep, and in a very wide sandy bog. And even if Superman was to suddenly appear, donned in his red cape with the big “S” on his chest, in order to save the day, I believe he might only be able to salvage some of our domestic dignity but would be incapable of lifting the international political and economic bridges that were made to collapse under the current Administration due to ineptitude.

All that having been said, please tell me, doctor, am I mad? I have 31 books sitting on a shelf waiting to be read, a variety dealing with US history and with other sociological aspects of American life, but of late I cannot seem to stir my weary mind and body to pick up any of them. My interest has been diverted, at least for the moment, further afield to parts of the world where people appear sane, and who take knowledge and the acquisition of it seriously.

My appetite has been developed for more delectable and nutritious intellectual fare, and for examples of leadership which do not remind me of nipple bottles, of baby diapers, of baby rattles, or of whining children fighting and quarrelling in a sandbox in the middle of a playground.

When I routinely read about or happen to see on television our president, his Cabinet, our Supreme Court justices, and our senatorial and congressional representatives, a darker more sinister side of Sesame Street comes to mind. Where are the adults in the room? Where is Gordon? Where is Mr Hooper? And yet, I still entertain a sliver of hope for this country.

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Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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ROBINSON... The future we are shaping is one where growth touches every district, every family, and future generations.

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Under the banner “Prioritizing Inclusive Sustainable Growth,” the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands has unveiled a forward-looking agenda to diversify revenue, empower local enterprise, and protect the environment. Acting Premier Hon. Jamell Robinson told the annual Business Outlook that inclusivity and sustainability will guide policy over the next decade. “We aim for an economy that grows not just in numbers but in depth, reach, and resilience,” the Acting

Premier said. **Diversifying beyond tourism** He said while tourism remains TCI’s chief income driver, Robinson insists that long-term success depends on reducing over-reliance on any single sector. Public-private initiatives, he said, are channeling capital into five priority areas:

- Agriculture and fisheries to improve food security and create value-added exports
- Renewable energy to cut costs and

# TCI Targets Inclusive, Sustainable Growth

carbon emissions

- Financial services to position TCI as a compliant, innovative jurisdiction
- Orange and digital economies where creativity and technology generate modern careers
- Modern infrastructure, the “bed-rock” of any vibrant economy

This multidimensional push, according to the acting premier, will build shock-proof foundations, create jobs, and keep more value circulating locally.

**Reforming public finance** With IMF-CARTAC support, the Ministry of Finance is overhauling revenue systems, tightening compliance, and exploring new streams such as modest user fees in high-impact tourist zones. A broader base will give space to invest in people and climate resilience.

**Backing small business** Acting Premier Robinson told the gathering that ninety percent of the MSME fund is already committed, supporting 89 projects. Fisheries received the largest share, and South Caicos logged a record nine grants. Entrepreneurs also gain technical assistance to modernise and reach export markets.

**Quality-focused tourism** Robinson pointed out also that transforming the Tourist Board into “Experience Turks and Caicos” helped the destination welcome two million arrivals in 2024. He pointed out that the new aim will be to grow revenue per available room rather than headcount, thereby protecting the islands’ boutique appeal.

**Infrastructure and clean energy** Robinson revealed that capital spending hit US \$38.6 million in 2023, and the 2025 budget earmarks US \$86.7 million for economic affairs, spanning land development, coastal protection, and telecom upgrades. A streamlined procurement process should accelerate delivery. He pointed out that energy reform may be the most visible shift, revealing that government has targeted 40 percent renewable generation by 2030, beginning with a modernised grid and net-metering that lets homes and businesses sell surplus solar power back to the utility company.

**Real Estate** The acting premier pointed out that real estate transactions grew 2.5 percent in 2024 and are projected to climb 3.2 percent next year, underscoring investor confidence. “The future we are shaping is one where growth touches every district, every family, and future generations,” Acting Premier Robinson concluded, urging partners to “move forward with clarity, courage, and shared purpose.” Forum participants—including bankers, hotel executives, farmers, and students—applauded the emphasis on balanced development. Among the other speakers at the event were Hon. E. Jay Saunders, Minister of Innovation, Technology and Information; Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove.

## Shaquaze Forbes Found Guilty in Grand Turk Firearm Case

Shaquaze Forbes, a 22-year-old resident of Over Back, Grand Turk, was found guilty on June 12, 2025, in connection with a firearm incident investigated by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF). Forbes was convicted on two serious charges:

- Possession of a firearm with intent to endanger life
- Discharging a firearm

His co-accused, Jerreal Missick, also 22 and from Over Back, was acquitted following directions



A Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force mugshot of Shaquaze Forbes, who has been convicted on gun-related charges.

from the presiding judge to the jury. Forbes has been remanded to Her Majesty’s Prison under the supervision of the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation. He is scheduled to be sentenced on July 18, 2025. The charges stem from a report made to police on February 13, 2024, concerning the discharge of a firearm. Following an extensive investigation and consultation with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, both

men were formally charged. The RT&CIPF continues to appeal to the public for information about illegal activity. Anyone with knowledge is urged to contact the nearest police station, dial 911, call the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, or reach out anonymously via Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477. Tips can also be submitted anonymously through the Crime Stoppers P3 app, available for download on both the Google Play Store and Apple App Store.



# Hurricane Season 2025 Message by Her Excellency Deputy Governor Anya Williams

As we enter the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season, I take this opportunity to strongly encourage all residents to make hurricane preparedness a top priority. While disasters come in many forms and can strike with little or no warning, hurricanes are unique in that they occur within a defined season. This gives us a crucial advantage: time to prepare. However, what remains unpredictable is the strength of each storm, its exact path, and the scale of damage it may cause. That is why we must not become complacent or take this time for granted. Preparation is not just a precaution it is a responsibility. As Chair of the National Subcommittees, I can attest that we are working tirelessly at the national level to improve our state of readiness. Our efforts include:

- **Strengthening Shelter Systems:** We are identifying and upgrading designated hurricane shelters to ensure they are safe, accessible, and adequately stocked to serve those in need during a storm.
- **Improving Drainage Infrastructure:** Significant investments are being made in flood mitigation, particularly in vulnerable areas, to reduce the risks and impacts of severe rainfall and storm surges.

- **Enhancing Early Warning and Communication Systems:** We are refining our alert systems to ensure that emergency notifications are timely, clear, and widely disseminated through multiple channels including: radio, SMS and social media. These are critical steps, but they are only part of the equation. The truth is that a community is only as strong and prepared as its individual residents. You play a vital role in disaster readiness. Here's how you can take action today:
- 1. Make a Family Emergency Plan**
  - Identify a safe place to shelter during the storm.
  - Establish an emergency contact outside the affected area.
  - Plan evacuation routes and ensure everyone in your household knows them.
  - Make special arrangements for elderly family members, persons with disabilities and pets.
- 2. Assemble an Emergency Kit**
  - Include non-perishable food and drinking water for at least 3 to 5 days.
  - Add flashlights, batteries, a first-aid kit, essential medications, hygiene products and important documents stored in waterproof containers.

- Don't forget face masks, sanitizers and any special items needed for infants or seniors.
  - 3. Secure Your Property**
    - Trim trees and remove debris that could become projectiles.
    - Reinforce windows and doors and clear drains and gutters.
    - Review and update your home insurance to ensure it covers hurricane and flood damage.
  - 4. Stay Informed**
    - Monitor updates from the National Weather Service and local emergency management authorities.
    - Trust only official sources of information. Avoid spreading rumors or unverified messages that may cause panic.
  - 5. Check on Your Neighbors**
    - Community resilience depends on collective care. Check in with elderly neighbors, those who live alone, or those who may need help with evacuation or supplies.
- Let us remember that preparation is a shared duty. When each household takes responsibility, the entire community becomes more resilient. Whether this season brings major storms or passes quietly, let us not leave our safety to chance. Every step you take now can help save lives and reduce hardship later. Let us move forward together, prepared and united.



Her Excellency Anya Williams

## Remarks from the Premier – Hurricane Preparedness Message 2025

As we approach the 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season, I want to speak directly to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands about the importance of being prepared. Forecasts from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) indicate a 60% likelihood of an above-normal hurricane season, with the potential for up to 19 named storms, including several major hurricanes. These predictions are not intended to cause alarm but to serve as a crucial reminder that being ready can save lives, protect property, and provide peace of mind. Last year demonstrated the unpredictability and intensity of these natural events. The rapid development of storms like Hurricane Beryl and Hurricane Oscar underscores the need for early action and sustained vigilance. These storms do not always give us the luxury of time. So, we must not delay in taking all necessary precautions to safeguard our families, homes, and communities. I urge all residents and visitors to start preparations now. Check your emergency kits, secure your property, stay informed, and follow the guidance issued by the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies. Preparation is not just a recommendation; it is a responsibility we all

share. Together, with faith, foresight, and unity, we can withstand any storm that may come our way. Let us remain vigilant, proactive, and committed to protecting one another throughout this hurricane season. May God continue to bless and protect the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Premier Hon. Washington Misick

## Hon. Arlington Musgrove's Opening of 2025 Atlantic Hurricane Season Message

My fellow residents and visitors, as we mark the commencement of the hurricane season here in the Turks and Caicos Islands, I wish to extend my warmest greetings and remind everyone of the importance of preparedness and vigilance during this period to take proactive steps in preparing for what has been forecasted as an above-normal season. The hurricane season, which officially begins on June 1st and runs through November 30th, is a time when we must all remain alert and proactive in safeguarding our communities, families, and livelihoods. The Turks and Caicos Islands have faced and overcome many challenges, and together, we continue to build resilience through community engagement, effective planning, and timely response. The prediction of up to 19 named storms including as many as 5 major hurricanes is a sobering reminder of the growing impacts of climate change. Last year's storms, including the early and powerful Hurricane Beryl, showed us just how quickly conditions can change and how devastating unpreparedness can be. Preparedness is not just an individual responsibility; it is a national priority. Early planning and continuous vigilance save lives, reduce damage, and strengthen our collective resilience. Now is the time to review emergency plans, check supplies, secure properties, and stay informed. I urge all residents and visitors to monitor

official weather updates and advisories issued by the Meteorological Office and Disaster Management Authorities. Please ensure that your emergency plans are current, your emergency kits are stocked, and you are familiar with evacuation procedures. Let us work collectively to ensure a safe, secure, and resilient season. Your cooperation and preparedness are vital in protecting our islands and everyone who calls them home. Thank you for your attention and commitment to safety. Wishing you a safe and prepared hurricane season.



Hon. Arlington Musgrove





# ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING COMMITTEE HOSTS SERIES OF NATIONAL MONEY LAUNDERING/ TERRORISM FINANCING / PROLIFERATION FINANCING RISK ASSESSMENT WORKSHOPS FOR THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

The Anti-Money Laundering Committee (AMLC) hosted a series of workshops from May 5-13, 2025, aimed at identifying and updating our understanding of the Money Laundering (ML), Terrorism Financing (TF) and Proliferation Financing (PF) risks to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In an effort to bolster national ML, TF, and PF risk understanding and mitigation, the AMLC is pleased to announce a series of multi-stakeholder workshops as part of the Turks and Caicos Islands' comprehensive ML, TF, and PF National Risk Assessment initiative which is critical not just for regulatory compliance, but for national security, economic stability and good governance.

