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**DEPUTY PREMIER
REAFFIRMS
WORKERS' RIGHTS AT
MAY DAY
OBSERVANCE - G2**



**NEW AMBULANCES
DUBBED "ROLLS
ROYCE OF MEDICAL
SERVICES"
COMMISSIONED-PG3**

ENFORCE LABOR LAWS

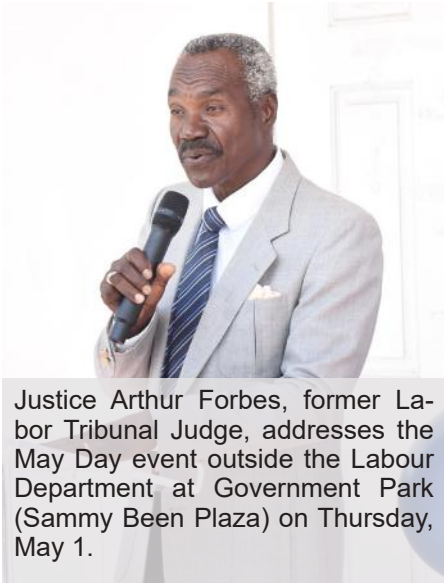
● **Leeward, Long Bay MP Hon. Akierra Missick
Urges Government to Hold Rogue Employers
Accountable**

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Deputy Premier Reaffirms Workers' Rights at May Day Observance



Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson addressed the May Day event outside the Labour Department at Government Park (Sammy Been Plaza) in Providenciales on Thursday May 1.



Justice Arthur Forbes, former Labor Tribunal Judge, addresses the May Day event outside the Labour Department at Government Park (Sammy Been Plaza) on Thursday, May 1.

our sincere gratitude for your dedication and the daily sacrifices you make.” The Deputy Premier acknowledged that May Day has often gone unrecognized in the Turks and Caicos Islands, but signaled that this year marks a shift in approach. “We’ve taken deliberate steps to change that,” he explained. “Because even if many may not yet fully appreciate the day’s significance, it’s our responsibility to remind every worker: you matter, your work matters, and your voice matters.”

bour and Employment Services, I reaffirm my commitment to meaningful labour reform and workforce development,” he said. “We are working to enhance worker protections, expand training programmes, and build a culture of fairness and productivity.” Calling for action beyond symbolic gestures, Hon. Robinson urged both public and private sector leaders to implement tangible improvements in working conditions, uphold workers’ dignity, and champion justice in every workplace. “Your labour drives our economy. Your resilience shapes our progress. And your voices will continue to be heard and respected by this government,” he concluded, extending heartfelt May Day greetings to all workers across the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Labor Department Staff stand at attention to the singing of the National Song, during a May Day event held to mark International Workers’ Rights Day, Held Government Park (Sammy Been Plaza), Providenciales.

Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson has reiterated the government’s steadfast commitment to safeguarding the rights of workers, declaring that “decent work is not a privilege, but a right.” His remarks came in observance of International Workers’ Day—widely known as May Day—a global occasion that commemorates the struggles and achievements of the labour movement and pays tribute to workers who sustain communities and econ-

omies around the world. Speaking in recognition of the day, Hon. Robinson emphasized the importance of ensuring social justice and solidarity among workers, noting that economic development must go hand in hand with the well-being of the nation’s workforce. “On this May Day, we pause to recognize and honour the hard-working people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, who are the foundation, backbone, and at the heart of all that we are as a country,” he said. “We express

This year’s May Day was observed under the theme “Securing Decent Work and Social Justice for a Resilient Turks and Caicos,” which Robinson described as more than just a slogan, but a clear call to action. He outlined a vision of a future where all workers are treated with fairness and dignity, supported by strong labour laws, accessible training opportunities, and a culture of equity across all sectors. “As Minister responsible for La-

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New Ambulances dubbed “Rolls Royce of Medical Services” Commissioned

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief



From left: Any Brijmohansingh, Director of EMS; Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams, Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles, and Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson share in the cutting of the ribbon to officially commission the new ambulances.

A pair of state-of-the-art ambulances, described as the “Rolls Royce of Medical Services,” have officially joined the fleet of the Turks and Caicos Islands’ Emergency Medical Services (EMS), in a ceremony held Thursday morning at the EMS Dispatch Office in Providenciales.

The new vehicles — equipped to handle rugged terrain, flood-prone areas, and the most critical emergencies — were commissioned during a ceremony attended by government officials, health leaders, and international partners. The event marked a major step forward in the nation’s emergency healthcare infrastructure.

Director of EMS, Andy Brijmohansingh, welcomed guests and delivered a powerful address that framed the ambulances not just as vehicles, but as a reflection of national progress and commitment to public safety.

“Today is more than just an unveiling of machinery,” said Brijmohansingh. “These vehicles symbolize who we are and our dedication to meeting the growing demands of our work and our community’s needs.”

Brijmohansingh extended gratitude to key partners, including the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) and the West Midlands Ambulance Service, for their instrumental roles. He also acknowledged the behind-the-scenes efforts of the Mechanical Services Division, describing them as “the wings beneath our wings.”

He outlined the EMS Department’s plans for strategic deployment of units beyond the central base in Providenciales, with expansion into Blue Hills, Leeward, and Chalk Sound to improve response times.

“With the commissioning of these ambulances and our strategic planning underway, we are strengthening our nation’s emergency response system,” he noted, adding that even more ambulances are expected to arrive by June.

Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Kyle Knowles, highlighted the importance of collaboration in health infrastructure advancement.

“This milestone reflects our dedication to improving emergency response and public health infrastructure,” Knowles said. “Strong partnerships are essential to effective governance.”

Former Minister of Health and current Deputy Premier, Hon. Jamell Robinson, reflected on the multi-year process that brought the initiative to fruition.

Robinson recalled the early stages of discussion and planning that laid the groundwork for the arrival of these ambulances.

“When I was Minister of Health, the talks with the FCDO and the West Midlands Ambulance Service began,” he said. “Sometimes you plant a tree and don’t get to sit under its shade. But I had the privilege of working with Permanent Secretary Abel and the Health team, and I’m proud to see

that Hon. Shaun Malcolm watered it, and now Hon. Kyle Knowles gets to enjoy the shade.”

The Deputy Premier praised the continuity within the Ministry of Health and its leadership team, as well as the resilience of the project over the past two years.

“It’s easy to make promises, but it takes true commitment to follow through — and I must commend everyone involved for sticking with it. From the FCDO to the Governor’s Office, to our internal health leadership, this was a team effort.”

He also acknowledged the quality and advanced capabilities of the ambu-

lances themselves, expressing admiration for their modern features.

“From what I understand, these are not just ambulances — they are high-tech, all-terrain, next-level machines,” he said with a smile. “Somebody called them the Rolls Royce of ambulances — and I’d have to agree, especially with that striking colour.”

Her Excellency, the Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, delivered the keynote remarks and officially handed over the ambulances. She reflected on the collaborative logistics involved, including negotiations during her prior post in Anguilla and efforts to coordinate cost-effective shipping.

The Governor shared a behind-the-scenes look at how this project was coordinated across territories, dating back to her time in Anguilla.

“In my final months in Anguilla, we were also seeking ambulances. I was at the Governor’s Office working on a similar initiative and realized there was a unique opportunity to join forces with Turks and Caicos,” she explained. “So, I rang the then-acting Governor in TCI and said — let’s get these ambulances on the same ship. It just made sense. It was a joint need.”

She credited not only the West Midlands Ambulance Service and Dr. Ian Cummings for their instrumental role in securing the vehicles, but also acknowledged the often-overlooked complexities of logistics, shipping costs, and timing in making such projects a reality.

“The good Lord tells us to be patient,” she said. “And in this case, patience has paid off. These ambulances are now where they’re needed most.”

“These truly are state-of-the-art vehicles,” she said. “But this is about more than ambulances. It’s about strengthening the entire emergency response system—ensuring that responders are equipped not just to arrive, but to save lives on the spot.”

She praised Director Brijmohansingh and his team for their vision in modernizing emergency response through both equipment and system reform.

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Tourist from Pennsylvania Drowns at Grace Bay Beach



A section of the Grace Bay Beach

A vacation to the Turks and Caicos Islands ended in tragedy on Tuesday, April 29, for a visitor from Pennsylvania, who drowned while swimming at Grace Bay Beach, one

of Providenciales' most iconic destinations. The deceased has been identified as 68-year-old Robert Mark Tjiattas, an American tourist. According to

witnesses, he was observed floating unresponsively in the water before being pulled to shore by fellow beachgoers. CPR was administered immediately while emergency ser-

vices were en route. Responding officers from the Grace Bay Mobile Unit, along with medical personnel, arrived quickly and continued life-saving efforts. Mr. Tjiattas was transported to Cheshire Hall Medical Centre, where he was pronounced dead at 11:17 a.m. by a medical doctor. Initial findings indicate that Mr. Tjiattas had been swimming prior to the incident. While there is no indication of foul play, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) has launched a full investigation to determine the circumstances that led to the drowning. Authorities have not commented on whether any pre-existing medical conditions may have contributed to the incident. Further updates will be provided as the investigation continues. Grace Bay Beach, known for its calm turquoise waters and powdery white sand, draws thousands of visitors each year and is often ranked among the best beaches in the world.

TCI DIGICEL CUSTOMERS TO BENEFIT FROM MULTI-MILION DOLLAR ENHANCED COMMUNICATIONS EXPERIENCE



Digicel customers in the Turks & Caicos Islands are set to benefit from an enhanced communications experience thanks to a multi-million-dollar investment in both the mobile and fixed networks.

With the mobile network expansion set to complete in July, the investment in network capacity means Digicel mobile customers in Providenciales can look forward to an improved service experience with faster speeds and more reli-

able connections translating to a smoother online experience and better support for data-intensive activities like streaming and gaming. Additionally, the higher capacity will improve network efficiency and reduce congestion during

peak usage times. While on the fixed line side, Digicel's network expansion programme sees it deploying a high-capacity long haul link from Providenciales to Grand Turk with customers enjoying a seamless connectivity experience with increased bandwidth, enhanced reliability and broader coverage. This work is set to complete in this calendar year. Commenting on the multi-million-dollar network investment, Meredith Sharples, Regional Chief Executive Officer, explains; "In the understanding that connectivity provides the bridge to economic opportunity, we're all about connecting and empowering our customers. These network enhancements will provide an elevated service experience, faster speeds and improved coverage to our customers as part of our broader commitment to the people of the Turks & Caicos Islands."