The workshops held from May 5-13, 2025 were designed to gather empirical and qualitative information from local law enforcement, regulatory supervisors, private sector stakeholders, and related agencies to identify and understand the nature and extend of risks posed to Turks and Caicos Islands and by extension the global financial system from ML, TF and PF. The National Risk Assessment

currently being undertaken in the Islands includes an assessment of major proceeds-generating offences, vulnerabilities in the products and services of the financial and non-financial sectors, not-for-profit organizations, and virtual asset service providers. By engaging diverse perspectives and expertise from across sectors, these workshops play a crucial role in fostering a proactive approach to risk management.

"We are excited to launch these workshops as a vital component of our National Risk Assessment strategy. By harnessing the collective knowledge and experience of stakeholders, we aimed to strengthen our ability to mitigate risks effectively. It's not just about checking boxes or meeting global standards. It's about building a system that works for us, one that is smart, responsive, and resilient." said Mrs. Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director (Ag) of the Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission and Deputy Chair of the AMLC, who opened the workshops.

Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite Knowles OBE KC, Chair of the AMLC said, "The outcomes of

these workshops and others that will be held focused on private sector stakeholders, will inform our advice to the Cabinet on the relevant policies, with a view to strengthening the Turks and Caicos Islands' legal and regulatory frameworks, and support the development of an updated national AML/CFT/CPF strategy that is responsive, targeted, and effective."

This month's workshops focused on key areas such as the proceeds generated by corrup-

tion, human smuggling, drug trafficking, and foreign-generated offences as well as sectors such as banking, real estate, trust and corporate services providers, etc. leveraging insights to develop actionable strategies and policies.

Participants had the opportunity to contribute their expertise towards shaping resilient frameworks that safeguard the Turks and Caicos Islands' reputation as a well-regulated, secure, and stable economy.







Mental Health Therapist Lizzie Foster with management and Staff at CIBC Bank



Lizzie Foster (second left) and Lorraine Kenlock(third from left) with Members of the Turks and Caicos Real Estate Association (TCREA).

# Beyond Stigma: The Growing Culture of Care in Turks & Caicos

An OpEd by Lizzie Foster

With May behind us, the momentum of Mental Health Awareness Month carries forward, as individuals and organizations across the Turks and Caicos Islands continue to invest in creating cultures of care.

These conversations are no longer fleeting headlines or awareness campaigns confined to a calendar—they are seeds of hope taking root in workplaces, schools, and communities island-wide.

With rapid development, increased tourism, rising crime, and growing economic pressures, the need to address mental health has never been more urgent. Yet despite these challenges, many local organizations are stepping forward, creating environments where employees feel seen, supported, and understood.

For years, stigma has kept these conversations in the shadows. It told people that seeking help was a sign of weakness, that their struggles were personal failings to be hidden away. But the truth is that mental health challenges—whether anxiety, depression, ADHD, autism, or trauma—are not flaws; they are part of the human experience. Breaking this cycle of silence requires more than awareness—it de-

mands consistent action and care that honors the whole person.

In recent months, that shift has become increasingly visible. More businesses across the islands are investing in the mental well-being of their teams, recognizing that healthier minds create stronger workplaces. From Grace Bay Resorts to Wymara Resort, Ambergris Cay Resort, and the Alexandra Resort, companies are taking real steps to prioritize mental health.

Grace Bay Resorts has taken meaningful steps to prioritize the mental health of its staff in both policy and practice. Joanna Fortunate, Director of Human Resources, shares: “This initiative has been both a fulfilling investment and a meaningful way to support our team’s well-being. It strengthens our workplace culture and our ability to attract and retain talented individuals.”

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) is also leading by example. Through its ongoing wellness initiative, Healing from Within, the RTCIPF has deepened its commitment to officer well-being with sessions focused on emotional resilience, inner healing, and team building—each one designed with the unique pressures of law enforcement in mind.

“As officers, we face daily pressures that often go unseen,” shares Odessa Forbes, Training Manager. “‘Healing from Within’ is about creating a safe space where our team can reflect, reconnect, and recharge. Mental wellness is not a luxury—it’s a necessity, and management at the RTCIPF is proud to lead the way in prioritizing it.”

Even beyond hospitality and law enforcement, organizations such as CIBC Bank and the Turks and Caicos Real Estate Association (TCREA) have recognized the value of fostering cultures of support and resilience. TCREA recently hosted a workshop for their agents.

“With Mental Health Month coming to a close, we’d like to thank Lizzie and Lorraine for sharing that extremely timely session with us,” said Latoya Jones-Harvey, Vice President of TCREA. “Agents felt seen and heard and identified with the real-time exercises provided.”

Workshops like these often begin with uncertainty—some wonder if the tools offered will truly help, or if it’s just another box to tick. But as conversations unfold, something shifts. Participants hear stories that resonate with their own, learn new practices that bring relief, and see themselves reflected in one another. These gatherings become

more than workshops; they become spaces of shared growth, understanding, and genuine care.

This collective effort also extends to the youngest members of the community. At Project BREATHE—an event led by Barbara’s Lighthouse—teens were given the chance to share their perspectives and explore their mental well-being. “Project BREATHE was more than an event—it was a call to action,” said Selena Grant, President and Founder. “It’s about creating lasting change and ensuring that youth mental health is a national priority.”

Amidst these efforts, The Elephant Rooms has been proud to stand alongside so many others. Our team of specialists—including DBT therapists, mindfulness coaches, somatic therapists, registered behavior technicians, and nutrition and lifestyle experts—works to create spaces where every person feels safe and supported.

We offer workshops and therapeutic services for stress, burnout, multiculturalism, grief, trauma, and emotional regulation, as well as dedicated support for neurodivergent individuals, including those with ADHD and autism.

“Understanding and accepting who we are is beautiful, and we all hope to experience the sense of contentment and peace in this journey we call life,” shares Maxcia Williams-Rigby, a Registered Behavior Technician with our team.

As we enter June, we know these conversations must continue. Because investing in mental health is not about a single month—it’s about building a future where everyone feels safe to be themselves, where care and compassion are woven into the fabric of our workplaces and communities.

This month also marks Men’s Health Awareness Month—a timely reminder that mental health conversations must include the unique emotional burdens men often carry in silence. Let us continue to create brave spaces where men feel just as free to speak, to feel, and to heal. Because when we extend care to every corner of our community, we strengthen the whole.

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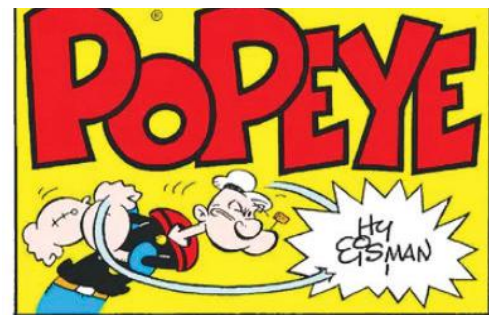
is looking for a

**LABOURER &  
DOMESTIC  
WORKER**

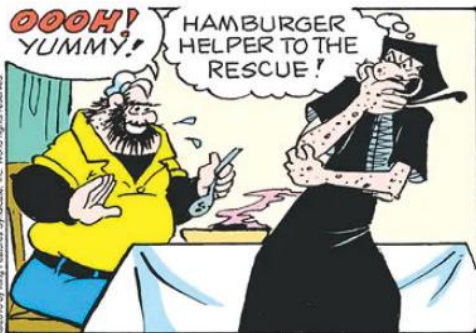
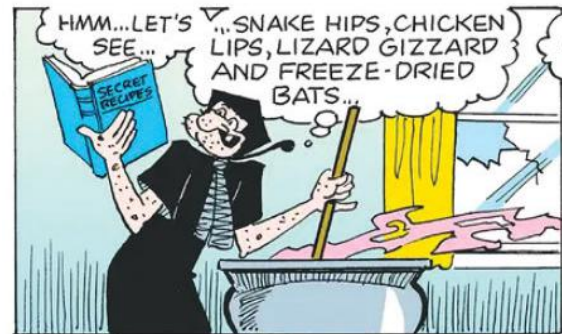
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Interested persons  
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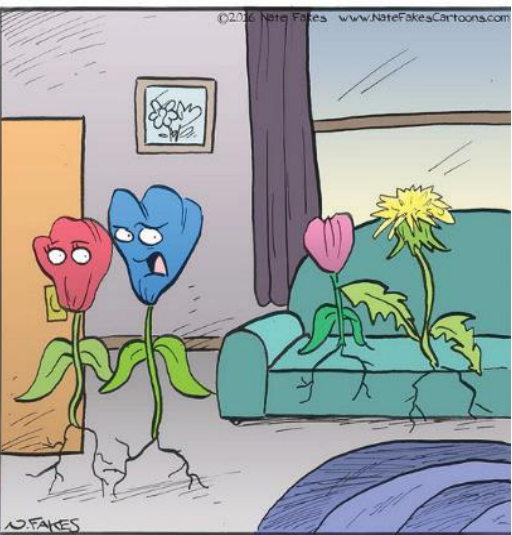




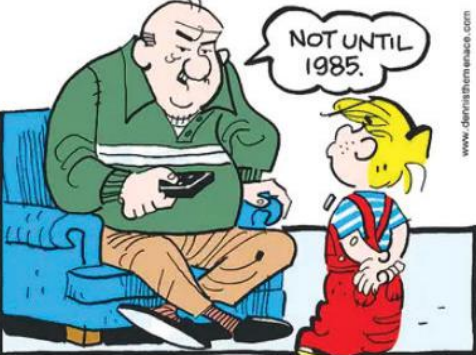
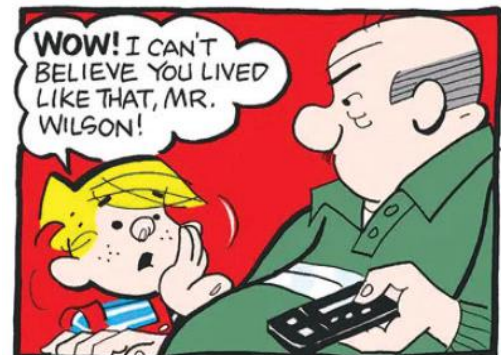
**NEWSLINE<sup>TCI</sup>**  
**COMICS**



Hank Ketcham's  
**DENNIS**  
The  
**MENACE**  
NO CONTROL



"I don't like it. Her new boyfriend keeps popping up everywhere."







*The Trouvadore: The Shipwreck That Shaped a Nation*

*In August 1841, La Trouvadore was illegally transporting nearly 200 enslaved Africans from Africa to Cuba, despite the abolition of the transatlantic slave trade by the British Empire in 1807. As the vessel neared East Caicos, it struck a reef and sank. In a rare outcome for the time, almost all of the Africans aboard survived the wreck and swam ashore. Once on land, the survivors were taken into British custody in Grand Turk. Because slavery had been abolished across British territories, they were not re-enslaved, but instead liberated under British colonial law. Many would remain in the islands, where they integrated into local society and left an indelible mark on the cultural landscape.*

*A Hidden Chapter*

For generations, the story of the Trouvadore was kept alive through oral history. Families in Grand Turk and Salt Cay passed down tales of African ancestors who arrived via shipwreck. However, the absence of official records or physical evidence kept the story on the fringes of public knowledge.

That changed in the early 2000s, when a joint team of archaeologists and marine scientists, led by the Turks and Caicos National Museum, along with support from the Smithsonian Institution and NOAA, embarked on a project to locate the lost vessel. In 2004, they announced the discovery of what was believed to be the remains of La Trouvadore off the coast of East Caicos. The find confirmed one of the most important, and least documented, episodes in the country’s heritage.

*From Tragedy, a Legacy*

The survivors of the Trouvadore are believed to have played a significant role in shaping the demographic and cultural identity of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Many of today’s Turks and Caicos Islanders can trace their ancestry back to those nearly 200 souls who emerged from the sea not as captives, but as free people on a new land.