HOLD EMPLOYERS ACCOUNTABLE FOR WORKERS' RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

By Vivian Tyson, Editor-in-Chief

Government Member of Parliament Hon. Akierra Missick has issued a clarion call to her ministerial colleagues to hold employers accountable when they violate the rights of workers.

Speaking during the country's official International Workers' Day observance at the Employment Services Department at Sammy Been Plaza, Providenciales, Missick urged stronger enforcement of existing labor laws and greater recognition of the dignity of work.

"Gratitude is not enough," Missick declared to a crowd of government officials, labor officers, and members of the public service. "In every job, at every level, workers deserve not only fair wages and safe workplaces, but also respect, recognition, and the opportunity to grow. These are not luxuries — these are actual rights."

Calling for policy rooted in fairness, justice, and sovereignty, Missick underscored the need for not only updated laws but for strong, unapologetic enforcement mechanisms to back them up.

"This government has an obligation — a duty — to do more than regulate from afar," she said. "We must hold and be bold in our enforcement. We must prioritize our people and be unwavering in our resolve that every worker is protected, respected, and empowered."

The MP for Leeward and Long Bay recounted her own history as a labor lawyer. She reflected on her very first case before Justice Arthur Forbes in the Labor Tribunal, a case she won fresh out of law school in 2026. That experience, she said, galvanized her commitment to championing employment rights.

"So the reason why May Day is important," she continued, "is that we're standing on the shoulders of hardworking men and women who felt they had to fight for their basic rights to work in a clean, safe environment — and to be paid fairly for it."

Missick noted that the Employment Ordinance in the Turks and Caicos Islands provides workers with more protection than many realize, even though public perception often suggests otherwise.

"I use it every day. I can tell you — it does protect workers. But what we need to do as a government, as a country, and as a department is ensure that we are enforcing the



The Enid Capron Primary School students provided entertainment in dance.

laws written to protect all users of it."

Her speech, though grounded in law and policy, was equally a tribute to the men and women whose daily labor supports the country's economy and services. From hotel workers and construction crews to nurses and public servants, Missick extended appreciation across the board — and called for more than just words of thanks.

"Our economy, our quality of life, our future rests on all of our backs," she said. "Today, I say thank you to the Turks and Caicos Islanders — because sometimes we forget to thank you specifically — and thank you to the migrant worker who has chosen to contribute to the development of these islands. But let us not be mistaken: gratitude is not enough."

Missick also emphasized the role of labor inspectors, conciliators, and employment services officers, acknowledging the difficult work they perform often behind the scenes. She urged the public to recognize their service and the critical function they play in upholding workers' rights.

The MP's message also touched on the challenges ahead as work evolves in the age of artificial intelligence and global shifts in labor dynamics. "Al — Lord, let me tell



From left — Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson, Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams and Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles.

you — I'm a little nervous about it myself," she quipped.

"But as we move into new ways of working, fueled by innovation and shaped by global events, we must remain vigilant in safeguarding the rights of workers."

Concluding her address, Missick encouraged citizens to treat May Day as both a celebration and a charge — a day to honor labor while recommitting to justice in the workplace.

"This May Day, now that we are

formally celebrating it in the Turks and Caicos Islands, is a line in the sand," she said. "A reminder that while we celebrate the contributions of all who work within our shores, we must also recommit ourselves to the rule of law, to equal treatment, and to the protection of rights so that we all may go forth and excel."

She ended with a hopeful note: "May we all continue to rise together — in these beautiful-by-nature Turks and Caicos Islands."

Greatness rests in the team, not the captain

As West Indies cricket struggles to improve, news has come that the Test and Twenty20 (T20) teams will have new captains. Test Captain Kraigg Brathwaite has given up his post, while Shai Hope replaces Rovman Powell and adds the T20 captaincy to his 50-over responsibilities. No announcement has yet been made as to who will lead the Test side.

There has been speculation for some time that Brathwaite's time as captain was ending. He has led the side to some significant wins, but his overall record — winning 10 and losing 22 from his 39-match stint — was not great, and the overall decline continued under his watch.

It was a little different for Powell. On their day the West Indies could conquer any side in the game's briefest format, and the team moved from nine to three in the rankings with him at the helm. But he won only one of eight home games against Bangladesh and England, and the feeling is that those results prompted his dismissal. Or perhaps Coach Daren Sammy simply felt Hope offered more and chose the Barbadian instead, a decision that has attracted some disapproval, especially from former Captain Dwayne Bravo, who called it "one of the worst decisions ever".

Still, the blame for unsatisfactory performances should not have been theirs to shoulder. This is an undisputed truth that I've offered here before: You can't have a good captain of a bad team. All the great cricket team captains in history — Frank Worrell, Richie Benaud, Clive Lloyd, Mike Brearly, Ian Chappell, and Mark Taylor, among others — all had one thing in common — they led good teams. A captain can set the most cunning fields imaginable, make the cleverest of bowling changes, or be as inspiring and as respected as ever, he still needs a team

of capable players to execute whatever plans he sets out.

Many of us in the West Indies do not accept that we are lacking players of real ability because we recall the days, not that long ago either, when we produced players like cars off an assembly line. Consider that the following fast bowlers all played first-class cricket during the 1980s: Andy Roberts, Michael Holding, Joel Garner, Malcolm Marshall, Sylvester Clarke, Courtney Walsh, Patrick Patterson, Ian Bishop, and Curtly Ambrose. These are players who, at their best, would challenge for a place in any team of any era. The batters were no slouches either. Here are some names: Viv Richards, Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes, Richie Richardson, Clive Lloyd, Lawrence Rowe, Alvin Kallicharran, Roy Fredericks, and Larry Gomes.

It really matters not one jot who the captain is if the team is poor. The West Indies' extended abysmal run in Tests has little to do with who is leading the team and almost everything to do with the quality of the players. As it was on every other previous occasion, there will be great expectations and renewed hope when the new captain takes over. But just as it was with Richie Richardson, Brian Lara, Jimmy Adams, Shivnarine Chanderpaul, Chris Gayle, Ramnarish Sarwan, Daren Ganga and Jason Holder, those high expectations will soon come crashing down. It has happened with every change of captaincy over the past two decades or so, and it will happen this time again.

As always, it will not be the captain's fault. He can't turn water into wine as Jesus did or spin straw into gold like Rumpelstiltskin did in the fairytale. He can only work with the material with which he is provided.

When Lloyd was captain and the team was near unbeatable, I used to argue that the side was so good that almost anyone

could have led it. I have since amended that view a bit, and I acknowledge that the tall Guyanese was an outstanding leader of men, but I still feel that most captains would have been successful with such a great team at their command. On the other hand, I would wager that if Lloyd was given the current Test side, the results would be just as dismal.

Given the job of England Test captain in 1980, Ian Botham had a tough time at the helm. The great all-rounder lasted 12 games, losing four and drawing eight. Additionally, his form slumped and there were murmurs in the dressing room about his leadership style. He gave up the captaincy in 1981 after drawing the second Test of the Ashes series at Lords, having lost the first at Trent Bridge. Appointed in his stead was Mike Brearly, a man whose leadership skills have assumed an almost mythical standing.

The ensuing turnaround was stunning and is recorded in cricket folklore as "The Miracle of Headingley". Replying to Australia's first innings 401, England's innings ended with them 227 adrift. Following on, Botham shook off his poor batting form to script an unbelievable recovery that an inspired Bob Willis converted to a miraculous 18-run win. The hosts then had victories in the next two Tests to take the series 3-1.

So was Botham a bad captain and Brearly a good one? Perhaps. But let's remember that Botham captained his country against the then mighty West Indies in nine of his 12 Tests. And it was probably an admirable achievement that England managed to draw six of those games.

Ponder also that Brearly, captain in 31 Tests from 1977 to 1981, winning 18, losing only four, never captained against the West Indies and was fortunate to lead his country, in a


number of instances, against teams weakened by defections to Kerry Packer's World Series Cricket. Moreover, Botham was in close to unstoppable form under Brearly, and Willis was also at the peak of his substantial powers. Brearly might have had a "degree in people" as Australian fast bowler Rodney Hogg memorably remarked, but the stars were aligned in his favour as well.

Generally, the good captain is the winning captain. The inadequate captain is likely to have racked up more than his fair number of losses.

All this is to say that we are possibly overestimating the effect a captain has on the performance of his team. Capable leadership is always a good idea and an incompetent captain can be a heavy burden to his side. But a team's fortunes is much more reliant on the quality of its members than on the expertise of its leader. The oft-used saying is true: A captain is only as good as his team.

West Indies cricket teams are not necessarily in need of better captains, what they require are more capable players to improve.

Garfield Robinson is a Jamaican living in the US who writes on cricket for a few Indian and English publications. Send comments to garfield.v.robinson@gmail.com.



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

Illegal Migrants Apprehended in North Caicos



The apprehended undocumented Haitians



The undocumented Haitians are seen in the mangroves in North Caicos just before being rounded up by the authorities

Officers from the Marine Branch of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) detained eleven (11) illegal migrants on Saturday, April 26, 2025, after responding to reports of suspicious activity in the mangrove area along the southeastern coast of North Caicos.

The operation was carried out with support from the United States Coast Guard (Air Support Unit), the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment, and the Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources Management. On arrival, officers apprehended eleven male individuals, all confirmed to be Haitian nationals.

The detainees were transported to Providenciales and handed over to Border Force officers for processing and further investigation.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force urges the public to remain alert and report any suspicious maritime or coastal activity by calling 911 or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477. Information can also be submitted anonymously through the Crime Stoppers P3 mobile app.

Reminder that Import Duty Waiver Is Available to Homeowners Affected by Natural or Manmade Disasters



The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands is reminding all residents—particularly homeowners—of the Citizen Homeowner's Policy Import Duty Waiver programme, which is available to Turks and Caicos Islander Status Holders and British Overseas Territory Citizens (BOTCs) who have

suffered property damage as a result of natural or manmade disasters.

Each year, families across the TCI are impacted by hurricanes, floods, fires, and other devastating events. In response, the Government continues to provide financial relief through an Import Duty Exemption of up to **\$50,000** to support the repair and restoration of residential properties.

What You Need to Know:

- **Application Deadline:** Must be submitted within 180 days of the disaster.

- **Exemption Period:** Exemption must be utilized within 18 months of approval.

- **Customs Fee:** A 5% Customs Processing Fee (CPF) applies to all imported items under the waiver.

Who Is Eligible? To qualify, applicants must:

- Be natural persons (companies are not eligible).
- Hold Turks and Caicos Islander

Status or be a BOTC.