Elements of African heritage, from bush medicine and rhythmic drumming to communal storytelling, bear the imprint of these unexpected settlers. For many families, the story is personal, rooted in bloodlines, surnames, and spiritual beliefs handed down through generations.

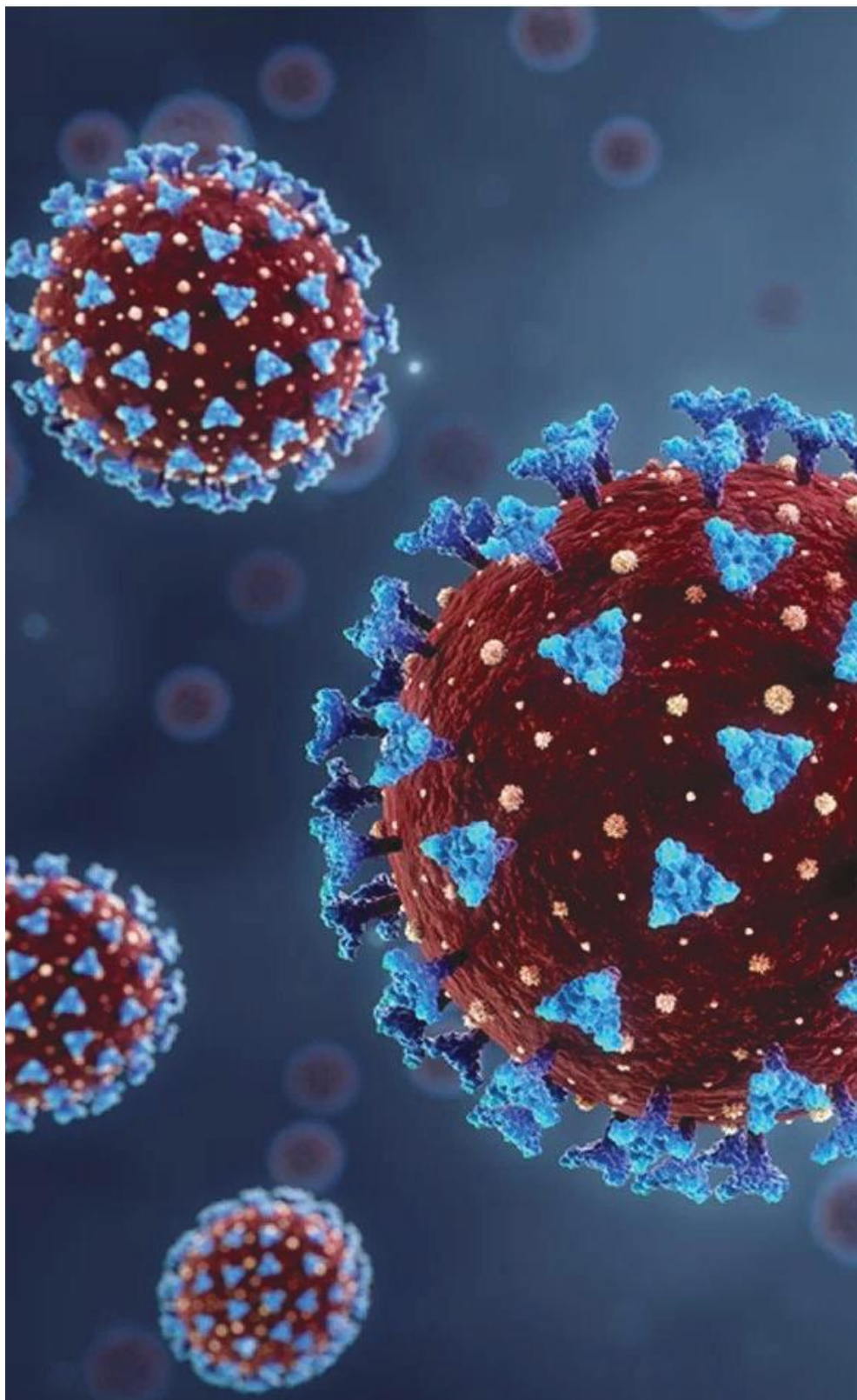
*Memory and Meaning*

The Trouvadore reminds us that the roots of Turks and Caicos are not just colonial or European—they are African. It is a story of endurance and dignity, of people who, even in the face of dehumanisation, survived, rebuilt, and helped shape a nation.

Though time may erode wood and sail, the impact of La Trouvadore is etched in the living memory of a people who turned a shipwreck into a new beginning—and helped shape a nation from its wreckage.

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Keith, D. H. (2008). *Trouvadore Project: Archaeological and Archival Investigations of a 19th-Century Slave Shipwreck*. *Ships of Discovery*. National Museum Turks and Caicos Islands. (2007). *The Trouvadore Project: A People's History*. Grand Turk: TCNM Publications.  
Olsen, F. (2008). "Freedom from the Sea: The Trouvadore Africans in the Turks and Caicos." *Caribbean Studies Journal*, 36(2), 75-89.  
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Turner, G. (2010). *Echoes from the Deep: Marine Archaeology and Cultural Memory in the Caribbean*. *UNESCO Journal of Heritage Studies*, 12(3), 44-60.





The Ministry of Health wishes to inform the public that it is closely monitoring the recently identified SARS-CoV-2 variant NB.1.8.1, which has been designated as a Variant

Under Monitoring (VUM) by the World Health Organisation (WHO). This classification calls for enhanced monitoring and surveillance, though current evidence indicates that the

# TCI Ministry of Health Monitoring SARS-CoV-2 Variant NB.1.8.1 and Reminds Public of Preventive Measures

public health risk remains low. Through regular testing of respiratory illnesses by the National Public Health Laboratory and genomic surveillance conducted in collaboration with the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) and its Medical Microbiology Laboratory (CMML), the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to actively monitor for COVID-19 variants, including NB.1.8.1. These measures help ensure timely detection and response to any potential developments.

Protecting Your Health and Our Community

The Ministry reminds all residents and visitors of the importance of maintaining general infection prevention and control (IPC) measures, especially in areas where respiratory illnesses are circulating. These include:

- Frequent handwashing with soap and water or using hand sanitiser when on the go
- Wearing masks in crowded or poorly ventilated indoor spaces
- Practising respiratory etiquette, such as covering coughs and sneezes
- Staying home when feeling unwell and avoiding close contact with others

Ensure vaccination is up to date, particularly for COVID-19 and influenza. Influenza vaccinations are

available at Primary Health Care Clinics across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

When to Seek Medical Care  
Seek immediate medical attention if you or someone in your care experiences:

- Difficulty breathing
- Chest pain or pressure
- Confusion or difficulty waking up
- Persistent fever or other severe symptoms
- Protecting Vulnerable Groups

Extra care should be taken to protect those at higher risk of severe illness, including:

- Older adults (60+ years)
- People with chronic illnesses such as diabetes, heart disease, or asthma
- Pregnant women
- Individuals who are immunocompromised

Caregivers and family members are encouraged to ensure that vulnerable individuals are up to date with vaccinations and are supported in minimising exposure to illness.

The Ministry of Health will continue to keep the public informed as more data becomes available and reaffirms its commitment to safeguarding the health and well-being of everyone in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

## DECR Launches Public Survey on Marine Activity Management in the Turks and Caicos Islands

The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) is inviting the public to take part in an online survey aimed at promoting the safe and sustainable management of marine activities across the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI). This initiative builds on a series of community workshops hosted by DECR in July 2024, which focused particularly on the use of jet skis and other marine recreational activities.

The department is expanding its outreach to gather wider public input and ensure that all ocean users, residents, businesses, and visitors have a voice in shaping future marine policies.

The survey is part of a broader effort to implement Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) in TCI. MSP is a globally recognised approach that uses scientific evidence and stakeholder input to balance the diverse uses

of marine environments reducing conflicts and supporting sustainable development.

The deadline to complete the survey is 22 June 2025. Full details and access to the survey can be found on the flyer below.

Responses collected from the online survey, along with insights gathered during the 2024 workshops, will directly inform future planning and decision-making processes concerning marine activity in TCI waters.

Please note that all personal information gathered through the survey will be kept confidential and used solely by the TCI Government and the Blue Belt Programme. No data will be shared with third parties.

For assistance in completing the survey or for more information, please contact DECR at 1 649-338-4170 or [environment@gov.tc](mailto:environment@gov.tc)



Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

CHURCH OF CHRIST

Blue Hills

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we highlight the Church of Christ, located in Blue Hills, Providenciales. The Church of Christ offers several opportunities for weekly worship. On Sunday at 9a.m. is Devine Worship. At 6:30p.m. is evening service. On Wednesday starting at 6:30pm is Bible Study and prayer meeting. The church is founded on Romans 16:16 – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.” Its bedrock is also built on 2Corinthians 9:1-15.

The Church of Christ is pastored by Jack Phanor and Patrick Forbes.



Life line Church Directory

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

<div><b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581</div> <div><b>Christ is the Answer Ministry,</b> George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030</div> <div><b>One Nation Empowerment Center</b> Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.</div> <div><b>Touch of Love Ministries International Center</b> Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731</div> <div><b>Abundant Life Ministries International</b> P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755</div> <div><b>Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk,</b> Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289</div> <div><b>Bethany Baptist Church,</b> Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118</div> <div><b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b> Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854</div> <div><b>Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk</b> Tel:946-1866</div> <div><b>Calvary Baptist Church,</b> South Caicos. Tel:946-3212</div> <div><b>Harvest Bible Chapel TCI,</b> Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc.</div>	<div><b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240</div> <div><b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b> Providenciales Tel:941-3438</div> <div><b>Roman Catholic Church,</b> Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136</div> <div><b>Faith Tabernacle Church of God,</b> Providenciales, Tel:946-4073</div> <div><b>New Testament Church of God,</b> Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175</div> <div><b>New Testament Church of God,</b> South Caicos Tel:946-3631</div> <div><b>Methodist Church,</b> Grand Turk Tel:946-2352</div> <div><b>Healing Waters Ministries,</b> Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867</div> <div><b>House of Prayer Church of God,</b> Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309</div> <div><b>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses,</b> Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727</div> <div><b>Mount Mariah Baptist Church,</b> Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205</div> <div><b>New Beginning Harvest Ministry,</b> Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759</div> <div><b>New Testament Church of God</b> Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402</div>	<div><b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624</div> <div><b>Paradise Baptist Church,</b> Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349</div> <div><b>Revival Faith Center,</b> North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349</div> <div><b>Salem Baptist Church,</b> Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565</div> <div><b>Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries</b> International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181</div> <div><b>St. Monica’s Anglican Church</b> P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499</div> <div><b>Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh</b> Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales</div> <div><b>United Pentecostal Church,</b> Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852</div> <div><b>Wesleyan Methodist Church,</b> Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596</div> <div><i>Editor’s Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at:contact@newslinetci.com</i></div>
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# GOVERNMENT, CHURCH PROTOCOL SEMINAR

A number of individuals across Providenciales benefited from a Government and Church Protocol Seminar held at the Abundant Life Ministries International Church located along Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The two-day seminar was held on Friday, May 4 and Saturday, May 5. The seminar was hosted by Bishop Delton Ellis of The Bahamas and Elezabeth Wilson, Chief Government Protocol Officer. The following are highlights of the event.