- Legally own and occupy the damaged residence.

- Have sustained damage from a Category 2 or higher tropical cyclone, or an unintentional man-made disaster.

- Complete refurbishment within 18 months of exemption approval.

Application Requirements: Applicants must submit the following:

1. Proof of Status (e.g. TCI Status Card, BOTC Certificate, Birth Certificate, Government ID)
2. Proof of Homeownership (Land Register Extract)
3. Marriage Certificate (if applicable)
4. Sworn and notarized Affidavit
5. Invoice of required materials
6. Photographic evidence of property damage and surrounding area
7. Planning Approval (if structural modifications are involved)

IMPORTANT: Homeowners are strongly encouraged to submit

applications before the arrival of goods into the Turks and Caicos Islands to ensure timely processing.

Eligible Items Include (but are not limited to:

Construction Materials: Cement, concrete blocks, lumber, roofing, electrical and plumbing components, hurricane shutters, solar power systems, backup generators, water pumps, and more.

Furniture: Bed frames, mattresses, sofas, kitchen cabinets, dining tables, and nightstands.

Appliances: Energy-efficient stoves, refrigerators, tankless water heaters, air conditioners, and cistern pumps.

Act Now

If your home has been damaged within the last six months due to a qualifying disaster, apply today to ease the financial burden of repairs. This exemption is designed to help homeowners rebuild stronger, safer, and more sustainably.

Opposition Condemns Carnival Cruise Line's Decision to Divert Ships from Grand Turk to Private Island

An Op-Ed by Hon. Edwin Astwood



Hon. Edwin Astwood

As the leader of the opposition and a proud resident of Grand Turk, I am deeply concerned and disheartened by Carnival Cruise Line's recent announcement to divert two of their most popular ships—Carnival Vista, Carnival Venezia, and Carnival Mardi Gras—from Grand Turk to their private island destination in the Dominican Republic, Amber Cove. This decision, which has been made without any clear explanation or justification, has significant implications for our island community, local economy, and the livelihoods of our residents.

A Devastating Blow to Grand Turk's Economy

Grand Turk has long been a cherished port of call for cruise travelers, contributing substantially to our local economy. Our small businesses—restaurants, shops, tour operators, and artisans—depend heavily on the influx of cruise visitors.

The sudden removal of these ships from our shores means a loss of revenue, potential business opportunities, and decreasing the viability of many existing businesses. Many local entrepreneurs had already prepared for

upcoming cruise visits; now, they are faced with refunds and the collapse of planned transactions.

What Did Grand Turk Do to Deserve This?

It is perplexing and frustrating that no red flags or issues have been raised about Grand Turk that would justify this abrupt removal. Our island has maintained good relations with cruise lines, and our safety, and hospitality standards meet all necessary requirements. There appears to be no justifiable reason to replace Grand Turk with Amber Cove, aside from corporate strategic decisions that overlook the interests of our people and our community.

Questioning the Role of the New Government

This decision raises critical questions about the role and awareness of the recently elected PNP government. Yes, our people voted to “keep it where you got it”, but I am sure they did not expect their government to abandon them so quickly. Did they have prior knowledge of Carnival's plans? I am sure that there was some communication. Were there negotiations or trade-offs made behind closed doors that favoured other interests over our local community?

It is imperative that the government be transparent about their position and actions regarding this matter. They have been hiding their dealings and agreements with Carnival Cruise Line from the inception of this deal. Our people deserve to know whether the government actively advocated

for the preservation of cruise visits to Grand Turk or if they were simply left in the dark.

What Measures Are Being Taken?

In light of this setback, I call on the government to outline the measures they are putting in place to support affected local businesses and the broader community. Immediate assistance, such as financial aid or alternative tourism initiatives, should be considered to mitigate the economic impact. Our young entrepreneurs, who already face numerous challenges, should not be left to bear the brunt of decisions made without their input or consideration.

A Call for Accountability and Action

As opposition leader, I urge the government to engage in urgent dialogue with Carnival Cruise Line to understand the rationale behind this change and to advocate for the reinstatement of Grand Turk as a port of call. Our island's future depends on proactive measures, transparency, and a commitment to ensuring that our community benefits from the tourism industry, rather than losing out due to corporate decisions made elsewhere. Grand Turk has always been a vibrant and welcoming destination, renowned for its rich history, stunning landscapes, and warm hospitality. We must stand united in demanding accountability and action from our leaders to protect our economy and the livelihoods of our people. Our island deserves better, and I am committed to fighting for the interests of our community at every turn.

NHIB SAYS IT REMAINS OPEN AND COMMITTED TO DELIVERING QUALITY HEALTHCARE

The Ministry of Health and Human Services assures the public that the National Health Insurance Board (NHIB) remains operational and fully committed to providing access to quality healthcare services for all insured persons in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

As the organisation undergoes administrative review and restructuring, the Ministry emphasizes that the Board is taking all necessary steps to maintain stability and continuity of care. Subscribers are urged to continue making their regular contributions, which are essential to ensuring the uninterrupted delivery of healthcare services at the highest standards, both locally and abroad. Interim Chair of the NHIB, Mrs. Sho-

nia Been, said, “The Board is actively working to maintain a seamless experience for subscribers and providers alike. “We are focused on ensuring that healthcare access remains uninterrupted and that the trust placed in us by the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands is honoured.”

The NHIB encourages all insured persons, employers, and self-employed individuals to continue making monthly contributions. These payments are critical to sustaining the national health insurance system and enabling the Board to meet its obligations to local and overseas healthcare providers, ensuring that beneficiaries receive the care they need without disruption.

Commenting on the NHIB, the Minister of Health and Human Services, the Hon. Kyle Knowles, stated, “This is a time of renewal and strengthening for the NHIB. While internal assessments are ongoing, the public can be confident that the Board remains open for business and that healthcare delivery is not only stable but being actively protected and improved. We urge all subscribers to continue making their monthly payments, as their contributions directly support our ability to deliver care to every resident who needs it.” To further enhance transparency and accountability, contracted examiners, Interpath, have commenced a comprehensive forensic examination of the Board's oper-

ations and financials. This process aims to identify areas for improvement and ensure that the NHIB continues to operate in the best interest of the people.

The public is further advised that all NHIB offices throughout the Islands are open for business and ready to assist with queries, claims, registrations, and payments. Customer service teams are available to support subscribers and guide them through any concerns.

As the organisation continues to strengthen its internal operations and governance, it reaffirms its mission to promote the health and well-being of every resident through a fair and sustainable insurance system.

Grace Bay Resorts Mobilizes Nearly 100 Employees for Earth Day Cleanup in Downtown Providenciales

Grace Bay Resorts marked Earth Day 2025 with a powerful demonstration of environmental commitment, bringing together nearly 100 employees from all six of its properties for a large-scale cleanup in downtown Providenciales on Saturday morning.

Staff from Grace Bay Club, Rock House, South Bank, West Bay Club, and Point Grace gathered at 6:15 a.m. for what has now become an annual Earth Day tradition — collecting trash, connecting with the community, and championing a cleaner, greener Turks and Caicos Islands.

“This is our second year doing the Earth Day cleanup, and we’re really proud to see even more participation than last year,” said Joanna Fortunate, Director of Human Resources at Grace Bay Resorts. “All our properties came together this morning to give back to the community and the environment.”

The cleanup followed another innovative initiative the day before — Grace Bay Resorts’ first-ever “Trash to Treasure” competition. Staff from different properties creatively transformed waste into useful or decorative items. “It was a fun and impactful way to raise awareness,” said Fortunate. “Grace Bay Club took home all three trophies, but it really was a win for sustainability.” The resorts’ sustainability efforts are being spearheaded by Jessica Fratollillo, the company’s new Director of Sustainability. She emphasized that Earth Day is only one part of a year-round plan to integrate green practices across resort operations and staff culture.

“This initiative is about more than just picking up garbage,” Fratollillo said. “We want to educate, inspire, and involve everyone — including our employees’ families and the younger generation. Today, we had students from the Ed Garland Youth Center join us, as well as children of team members. That kind of involvement helps shape long-term change.”

As the team moved through downtown Providenciales, they filled dozens of garbage bags with discarded items ranging from plastic bottles and fast-food wrappers to larger debris. The exact number of bags collected was still being counted, but participants believe the effort may surpass the 42 bags gathered during last year’s cleanup.

“Every year we aim to do better, go bigger, and bring more awareness to the importance of environmen-



A Grace Bay Resorts Employee loads a truck with rubbish collected from the streets of Downtown, Providenciales.



Employees and Managers of Grace Bay Resorts take time for a group photo shortly after removing dozens of bags of garbage from the streets of Downtown Providenciales.

tal responsibility,” Fratollillo added. Monique Luis, Senior Vice President of Development and Residential Services, echoed that sentiment, framing the cleanup within a broader Earth Week celebration hosted across all resorts.

“Our approach is about teaching, shifting mindsets, and building habits that last,” Luis said. “When

we began this sustainability journey, many didn’t understand what it meant. Now, with the leadership of Jessica and the enthusiasm of our teams, we’re seeing real transformation.”

Luis also stressed that the ultimate goal is not just to clean up, but to change the culture. “It’s about pride — pride in our island, our

community, and our shared responsibility. We want to stop the litter before it starts by telling stories that make people care.”

With stronger turnout, deeper engagement, and growing momentum, Grace Bay Resorts is looking ahead to an even larger initiative next year — and a more sustainable future for Turks and Caicos.