# FortisTCI President and CEO Ruth Forbes Appointed Vice Chair of CARILEC

FortisTCI President and CEO Ruth Forbes has been appointed Vice Chairperson of the Board of Directors for the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC), the regional association of energy solutions providers and other stakeholders operating in the energy sector. The first female Vice Chairperson of CARILEC and one of the few female CEOs of Caribbean utility companies, Mrs. Forbes has led FortisTCI for the past five years. Under her leadership, FortisTCI is focused on achieving a suitable regulatory environment that will accelerate the transition to a greener, smarter energy future while providing safe, reliable, and least-cost energy that supports the Turks and Caicos Islands' economic growth and the well-being of residents. Mrs. Forbes has served CARILEC as a board director for nearly five years. As Vice Chairperson, she will serve alongside CARILEC's newly elected Chairman, Wayne Caines, of Bermuda Electric Light Company Limited (BELCO). Both were elected at CARILEC's 37th Annual General Meeting,



Fortis CEO Ruth Forbes

held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025, in Willemstad, Curacao.

A seasoned C-suite executive with nearly 19 years of experience in the

electric utility sector, Mrs. Forbes brings extensive knowledge and leadership to the role of Vice Chairperson of CARILEC. She currently serves on the boards of FortisOntario and Fortis Belize Limited. A Certified Public Accountant, Mrs. Forbes served on the Professional Accountants in Business Advisory Group of the International Federation of Accountants in 2024. Reflecting on her new role as Vice Chairperson of CARILEC, Mrs. Forbes stated, "I welcome the opportunity to serve CARILEC in an additional capacity, and I am grateful for the confidence my fellow utility leaders have placed in me. As the leading voice for the Caribbean energy sector, CARILEC plays a vital role in harnessing the collective views of its members, facilitating innovative business solutions, offering critical mutual assistance in times of need, and providing essential training for the men and women who serve our utilities. I look forward to working with the Board and the association to further advance sustainable energy solutions for our region."



Angelina Astwood as the Executive Administrator within the Office of the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Office of the Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands has announced the appointment of Ms. Angelina Astwood as the Executive

Administrator within the Office of the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Ms. Astwood began her academ-

## ANGELINA ASTWOOD APPOINTED AS EXECUTIVE ADMINISTRATOR IN THE GOVERNOR'S OFFICE

ic journey in 2017 at the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College, graduating at the top of her General Studies (Humanities) course, concentrating on Law, Sociology, and Politics. She further pursued her studies by earning a Bachelor of Laws with Honours from the University of Manchester. She is currently advancing her qualifications through the Legal Practice Course at the University of Law. In addition to her academic achievements, Ms. Astwood has a solid foundation in leadership and administration through her professional involvement in the hospitality industry. She has held key Human Resources positions within this sector and, due to her exceptional service, was honoured with the Heart of Hospitality award from the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association. On her new appointment, Ms. Astwood said, "I am filled with gratitude and honour for the opportunity to serve my country. I will embrace this role with confidence and a commitment to national development, guided by the scripture: 'For I know

the plans I have for you,' declares the Lord..." —Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV). My commitment to public service is deeply rooted and inspired by the legacy of my late grandfather, the Hon. Lewis Astwood III, and my great-grandmother, Myrtle Ewing-Rigby. Both were esteemed public servants who devoted many years to faithful service. I remain motivated by their exemplary integrity and dedication as I embark on this promising new chapter in my career." In congratulating Ms. Astwood, H.E. Anya Williams, the Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands and Head of the Public Service, stated, "I am pleased to welcome Ms. Astwood to the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service and to officially congratulate her on her appointment as the new Executive Administrator in the Office of the Governor. Ms. Astwood's experience and academic background, as well her dedication to service will undoubtedly be an asset in her now role and will help to bring a fresh perspective. I am confident that she will excel in this role and look forward to her public service contributions."



# TCI Student Steven Astwood II Achieves First in the World in Prestigious CGMA Management Case Study Exam

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture is announcing that Mr. Steven Astwood II has secured First Position in the World in the Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) Management Case Study Examination held in February 2025.

This extraordinary accomplishment marks a historic milestone for both Mr. Astwood and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The CGMA designation is an internationally recognised credential for management accountants and finance professionals. Offered through the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA), the program equips professionals with the strategic, analytical, and leadership skills essential for success in today's global business environment.

The CGMA Management Case Study Exam evaluates a candidate's ability to apply theoretical knowledge to real-world business scenarios, simulating the role of a mid-level finance manager.

Achieving First in the World reflects a level of excellence unmatched by candidates from across the globe.

This outstanding achievement places a global spotlight on the Turks and Caicos Islands as a growing center for academic excellence and professional success. Mr. Astwood's performance not only elevates the reputation of the TCI but also sets a powerful example for current and future generations.

Mr. Astwood's educational journey began at Richmond Hill Preparatory School and continued at Clement Howell High School, where he progressed under the mentorship of Mrs. Kordell Campbell-Forbes.

Upon graduating from high school, Mr. Astwood pursued his tertiary education at Salford City College in Manchester, United Kingdom, where he earned a BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma in Business Studies with triple Distinction\* grades. His academic excellence earned him a scholarship from the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

He then advanced to the University of Liverpool, graduating with First Class Honours in BA Accounting & Finance. He continued his academic pursuits by earning a Master's degree in Project Management from

the University of Central Lancashire, graduating with Merit, funded by a leading local property development company.

Currently, Mr. Astwood is completing his professional certification with the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants (CIMA). He recently achieved the remarkable feat of placing first in the world in one of his final exams. Upon completing all examinations and the required work experience, he is on track to earn the prestigious Chartered Global Management Accountant (CGMA) designation.

In addition to his academic success, Mr. Astwood has developed a strong professional background. He began his career as an Assistant Management Accountant and has recently been promoted to the role of Management Accountant.

Honourable Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, and Culture, extended heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Astwood:

"On behalf of the Ministry of Education and the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, I extend my warmest congratulations to Mr. Steven Astwood II. His remarkable achievement



Steven Astwood

of placing first globally in the CGMA Management Case Study Exam is a testament to his dedication, intellect, and perseverance.

"Steven has not only brought honour to himself and his family, but also to our entire nation. His success proves that our young people can compete—and win—on the global stage. I encourage Steven and all of our students to continue striving for excellence, to dream big, and to believe in the power of hard work and education."

Mr. Astwood's success highlights the importance of investing in education and empowering our youth to achieve their fullest potential. The Turks and Caicos Islands proudly celebrate this momentous occasion and look forward to witnessing even greater accomplishments from our future leaders.

## CLYDE GREEN APPOINTED AS DEPUTY SUPERINTENDENT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

The Office of the Deputy Governor has appointed Mr. Clyde Green as the new Deputy Superintendent of the Department of Correctional Services within the Ministry of Public Safety.

Mr. Green's experience in rehabilitation and corrections began in 2004 in Oakland, California, where he served as a resident counselor and manager at Elaine's Group Home, a six-bed facility dedicated to supporting young boys facing social challenges. This early experience ignited his passion for making a positive difference in the lives of troubled youth.

In pursuit of furthering his knowledge and skills in the field, Mr. Green earned an Associate of Science degree in Business Administration in 2011, followed by a Bachelor of Science degree in Criminal Justice, with a concentration in Human Services, from Colorado Technical University in

2013.

In 2014, Mr. Green made history as the first Rehabilitation Manager for the Department of Correctional Services in the Turks and Caicos Islands, where he implemented innovative programs aimed at reducing recidivism and promoting successful reintegration of inmates into society. During this time, he spent a month on secondment in the UK, visiting multiple prisons and youth facilities in Hull and throughout the Northern Yorkshire area.

In 2018, he was promoted to Assistant Superintendent. His dedication and expertise led to a significant opportunity in 2023 when he spent three months in St. Helena in the South Atlantic Ocean on secondment to the Prison Services at HMP James-town St. Helena, acting as Principal Officer after the then Superintendent

transitioned into another role. In 2024, he received Silver Commander Incident Training in the UK, equipping him with advanced skills for managing critical incidents.

Reflecting on his new role, Mr. Green expressed his gratitude, stating, "I am thankful to God for the opportunity to grow with the Department of Correctional Services. I also want to extend my appreciation to my family and my dedicated team for their unwavering support."

"The work of Prison Officers is often unseen, yet it has a significant impact on both individuals and society. I am passionate about advancing the department through public safety and rehabilitation efforts for all residents. I look forward to embracing this new role. I am sincerely grateful to the Office of the Deputy Governor, the Ministry of Public Safety and Utilities, and

the Office of the Superintendent of Prisons for placing their trust in me."

In a statement of congratulations, Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service, H.E. Anya Williams, said, "It gives me great pleasure to officially announce and to congratulate Mr. Clyde Green on his appointment as the new Deputy Superintendent of the Department of Correctional Services."

"With an educational background in Criminal Justice, extensive experience and a deep passion for rehabilitation, along with numerous completed training and attachment programs in the field of corrections, we are fully confident in Mr. Green's ability to excel in this new role and have no doubt that he will perform exceptionally well."

Congratulations on your well-deserved promotion, Mr. Green!"





# Annual Taste of Tapas Takes Culinary Showcase to the Next Level

The Shore Club once again set the stage for one of the destination’s most anticipated culinary events, the annual Taste of Tapas, hosted by the Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA). The evening brought together 15 of the country’s finest restaurants for a night of culinary creativity, collaboration, and cause – all in support of the association’s Hospitality Adventure programs and National Culinary Team. Guests were treated to a diverse array of bite-sized culinary masterpieces, each representing the signature style and flavours of the participating restaurants. This year’s lineup featured: Beaches Turks & Caicos, COMO Parrot Cay, Grace Bay Club, Indigo, LUA Restaurant, Parallel 23, Rock House, Seven Stars Resort, Sui-Ren, TCI Culinary Ambassadors, The Del Mar, The Ritz-Carlton TCI, The Source, Point Grace, and Provo Caribbean Cafe. The welcome drink was graciously sponsored by Java Island, setting the tone for an evening of elegance and island flair. In addition to the culinary showcase, attendees had the opportunity to bid on a host of luxury experiences and items during the silent auction, thanks to generous contributions from: Beaches Resort Villages & Spa, Pine Cay, The Ritz-Carlton, Point Grace, COMO Parrot Cay, The Shore Club, Grace Bay Club, South Bank, The Ital Lifestyle, and VIP Flyer’s Club. TCHTA CEO, Stacy Cox, reflected on the evening’s impact, stating: “Taste of Tapas is a beautiful rep-

resentation of what makes this industry so special – the spirit of collaboration, excellence, and giving back. The funds raised will go directly into programs that empower our local talent and elevate our destination’s culinary service standard.” The evening also served as the perfect platform to announce the TCHTA Pop-Up Series, a new fundraising initiative that will replace the former annual Golf Scramble. First up is a Canadian-Inspired Dinner, set for June 26th, 2025 at The Farm at Seven Stars Resort, featuring Executive Chef Craig Nazareth of Beaches Turks and Caicos. This dinner is a celebration of culture through cuisine,” said Chef Nazareth. “I’m excited not only to bring a taste of Canada to the islands, but also to once again work alongside Executive Chef Edwin Gallardo as we prepare the National Culinary Team to go head-to-head with the region at the Taste of the Caribbean competition in Florida later this year.” The team’s feeder program, the Hospitality Adventure Summer Camps, are just around the corner with registration open for the following programs:

- Junior Lit’l Chef: July 7–11
- Spa Adventure: July 14–18
- Lit’l Chef: July 21–26

Back on the TCHTA’s calendar is the thrilling TCHTA Cocktail Competition, traditionally used to select the successful Bartender to join the national competition team. The TCHTA thanks members,

sponsors, and supporters as the organization maintains its commitment to cultivating talent and crafting world-class experiences for the destination. Registration for the Summer

Camps can be accessed here: <https://www.tcihospitalityadventure.com/>. Follow the TCHTA’s social media pages for updates on the Pop-Up Series and future events.