North Caicos Fire Truck Commissioned in Honour of Late Captain Ken Gardiner

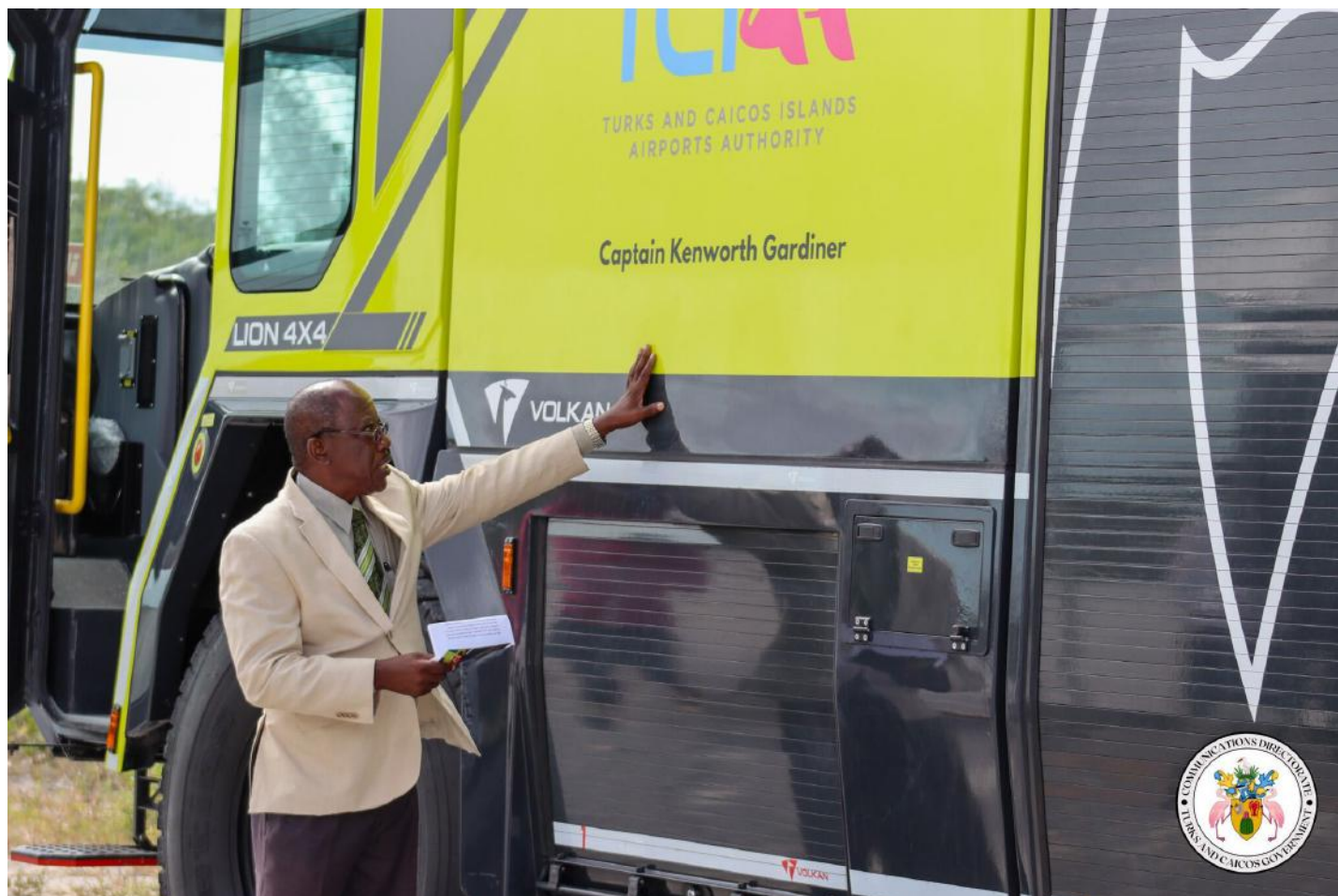
A significant milestone was marked at the Clifford Gardiner Airport as government officials, community members, and the family of the late Captain Kenworth Nathaniel Gardiner gathered to commission a state-of-the-art fire truck in his honour.

The newly acquired Volkan Lion 4x4 fire truck, officially named after the beloved pilot, was unveiled during a heartfelt ceremony led by Hon. Arlington Musgrove, Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development. The event celebrated both the arrival of the advanced firefighting vehicle and the enduring legacy of a man who symbolized excellence, dedication, and service to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

“Today is a momentous occasion,” said Minister Musgrove. “This fire truck stands as a symbol of resilience and safety — values that defined Captain Gardiner’s life and service. Known affectionately as ‘Keno’, he flew with unmatched skill, but he never lost sight of the community that grounded him.” Captain Gardiner, a top graduate of the American Flyers Academy, was known for his command of Caribbean skies, flying routes between The Bahamas, Haiti, Jamaica, and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Though he passed away while his daughter Kenya was just two months old, his memory continues to shine through those he inspired.

Ms. Kenya Gardiner delivered emotional remarks at the ceremony, holding back tears as she addressed attendees. “This is no small gesture,” she said. “You didn’t just attach his name to a machine — you connected his legacy to something that stands for strength, safety, and service. Thank you for recognizing the life of a man whose light still shines, whose presence is still felt, and whose story still matters.”

Minister Musgrove added a personal touch to his speech, reflecting on Ken’s readiness to “fly into action” and drawing a humorous parallel between the fire truck’s powerful performance and the late pilot’s legendary speed and precision. “This fire truck is ready to take off,” he quipped. “I hope it has enough horsepower to keep up with the pace of our growing communities.” He also announced that firehalls will soon be constructed in Bambarra, Middle Caicos, and in Whitby,



North Caicos — facilities designed to improve emergency response and protect all settlements across the twin islands.