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# HIGHLIGHTS OF THE SANCTUARY LAKEHOUSES OPEN HOUSE

The Sanctuary Lakehouses development project unveiled its first unit – a two-bedroom luxury two-storey retreat with breathtaking views of the Flamingo Lake and modern, eco-friendly design. The project is being developed by Todd Foss, Trevor Musgrove and Sean O’Neill of The Agency real estate, which is also responsible for sales. The following are photo highlights of the occasion.





# Can vaccines protect against dementia?

I had grown fond of an elderly patient who was living with dementia. Her family took such good care of her. Her hair was always nicely done, the grey strands glistening like silverware because of the copious petroleum jelly. Her neck, white as chalk, always seemed freshly dusted with a soothing scented powder.

If I ever develop dementia, I hope this is how my loved ones will be there for me, with all the trials that will come at moments when I am nothing like my usual self, restless, unable to sleep, confused, and even hostile. Other days, I will be pleasant and lucid, greeting everyone politely.

## WHAT IS DEMENTIA?

The World Health Organisation (WHO) describes dementia as a collection of signs and symptoms caused by different diseases that destroy the brain over time. There are about 10 million new cases of dementia annually worldwide.

The effects include a breakdown in the ability to process one's thoughts. Features of dementia include changes in mood, ability to control emotions and behaviour. The most common cause of dementia is Alzheimer's disease, which results from a build-up of plaques or 'coating' on brain cells.

Although there is no cure for dementia, a number of medications can help slow disease progression and improve quality of life. Persons are at increased risk for dementia when they are age 65 years or

older, smoking, drinking too much alcohol, lacking regular exercise, overweight, or socially isolated.

## Vaccine against shingles and its positive 'side effect' against dementia

A vaccine against shingles has been shown to decrease the risk of dementia by 20 per cent over a seven-year period. Researchers from Stanford University, USA, alongside collaborators from Germany and Austria suggest that "the Zoster vaccine will be both far more effective as well as cost-effective in preventing or delaying dementia than existing pharmaceutical interventions."

A vaccine is usually designed to protect us from an infectious disease. Potential side effects of vaccines include pain, redness, and fever, or a more serious allergic reaction. Rare side effects include Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS), an excessive immune reaction that damages nerves and occurs at a rate of about one case per million persons vaccinated against flu, for example.

GBS occurs more commonly after natural infection from viruses and bacteria than from vaccination.

The Stanford University researchers looked at electronic health records of over 280,000 persons in Wales to compare persons who received the vaccine against shingles and those who did not. The researchers were careful to demonstrate in their analyses that the protective effects seen were not because of better

health-seeking behaviours in people who tend to get vaccinated, as health-seeking behaviours were similar between those who got the shingles vaccine and those who did not.

Outside of shingles, the protection was specific to dementia, as no protective effect was demonstrated for the other ten leading causes of death in Wales.

## EFFECTIVENESS OF THE SHINGLES VACCINE

'Shingles' or herpes zoster, caused by the same virus that causes chickenpox (the Varicella zoster virus), is common among the elderly, or persons with a weakened immune system. Shingles occurs as an itchy, burning or painful rash in a localised area of the body, and results from reactivation of the virus that stays dormant or quiet in the nerves. One in three persons who get chickenpox later develop shingles.

The shingles vaccine in this study is made from weakened live virus. The vaccine against chickenpox should not be given to someone to prevent shingles. Although the weakened virus used to make up both vaccines is the same, the amount of virus in the two vaccines is different.

The 15-times higher amount of virus in the zoster vaccine makes it more effective in persons over age 50 years who have an ageing immune system. A newer shingles vaccine does not have the weakened live virus and is made of proteins resembling parts of the virus.

This year the shingles vaccine became available in the private sector in Jamaica. The older shingles vaccine is about 50 per cent effective against shingles, compared to the newer vaccine that is over 90 per cent effective. The shingles vaccine can be given whether the person has had shingles before or not.

**Dr Yohann White is a medical director at Para Caribe Consulting. Send feedback to [columns@gleanerjm.com](mailto:columns@gleanerjm.com), [yohann.white@caribewellness.com](mailto:yohann.white@caribewellness.com) and @CaribeWellness on social media.**



## 7 common health warning signs men shouldn't ignore

Every June, Men's Health Month serves as a powerful reminder for men to prioritise their health.

While many men pride themselves on toughing it out, ignoring warning signs can lead to serious, sometimes life-threatening conditions. Early detection and preventive care are essential to long-term well-being.

According to reports from the Statistical Institute of Jamaica and Ministry of Health & Wellness (2022), in Jamaica, men live, on average, six years less than women. They also face higher death rates from preventable conditions such as heart disease, prostate cancer, and diabetes.

This health gap is not simply biological, it's also driven by men delaying or avoiding medical care. It's time for a change. Here are seven common health warning signs Jamaican men should never ignore, and what to do if you experience them.

### 1. UNEXPLAINED WEIGHT LOSS

Losing weight without trying may sound positive, but it can be a sign of underlying illness, including diabetes, hyperthyroidism, gastrointestinal conditions, or certain cancers. A sudden drop of more than 4–5kg without lifestyle changes warrants medical advice.

### 2. FREQUENT FATIGUE



Feeling constantly tired, despite adequate rest, may indicate sleep apnoea, low testosterone, depression, heart disease, or other medical conditions. If fatigue is persistent and affecting your daily life, speak to your general practitioner or book a virtual consultation.

### 3. ERECTILE DYSFUNCTION (ED)

ED isn't just a sexual health issue, it's often an early warning sign of cardiovascular disease, diabetes, or hormonal imbalances. Men experiencing ED should get evaluated, as treating the underlying

cause can improve both heart and sexual health.

### 4. CHANGES IN URINATION

Frequent urination, weak urine stream, difficulty starting or stopping, or blood in the urine may be signs of prostate enlargement, urinary tract infections, or kidney problems. Men over 40 should pay close attention and get regular prostate checks.

### 5. PERSISTENT HEARTBURN OR DIGESTIVE ISSUES

Recurring indigestion, bloating, or diffi-

culty swallowing could be symptoms of acid reflux, ulcers, or even gastrointestinal cancer. If symptoms persist beyond two weeks, or worsen, seek medical assessment.

### 6. MOOD CHANGES OR DEPRESSION

Men often ignore emotional symptoms. Irritability, withdrawal, low mood, or loss of interest in activities can indicate depression or anxiety. Mental health matters, support and treatment are available and effective.

### 7. A LUMP OR SWELLING

Whether it appears in the testicles, under the skin, or elsewhere, any unexplained lump or swelling must be taken seriously. Testicular cancer is one of the most common cancers in younger men, but early detection significantly improves outcomes.

### Taking Action

The good news? Many of these issues are treatable, especially when addressed early. At MDLink Group, we offer men easy access to medical care through our telemedicine platform, diagnostic laboratory, and soon, pharmacy services.

Don't delay. This Men's Health Month, take that step. Book your check-up, ask questions, and prioritise your health. Book online today at [www.themdlink.com](http://www.themdlink.com).



# Marcia Griffiths, Tarrus Riley club banger hits major chart in France

Veteran super-producer Clive Hunt is pleased his collaboration with French remix guru Snight B and reggae icon Marcia Griffiths and Tarrus Riley, to produce Make we Dance (Remix), has blasted into the Club40 Yacast official Charts in France.

The powerful cross-genre collaboration jumped 20 places to #13 on the popular club circuit in France. It is #5 on the New Songs listing all across Europe with hip hop and electronic and #6 on the Variety list with pop songs.

"The Make we Dance (Remix) has really performed well ... this is incredible," a proud Clive Hunt beamed.

"I am very excited about the progress it is making. This is great for reggae artistes and myself to be involved in a song that is making waves in the French club circuit. Respect to Snight B for believing in the song and me. Big up Lamonte Savoury, a fabulous musician, and Omi who wrote the song for their efforts to make this song a reality."

Club Yacast refers to a French website and community dedicated to club music charts and discussions. Hunt explained that the track had been gaining traction among club selectors all over the 100 most important clubs in France.

"The song is connected to the network of clubs in France, and it is getting airplay and they calculate the statistics based on analytics of the 100-most-important clubs in France. We hope that the buzz continues to grow," Hunt said. Hunt said that the remix came from the original idea of doing a song with Marcia Griffiths, legendary member of the I-Three, who sang with Bob Marley & The Wailers. However, he believed that the marketing of the track would benefit from a remix with European remix whiz Snight B.

The remix blends roots reggae and electronica and is a joyful celebration of rhythm and connection, bridging generations, styles, and continents. Snight B, who has more than 1.72 million listeners on Spotify and has racked up 12 million streams with his work, brought a fresh and melodic edge to the track. He is best known for his bold remix of Born to be Alive and the viral Dolce Camara Remix with French rap icon Booba which racked up 30 million plus streams in a year.

"I'm really honoured to see Make we Dance climbing the Yacast charts like this. Collaborating with legends like Marcia Griffiths and Tarrus Riley was al-

ready a dream come true, so knowing that the track is being so well received ... especially in a country like France that's always supported reggae and dance music ... means a lot. Big up to Clive Hunt for bringing us together, and thanks to everyone who's been showing love!" Snight B said.

Snight B revealed how he got involved in the project, explaining that his manager also works with Yaniss Odua and

has been collaborating with Clive Hunt for years.

"That's how Clive heard about my work and invited me to remix this Marcia Griffiths track. After I completed the remix, Tarrus Riley heard it at Clive's studio and really connected with the vibe ... he immediately wanted to be part of the project. That spontaneous energy made the whole process even more special," he said.



Tarrus Riley



Marcia Griffiths



*Sean Paul promises high-impact performances as he returns to each stage with 'more new music, more energy and more fyah'.*

Sean Paul promises high-impact performances as he returns to each stage with 'more new music, more energy and more fyah'.

Grammy Award-winning, dancehall trailblazer Sean Paul is turning up the heat this summer with the first leg of his global Bring It Tour set to kick off in a few days.

He will make his long-awaited return to

Croatia for the first time in six years. His last appearance in the country was a high-energy headline set at Rise Up Festival in the coastal town of Poreč. Now, he's headed for the capital. He lands in Zagreb on June 28 for a performance at Lollipop Festival. At what is expected to be one of the most vibrant summer tours, Sean Paul's performance promises a full-circle moment for fans who

## Sean Paul set to ignite Croatia once again

have been waiting since 2019 to see him live again on Croatian soil.

"Croatia was awesome. The energy there in 2019 was unforgettable – had a good time when I was there last – and I've been wanting to come back ever since. It's one of those countries, where I think a lot of Caribbean people don't frequent and it's a good opportunity to exchange knowledge on cultures. Overall, I am looking to visit all the different places on the tour. To all my fans, get ready, it's gonna be blazing!" said Sean Paul.

Fresh off a successful UK arena tour, which happened in April, alongside R&B legend Ashanti, Sean Paul is riding high and ready to bring that momentum straight into the heart of Europe. From Helsinki to Paris, Sean Paul will blaze through 11 cities across six countries, delivering his unmistakable blend of riddims, rhymes, and energy that has kept fans jumping for more than two decades.

The Europe leg of the tour tour kicks off in Finland on June 13 and winds through Scandinavia, Germany, Poland, and France, culminating in a dancehall celebration in the heart of Zagreb. This

follows a string of international milestones for Sean Paul, including new music collaborations, headlining festival performances, and continued recognition as one of Jamaica's most successful musical exports.

With a catalogue that has moved seamlessly from club bangers to global anthems – think hits like Get Busy, Temperature, Gimme the Light and recent fan-favourite, Scorcha, as well as a long list of chart-topping collaborations with international acts – Sean Paul is still one of the hardest-working men in the music business. He continues to evolve while staying true to the raw, infectious vibe that makes him a global superstar. The artiste promises that each night will be a no-holds-barred experience with high-impact performances as he returns to each stage with "more new music, more energy and more fyah".

Immediately after the Bring It Europe Tour, Sean Paul heads to the US to join rap superstar Wiz Khalifa for the 15-date North American amphitheatre run dubbed the Good Vibes Only Tour. Sean Paul then closes out his Europe tour with additional dates scheduled in August.





Sergeant Jonathan Roberts receiving his new instruments from Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey

# Jonathan Lamont Roberts Promoted to the Rank of Sergeant

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) is proud to announce the promotion of Jonathan Lamont Roberts to the rank of Sergeant, following a formal pinning ceremony held at the Grand Turk Police Station on Monday, May 26, 2025.

The ceremony was officiated by Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey, who presented Sergeant Roberts with his chevrons in recognition of his long-standing commitment, professionalism, and integrity throughout his 24-year career in law enforcement. Sergeant Roberts's promotion was strongly endorsed by the Force Ex-

ecutive Team, his Divisional Officer, and members of the public. His character, dedication to duty, and humility have earned him widespread respect among both his peers and senior leadership.

Commissioner Bailey first took note of Roberts's exceptional conduct during the Opening of Parliament on February 21, 2025, where he stood out for his professional demeanor, immaculate attire, and courteous service. Following this impression, a series of background checks and a formal Work, Worth, and Conduct Report were conducted, leading to a unanimous recommendation for

promotion.

Throughout his career, Sergeant Roberts has served in various key capacities, including assignments at the Grand Turk Supreme and Magistrate Courts, the Immigration Department, and currently as the Sergeant-at-Arms in the House of Parliament. Sergeant Roberts enlisted in the RT&CIPF in December 1997 and completed his formal training in January 1998 at the Regional Police Training Center in Barbados (Course #108). He earned the Bronze Medalion for Excellence in Lifesaving and Swimming during his Passing Out Parade.

## Wymara Resort + Villas Introduces Land + Sea – Turks and Caicos' Most Anticipated Waterfront Dining Experience

Wymara Resort + Villas, the luxury retreat in Turks and Caicos, introduces Land + Sea, a new oceanfront restaurant located on the grounds of its secluded Wymara Villas + Beach Club. Set just above the island's brilliant blue water, Land + Sea offers a refined, open-air dining experience for lunch and dinner, combining striking design with a menu built around fresh seafood, prime cuts, and island-inspired ingredients.

Already home to two of the island's top-ranked restaurants—Blue Water Bistro and Indigo, currently #1 and #2 on Tripadvisor's list of Best Fine Dining Restaurants[1] in Turks and Caicos—Wymara continues to expand its culinary offering with the addition of Land + Sea.

Led by Director of Culinary and Executive Chef Andrew Mirosh, the menu is shaped by two elements: Land, showcasing premium aged cuts and grilled favourites, and Sea, with a focus on fresh seafood prepared with skill, balance and depth of flavor.

"Land + Sea is more than a restaurant, it's a destination," says Chef Andrew. "Set against the breathtaking backdrop of Sunset Cove Beach, we're bringing the essence of the islands to life with every dish. From pristine, line-caught seafood to flame-grilled prime cuts, our menu is a celebration of bold flavors and sustainable ingredients."

By day, Land + Sea feels open and unhurried, ideal for lingering over lunch with a view. As evening falls, the energy shifts, and the restaurant takes on a more intimate tone with candlelit tables and a front-row seat to the dazzling sunset.

Signature dishes from the dinner

menu will include:

- The dramatic Hot & Cold Seafood Tower featuring steamed blue crabs, oysters, steamed shrimp, snow crab claws, tuna ceviche, fried grouper & coconut tiger prawns, panko-crusted calamari, mussels in white wine & garlic. Served with Chef Andrew's own cocktail & tartare sauce, and seasonal fruits.
- Char-Grilled Blackened Grouper with shrimp and pineapple fried rice, grilled asparagus, and lemon caper butter. Featuring fresh, not frozen, locally-caught fish.
- Fried Caribbean 'Rum & Coke' Chicken, glazed in chilli-rum caramel with grilled plantain and red beans and rice.
- 14 oz "Ocean" New Zealand Black Angus New York Cut Striploin marinated in pineapple juice, soy, garlic and ginger. Featuring an ultra premium cut of Black Angus beef grown on marine grasses in southern island of New Zealand. This brand won the Best Steak in the World.

The lunch menu balances comfort and creativity, with standout dishes such as:

- Baby Beetroot Salad with Goat cheese featuring radish, beetroot, baby spinach, orange segments, topped focaccia crisps and an orange caramel dressing.
- Caribbean Cajun Spiced, Grilled Grouper Tacos featuring fresh not frozen sustainably harvested local fish with tomato salsa, guacamole, and citrus slaw.
- Seafood Marinara Spaghetti with tiger prawns, shrimp, fresh not frozen New Bedford scallop, salmon, grouper, calamari, mussels and snow crab claw & blue crab meat in a spicy tomato red chilli and fresh basil

sauce.

- Southern Fried Jerk Spiced Chicken Breast Burger with house baked toasted bun, kimchi cured wombok, grilled bacon, house tartare sauce, and served with French fries.

Fresh lobster will be available for lunch and dinner when in season, and fresh pasta will be made in-house daily using Chef Andrew's signature recipes.

"From the start, my goal with Wymara Villas was to design a place where architecture and landscape work together to create something extraordinary," says Bruce Maclar, owner of Wymara Resort + Villas. "Land + Sea completes that vision. It brings the spirit of the Villas to life through food, atmosphere and connection to the sea. I'm excited for guests to feel the energy of this place and experience something truly special by the water."

A full cocktail list rounds out the experience, with house signatures

like the Land and Sea—a bold mix of bourbon, coconut-cinnamon syrup and pineapple—and the Sunset Cove, made with Monkey 47 gin, lemongrass, pineapple juice and Crème de Cassis, alongside a selection of tiki-style creations and elevated classics.

Every detail, from sourcing and sustainability to service and setting, honors the natural beauty and bounty of Turks and Caicos. It's a place where land meets sea, and every meal becomes a cherished memory.

The hours of operation are:

- Lunch | daily 11am to 5pm
- Dinner\* | 6pm to 10pm
- Bar | 11am to 11pm, Happy Hour: 5pm-7pm daily
- \*Closed for dinner on Tuesday & Wednesday

All of Wymara's dining venues are open to both guests and visitors alike. Reservations now available via [wymara.com](http://wymara.com) and [landsea@wymara.com](mailto:landsea@wymara.com). Follow along on social @landsea.wymara. Imagery available here.







# Valedictorians Announced for High Schools; Graduation and Prize-Giving Ceremonies Announced

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture proudly extends heartfelt congratulations to the graduating Class of 2025 from public high schools across the Turks and Caicos Islands. This year, a total of 322 students have successfully completed the requirements for graduation as outlined in the national Education Policy (2005). This important milestone not only reflects the hard work and dedication of students, but also the unwavering support of families, educators, and the wider community. It signals the beginning of a promising new journey for these young men and women as they move forward toward higher education, careers, and other meaningful life paths. Graduation and prize-giving ceremonies are scheduled to take place from Monday, 30 June to Thursday, 3 July 2025, where students will be officially recognized for their achievements across several categories of certification, including Diploma Distinction, Diploma Merit, Diploma Credit, Diploma

Pass, Certificate, and Statement. The Honourable Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, shared the following message to mark the occasion: “It is with great pride that I extend my heartfelt congratulations to all of our graduates. Your achievements are a true reflection of your dedication, perseverance, and the unwavering support you have received from your families, teachers, and communities. I also wish to extend special congratulations to the students graduating from our private institutions. Your success equally highlights the important role that private schools play in our national education system, and I commend your efforts and accomplishments. To all members of the Class of 2025, on behalf of the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, I wish you continued success and fulfilment in all your future endeavours. You have made us proud. Congratulations!” As these graduates take the next steps in life, they are encouraged to remain grounded in their values, to stay curious and compassionate, and to continue striving toward their highest potential. The Ministry reaffirms its commitment to the youth of the Turks and Caicos Islands and remains dedicated to supporting their path to excellence.

Certification Summary by School				
School	Distinction	Merit	Credit	
Pass	Certificate	Statement		
Total				
Raymond Gardiner High	4	1		
10	2	1	2	20
Marjorie Basden High	1	5		
4	2	0	0	12
H J Robinson High	0	7	26	
53	2	6	94	
Clement Howell High	7	26		
88	58	12	5	196
Total	12	39	128	115
15	13	322		

- Top-Performing Students by School**
- H J Robinson High School**
- Valedictorian: Clara Ingham – 83.40%
  - Salutatorian: Shae Narcisse – 78.85%
  - Runner-Up: Zaden Malcolm – 78.69%
- Marjorie Basden High School**
- Valedictorian: Peche Ariza – 88.78%
  - Salutatorian: Abigail Joseph – 83.65%
  - Runner-Up: Kayley Hall – 82.65%
- Raymond Gardiner High School**
- Valedictorian: Jamielle Salamanca – 86.69%

- Salutatorian (Tie): Porsche Morromeo & Treneice Reid – 86.24%
- Clement Howell High School**
- Valedictorian: Chinuru Orumba – 87.90%
  - Salutatorian: Shama Hippolite – 87.80%
  - Runner-Up: Jodesha Palmer – 86.40%
- Graduation & Prize-Giving Ceremonies Schedule**
- | School                | Date & Time                       | Theme  |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------|--|
| H J Robinson High     | Monday, 30 June 2025; 5:00 p.m.   | “Celebrating Today: Envisioning the Future”                        |
| Marjorie Basden High  | Tuesday, 1 July 2025; 5:00 p.m.   | “Surviving the Impossible; Becoming the Best Version of Ourselves” |
| Raymond Gardiner High | Wednesday, 2 July 2025; 5:00 p.m. | “Unlocking Your Potential: The Key to Your Success”                |
| Clement Howell High   | Thursday, 3 July 2025; 5:00 p.m.  | “Anchored in Purpose: Determined to Excel”                         |
- The Ministry of Education warmly invites residents throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands to celebrate the accomplishments of the Class of 2025. The achievements of these students stand as a proud testament to the promise and potential of our nation’s youth.

# Six Islanders Recognized at Inaugural Brunch; Four New Queens Crowned in Pageant Milestone

Six outstanding Turks and Caicos Islanders—one from each island—were honoured at the Inaugural All-Island Unsung Heroes Brunch, hosted by Myrna-Lisa’s Myriad Pageant and Entertainment in partnership with Myrna-Lisa’s Guiding Light, a nonprofit established in memory of the late matriarch Mrs. Myrna Mills-Gray. The elegant ceremony, held on Sunday, May 18, paid tribute to individuals who have made quiet but significant contributions to national development, cultural preservation, and community service. Each honoree received commemorative awards, floral tributes, and gifts, presented by family and community members in an afternoon filled with love, laughter, and reflection. 2024–2025 All-Island Unsung Heroes Honorees:

- Mr. W. Blythe Duncanson (Providenciales) – Pioneering media figure and founder of the first locally-owned newspaper still in operation today.
- Mr. Lewellyn Handfield (North Caicos) – Esteemed businessman and entrepreneur behind Lew1 Shipping.
- Mr. Ed Forbes (Grand Turk) – Long-time contributor to the boating and marine service industry.
- Ms. Emily Malcolm (South Caicos) – Veteran educator and respected community leader.
- Mrs. Janet Walkin (Middle Caicos) – Tireless advocate for grassroots develop-

ment and civic engagement.

- Mrs. Thelma Lightbourne-Kennedy (Salt Cay) – Beloved cultural preservationist and heritage champion.

Founder and President Ms. Alicia Swann delivered a deeply personal address, reminiscing on her upbringing in South Caicos and the everyday heroes who inspired her. “The true heroes to me were the fishermen, the mechanics, my grandfather William Henry Mills, my grandmother who served the elderly, and my mother—a woman of faith and resilience. Celebrating our heroes while they are alive to feel the love and appreciation is one of my greatest honors.” A Historic Night for Pageantry in Turks and Caicos

The celebration continued later that evening with the Second Annual One Nation TCI Pageant, where four new queens were crowned, doubling the number from last year and signaling growing regional and international ambitions. 2025 Titleholders:

- Miss One Nation TCI International – Ms. Shanice Fletcher
- Miss Teen One Nation TCI International – Ms. Jay’niqua Wilson
- Miss One Nation TCI Regional – Ms. Jenny Louis
- Miss Teen One Nation TCI Regional – Ms. Rihanna Fulford

With poised confidence, these young women are set to represent the Turks and Caicos

Islands in eight international and regional pageants—up from three in 2024—while also taking part in community outreach, fashion events, and youth engagement initiatives throughout the year. Outgoing queen Ms. Selena Grant, who made national history by placing First Runner-Up in the Miss Global International Pageant, reflected on the powerful impact of her reign. Inspired to continue the legacy of service, she recently launched her own nonprofit, Barbara’s Lighthouse, in memory of her grandmother, the late educator Ms. Barbara Francis.

**Fashion, Culture, and Forward Momentum**

Looking ahead, the organization is preparing for the return of Turks and Caicos Islands Fashion Week, after the resounding success of its inaugural staging earlier this year. The event has become a vital platform for local and regional designers and artists, offering exposure, business development, and collaborative opportunities within the creative industries.

**A Community Effort**

This milestone weekend was made possible through the generous support of sponsors, partners, and community members who believe in the organization’s vision of empowerment and excellence. The organizers extend heartfelt thanks to The Hartling Group, the official venue sponsor of Turks and Caicos Islands Fashion Week, and to Beaches Turks and Caicos Re-

sort Villages and Spa, Ports of Call Resort, and Barbetta Restaurant for their continued partnership. The organisation also expressed deep appreciation also goes out to Froggies on da Beach, Omar’s Beach Hut, Be You Spa, Grace Bay Market, Aziza, 88.5 FM The Beat, and Radio Turks and Caicos, whose unwavering support helped make the events a success. The organisation also expressed additional gratitude is extended to local brands and businesses including Wellington Collections, Projetch, Conch Shack, HerbMe, Beche, Harbor Deli and Gift Shop, Big Mike’s Sports Bar, and Big Mike’s Taxi and Tours, Caribbean Cruisin’ TCI Ferry, Barbor Deli and Gift Shop and Big Mike’s Taxi and Tour services and Big Mike’s Sports Bar, whose collaboration and services were invaluable. A special thank-you is reserved for Paula Rigby and Apple Astwood (Mama P and Granddaughter) for bringing joy, humor, and heartfelt entertainment to the Unsung Honorees and their guests. The organization also thanks Flow for its continued support of community-centered programming. With strong community roots and a growing international presence, Myrna-Lisa’s Myriad Pageant and Entertainment, along with Myrna-Lisa’s Guiding Light, continues to redefine what it means to celebrate excellence—honouring the past, empowering the present, and inspiring the future.



# Soldier arrested in Suriname after body of man found in parked vehicle

Police in Suriname say a 36-year-old soldier has been arrested as they investigate the death of a man, whose body was found in a vehicle with a gunshot wound earlier this month.

The Police Public Relations

said that the matter had been investigated by the Capital Crimes department, in collaboration with the Paramaribo Investigation Assistance Team and the intelligence service of the Suriname Police Force.

It said that the soldier, who is attached to the National Security Directorate, has been arrested and after consultation with the Public Prosecution Service, was transferred to the Military Police as the investigation continues by a

joint team of the police and the Military Police.

The police said that an autopsy will be conducted on the body of the man to determine the cause of his death. The man's body was found in the vehicle on June 2.

# UK sanctions two Israeli ministers as it ramps up pressure over Gaza

Two Israeli government ministers, Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, have been sanctioned by the UK because of their comments on Gaza.

Mr Ben-Gvir, the security minister, and Mr Smotrich, the finance minister in Benjamin Netanyahu's coalition government will both face a travel ban and see their assets frozen.

The move comes as the UK and other Western nations seek to ramp up pressure on Israel's government amid the ongoing war in Gaza.

Israel's foreign affairs minister Gideon Sa'ar said it was "outrageous that elected representatives and members of the government are subjected to these kind of measures".

He added: "I discussed it earlier today with PM Netanyahu and we will hold a special government meeting early next week to decide on our response to this unacceptable decision."

Mr Smotrich and Mr Ben-Gvir both belong to right wing parties which help to prop up Mr Netanyahu's fragile coalition government.

Both have been criticised for



*Bezalel Smotrich, Israel's Minister of Finance*

their hardline stance on the war in Gaza.

Mr Smotrich has campaigned against allowing aid into Gaza, while Mr Ben-Gvir has called for Gaza's people to be resettled from the territory.

The UK and its allies have increased pressure on Israel in recent months amid ongoing aid shortages in Gaza, as well as suggestions it could launch a new large-scale offensive into the territory.

Reports suggest only scarce



*UK Prime Minister Keir Starmer*

amounts of aid are making their way into the hands of Gazans, amid a new aid initiative backed by the US and Israel, instead of the previous UN-run programme.

The slow flow of food and medicines has prompted warnings of famine and starvation among the territory's population.

In May, Foreign Secretary David Lammy paused negotiations towards a UK trade deal with Israel as the Government

sought to pressure Israel to abandon its planned offensive into Gaza.

Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer, France's president Emmanuel Macron and Canada's prime minister Mark Carney also wrote a joint statement last month warning that Israel's leaders risked "breaching International Humanitarian Law" and calling for more aid to be allowed into Gaza.

Mr Netanyahu responded by claiming the three leaders were on the "wrong side" of history.

In September last year, the Government halted 30 out of around 350 arms sales licences to Israel, for fear they may be used for war crimes.

Ministers insist that this means F-35 fighter jets used by Israel no longer receive replacement parts from the UK, and no UK-made bombs or ammunition are used in Gaza.

Lord David Cameron has previously said he considered sanctioning both Israeli ministers in his final days as foreign secretary in Rishi Sunak's Conservative government.





*Sunrise Airways' front desk at the Cap-Haïtien International Airport pictured on January 10, 2025. Photo by Onz Chéry/ The Haitian Times.*

# Haiti's domestic flights resume, sparking both hope and skepticism

Haiti will resume service of domestic flights at Toussaint Louverture International Airport on June 12, re-connecting Port-au-Prince with provincial cities including Cap-Haïtien, Jacmel, Les Cayes and Jérémie. The move comes as the country remains under a U.S. commercial flight ban. Sunrise Airways will operate the flights under an agreement with the Haitian government. Officials say the plan is intended to restore internal connectivity, support economic recovery, and signal to international partners that the country is working toward normalization despite the crisis.

"This is an advancement that will allow citizens to resume their activities and facilitate international transactions," said Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé during the signing ceremony.

The resumption is being touted as the first major effort to reinvigorate domestic aviation since security issues shuttered Haiti's airports earlier this year. In February 2024, flights were suspended for nearly three months after escalating violence forced airspace closures. On November 11, 2024, airlines like JetBlue and Spir-

it halted operations when aircrafts came under gunfire near Port-au-Prince airport. Since then, no international commercial flights have returned to the capital.

Yves François Ducarmel, Director General of the National Airport Authority (AAN), said the restart represents more than resumed service—it is a test of Haiti's resilience.

"This symbolizes determination and hope," Ducarmel said. "It's a collective commitment to reconnect people, revive tourism, and strengthen internal trade routes."

## **Mixed reactions as residents are hopeful but cautious**

Some citizens welcomed the news. Jane Manuel, a Haitian living in New Jersey, said the decision will offer greater flexibility to those traveling between the capital and rural regions. "I think it's good news," she told The Haitian Times. "It helps people who would otherwise be stuck. There's no perfect time for travel when insecurity is ongoing, but mobility is still a need."

Others expressed concern about safety and affordability. Djinie Metelus, a resident of Carrefour—Port-au-Prince, said the move lacks meaning-

ful impact without real progress on the security front.

"This is an advancement that will allow citizens to resume their activities and facilitate international transactions through the airport."

"This doesn't solve the problem," she said. "Airfare is too expensive for most Haitians. Last year, a round-trip ticket from Cap-Haïtien to Port-au-Prince was \$298. That's not accessible."

Officials have not yet announced fares for the resumed flights. Additionally, uncertainty remains around infrastructure readiness and service consistency.

The U.S. commercial flight ban on Port-au-Prince remains in effect.

The domestic relaunch comes as Haiti continues to grapple with a U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) ban on American carriers operating in its airspace. Imposed in November 2024 after gang gunfire struck planes near the Port-au-Prince airport, the ban was initially temporary but has now been extended through September 2025.

The FAA has extended its ban on U.S. flights to Port-au-Prince through September 2025, keeping Haiti's capital disconnected from direct American air travel.

Despite security reinforcements around the airport—including mili-

tary container barricades and housing clearances—international carriers have not resumed service. Haitian officials hope the domestic relaunch will signal readiness and eventually prompt U.S. and other foreign airlines to return.

"We are working to ensure that commercial flights to the regions become the first step toward resuming international travel," Prime Minister Fils-Aimé said.

## **Domestic relaunch in the shadow of broader travel restrictions**

Complicating matters further, the U.S. on June 4 announced new immigration restrictions targeting countries, including Haiti, that pose "high risks in traveler screening and verification." The measure, signed by President Donald Trump, is set to take effect June 9 and further limits visa approvals for Haitians.

The Haitian Ministry of Foreign Affairs said it would pursue diplomatic dialogue to reduce the impact of the new restrictions. Officials stressed that these limitations could worsen conditions for families and professionals who rely on international travel for survival and livelihood.

"We call on our partners for an open discussion," the ministry said in a statement, "to ensure that this decision does not worsen the situation for many Haitians."

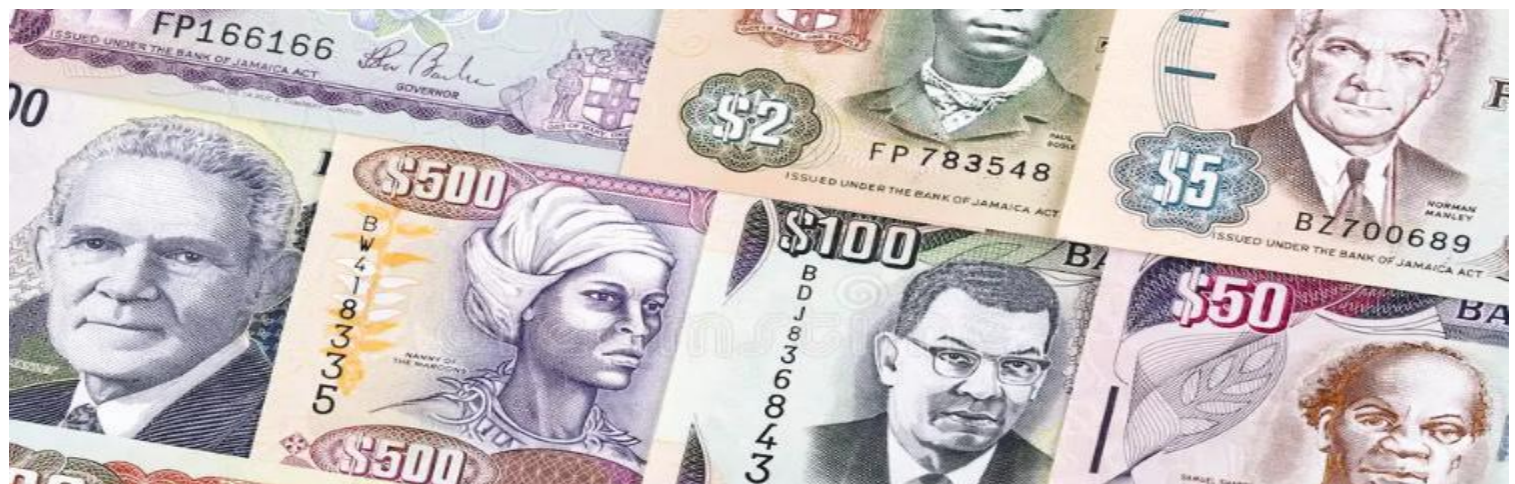
# Jamaica To Phase Out Cotton Banknotes

The Bank of Jamaica (BOJ) is reminding Jamaicans that cotton banknotes will no longer be legal tender after 1 July 2025, as the country continues its transition to the more durable polymer currency.

Businesses and individuals are therefore being urged to continue accepting and using the cotton notes for transactions up to and including 30 June, 2025.

To facilitate the transition, the BOJ has confirmed that it is exchanging old cotton notes for the new polymer versions and will continue doing so indefinitely beyond the July 1 deadline.

In addition, deposit-taking institutions (DTIs) have committed to accepting the cotton notes from their



customers over the counter and, in some cases, via ATMs, until at least the end of July 2025.

"Businesses and individuals can therefore rest assured that they

will be able to deposit cotton banknotes to their bank accounts or exchange them for new polymer banknotes at their respective DTIs," the central bank said in a release.

The BOJ is encouraging the public to contact their respective financial institutions for details on exchange and deposit options as the deadline approaches.



# NACAC YOUTH SQUAD CHOSEN



**TCl Athletes Selected For The NACAC Age Group U13 & 15  
Championships in Managua, Nicaragua From July 4 to 6**

**See Story on Page 32**





# MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE KING'S BATON RELAY

The King's Baton, the symbol of the Commonwealth Games, which is to be held this year in Glasgow Scotland in 2026, landed in the Turks and Caicos Islands this past week with much fanfare. The Baton visited all the inhabited islands in the chain, sparking great excitement among participants and onlookers alike. The follow are highlights from the Provo leg of the event.







Norman Saunders is seen atop the podium at the Chicago Summer International IBJJF Jui Jitsu Championship.

# Local Jiu Jitsu Champion Seeks Sponsorships for Summer Tournament in Chicago

Local Brazilian Jiu Jitsu athlete and coach Norman Saunders is seeking sponsorship to compete in the 2024 IBJJF (International Brazilian Jiu Jitsu Federation) Chicago Summer Open this August.

Saunders, who trains and coaches at TCI BJJ — the Turks and Caicos Islands’ only Brazilian Jiu Jitsu gym — has earned back-to-back gold medals at the Chicago Summer Open over the past two years. Competing against over 20 athletes in his division each year, he won all eight of his matches across the two tournaments, with six victories coming by submission.

Now, after receiving a recent belt promotion, Saunders is preparing to enter a higher, more competitive division — and he’s eager to prove himself once again on the international stage.

“I’m looking forward to going

back this summer and testing myself in a new division,” Saunders said in a correspon. “It’s going to be a bigger challenge, but I’ve been training hard and I’m excited to compete at that level.”

The tournament will take place on August 9th and 10th in Chicago. However, the rising cost of travel and registration has become a barrier. Saunders is hoping to raise support to cover approximately \$500–\$600 for airfare and \$200 for registration.

“This is a big opportunity not just for me, but for the growth of the sport in TCI,” he said. “Any support would go a long way in helping me represent the island and continue this journey.”

Supporters or potential sponsors can reach out directly through TCI BJJ or contact Saunders via his social media channels.

# Grand Slam Track cancels Los Angeles meet – reports

The inaugural season of Michael Johnson’s Grand Slam Track will end prematurely with the cancellation of the fourth and final meeting that had been scheduled for Los Angeles later this month, according to media reports.

According to The Independent, the cancellation was due to financial reasons – the LA meet being deemed not viable financially.

It noted that the meeting will not be replaced by another host city, bringing a premature end to the season which has seen earlier stops in Kingston, Jamaica and Miami and Philadelphia in the United States.

Still, the article reported that organisers view the inaugural season as a success and remain confident that Grand Slam Track will continue in 2026.

New investors are set to be announced next week, The Independent reported.

Johnson is the founder of Grand Slam Track, which debuted in Kingston in April.

Conceived by the track legend as a way of reinvigorating interest in athletics outside of Olympic years, the series aims to showcase more races between the world’s best runners, sprinters and hurdlers. There are no field events.



Michael Johnson, co-founder and commissioner of Grand Slam Track.



# Wesley Methodist Retain Volleyball Title After Thrilling Three-Set Final

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE SPORT EDITOR

Wesley Methodist School are once again champions of the Inter-High School Volleyball Tournament, clinching their second straight title after a gritty 2-1 win over Clement Howell High School in a nail-biting final at the Gustarvus Lightbourne Sport Centre in Providenciales on Saturday, June 7.

The match, played in front of an energetic crowd, was a showcase of determination, skill, and heart from both teams.

Wesley Methodist came out strong, winning the opening set 25-20 with crisp passes and well-coordinated attacks. But Clement Howell, refusing to roll over, fought back to take the second set 25-21, showing resilience and strong defensive play to level the score at one set apiece.

The championship came down to a tense and thrilling third set. It was a ding-dong battle from start to finish, with both teams trading points and momentum. In the end, Wesley Methodist dug deep, edging out their rivals 15-12 to seal the match and the title.

"I am more than pleased, more than satisfied with the standard this year," said Dwight Myrie, Physical Education teacher and head coach of the Wesley Methodist team. "The coaches have been doing a great job



*Volleyball Champions Wesley Methodist celebrate with their championship Trophy.*

across the schools, and the players really showed technical and tactical growth. That final was a real battle." Myrie credited his team's championship run to months of preparation

that began over the Easter break. While most students were relaxing, his squad was training multiple days a week, putting in long hours to sharpen both technique and tactics.

The tournament, which featured Wesley Methodist, Clement Howell, and A. Louise Garland Thomas High School, saw Wesley defeat Long Bay 2-0 in the preliminary round. But they were stunned by Clement Howell 2-1 in their second group match — a loss Myrie called a turning point. "That loss was exactly what we needed. It reminded us not to get complacent," he said. "I told the team it's not just about volleyball — it's about building character. And how they responded to adversity would define who they are."

The response was clear: Wesley Methodist came back stronger, more focused, and ultimately, victorious. Looking ahead, Myrie is hopeful that the tournament will expand in 2026, with more schools joining and the potential for separate boys' and girls' divisions. Interest is already growing, with schools like Holy Family expressing their intent to compete next year. "The level of talent on display this year — especially among the girls — was impressive. With continued support, I believe we can grow this into something even more impactful for school sports in the Turks and Caicos Islands."

For now, the trophy stays with Wesley Methodist — the undisputed volleyball kings of high school sports.



*The Omar's Cricket Team poses for a photo shortly after defeating Aircool.*

Defending champions Omar's signaled their intent to retain the title with a dominant all-round performance on Sunday, defeating Aircool Knight Riders by 77 runs in the latest round of the TCICA Senior Men's Cricket Competition at the Downtown Ball Park, Providenciales. After being sent in to bat by the Knight Riders, Omar's posted a competitive

135 for 6 from their 20 overs. Garrett Campbell anchored the innings with a composed 32 not out, hitting four boundaries, while Marlon Turner added a blistering 30 runs that featured three fours and two sixes.

The Knight Riders' bowlers had brief moments of success—Stephan Brown stood out with figures of 3 for 15 from

## Defending Champions Omar's Crush Aircool Knight

his 4 overs. He was supported by Richard Gardiner (1 for 26), Richardo Johnson (1 for 16 from 1 over), and Chris Gonzales (1 for 11 from 1 over).

In reply, Aircool Knight Riders struggled to find momentum and were bowled out for a mere 58 runs in 13 overs. Stephan Brown top-scored with 19, including two big sixes, and Ed Butler chipped in with 10 runs.

Omar's' bowlers were clinical in dismantling the Knight Riders' batting lineup. Marlon Turner completed a match-win-

ning performance by taking 3 wickets for just 4 runs in 3 overs. He was supported by Ramacini Chang, who bagged 4 for 22, and Dane Richie with 2 for 9.

Turner's all-round excellence earned him the Man of the Match award as Omar's reminded the competition why they are the reigning champions.

Action resumes next Sunday, June 15, when Police take on the Jaguars in what promises to be another exciting encounter in the TCICA Senior Men's Cricket Competition.





*Rosay Cox sprints home in the 400m race*



*Tanyiya Forbes about to toss the shotput ball in one of the many disciplines that she took part in.*

# Turks and Caicos Names Team for NACAC Age Group Championships

The Turks and Caicos Islands have officially selected the young athletes who will represent the country at the upcoming NACAC Age Group U13 & U15 Championships, to be held in Managua, Nicaragua, from July 4 to 6. The final team was chosen following a competitive trial meet hosted at the National Stadium on Saturday, May 1. Athletes in the Under 13 and Under 15 age groups competed across multiple events, with points accumulated to determine the overall standings. In line with NACAC rules, only the top two athletes from

each category will move on to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands at the international level. Leading the Under 13 boys' division was Rozay Cox, who earned an impressive 2,871 points to secure first place. He was closely followed by DeShawn Clarke, who totaled 2,699 points to claim the second and final qualifying spot. Third place went to Duntae Outten with 2,345 points, a strong performance that unfortunately falls short of the team requirement. In the Under 13 girls' category, Jamia Robinson emerged as the standout

athlete, accumulating 2,119 points. Steady Lolo secured the second spot with 1,989 points, narrowly edging out Aaliyah Williams, who finished third with 1,987 points—just two points shy of qualification. The Under 15 boys competition featured high-scoring performances, led by Djaffson Charles with 3,781 points. Makai Forbes followed closely with 3,659 points to lock in the second team spot. Dadrian Malbranche claimed third with 3,362 points, a solid showing in a very competitive field. Among the Under 15 girls, Edna

Jeanty took top honors with 2,807 points. She will be joined on the team by Taniya Forbes, who scored 2,549 points to secure second place. Naesha Petit rounded out the top three with 2,466 points. The athletes will now begin preparations for the regional championships in Nicaragua, where they will face top competitors from across North America, Central America, and the Caribbean. With strong performances in the local trials, hopes are high that this young team will proudly represent the Turks and Caicos Islands on the international stage.