Others offering tributes included TCIAA CEO Mr. Selvyn Hawkins, Executive Fire Services Manager Mr. Kenrick Hackett, and Volkan representative Mehmet Yurtcu. The ceremony was attended by several members of Captain Gardiner’s

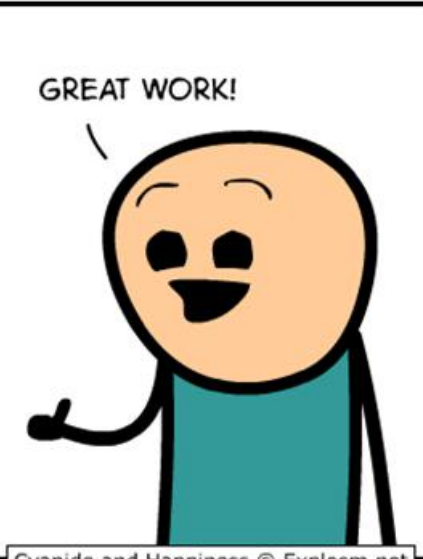
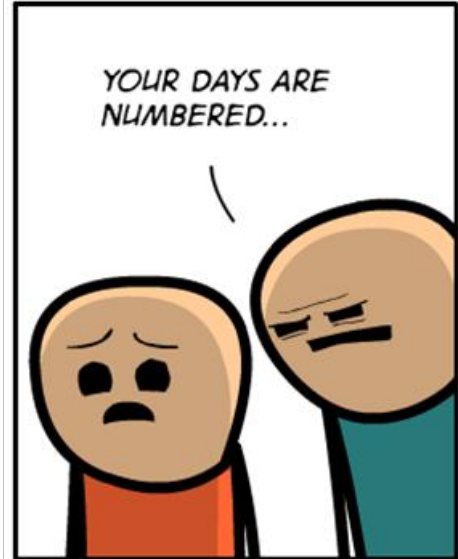
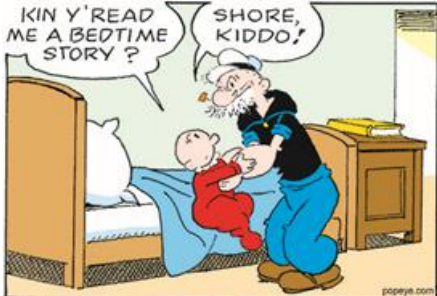
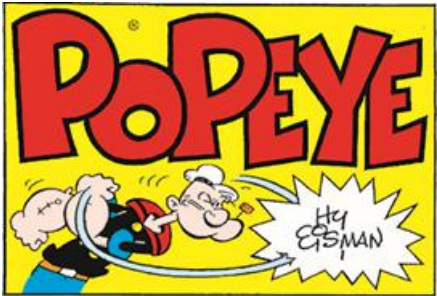
family, including Cassandra, Karen, Shawn, and Brandon Gardiner; his granddaughter Anvy Williams; and Kenya’s niece, Quinay Gardiner-Cartwright.

As the gleaming Volkan Lion was officially dedicated, Minister Musgrove emphasized that this moment marked more than just the arrival of a vehicle — it was a reaffirmation of commitment to com-

munity safety, investment in vital infrastructure, and recognition of those whose legacies continue to uplift the nation.

“May this Lion fire truck serve the twin islands well,” Musgrove concluded, “and may the spirit of Captain Kenworth Gardiner continue to inspire us to lead with heart, serve with purpose, and dream without limits.”





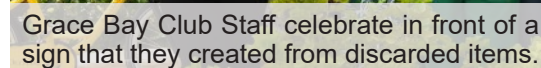
NEWSLINE COMICS



Conch (pronounced 'konk') is a large type of marine snail popular throughout the Caribbean and especially in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Queen Conch, or *strombus giga*, is found naturally in the Atlantic, from the coast of Brazil, the Bahamas, up until the Florida Keys. Queen Conch are herbivores, unlike other conch species such as the horse conch.

Conch is becoming endangered in the Turks and Caicos due to extreme overfishing. Some conservation efforts have been implemented, but overall the rate of fishing is not sustainable for these mollusks. The Caicos Conch Farm on Providenciales was the world's only conch farm, which used to supply conch for the entire country and also for export.

Credit: VisitTCI



The winning entries came from three separate departments within Grace Bay Club. First place went to the “I Love GBC” installation, a collaboration between the Human Resources and Engineering teams. The Culinary team secured second place with a repurposed culinary experience made from tires and pallets, while the Spa team

dreds of staff members and different ideas, we wanted everyone to feel empowered to participate.”

Director of Sustainability for Grace Bay Resorts, Jessica Fratollillo, praised the initiative and its impact. “This was a celebration for Earth Day, where we challenged our team members to make something beautiful and useful out of trash. Instead of seeing junk, they saw opportunity—and what they created was truly incredible.”

Fratollillo added that the initiative reflects the resort group’s broader sustainability goals. “Our number one priority is to operate responsibly—toward the environment, our team members, guests, and the wider community. Events like this help drive that mission forward.”

With such an overwhelming response and stunning results, organizers hinted at expanding the competition in the future, giving teams more time to dream big and think green.

A scenic view of a resort pool area. In the foreground, there are several white lounge chairs and a small white table. The pool is in the middle ground, with a curved edge and a small waterfall feature. In the background, there are lush green trees and a stone building with large windows. The overall atmosphere is relaxed and luxurious.

Join our team

THE
STRAND

TURKS & CAICOS

Available Positions

◆ Recreation Expert

Job Specification:

- Assist with collaborate with staff and clinicians to understand the ways in which activities can promote healing and belonging for our guest.
- Determine individual interests and expectations regarding leisure time.
- Develop an activities programme for kids club and recreation department that is both sufficiently diverse and sensitive to our occupants' requirements.
- Purchase or leasing supplies for all activities for recreation and kids club.
- Advertize events well in advance of their scheduled times.
- Assist with supervising and participate in events alongside staff and occupants.
- Compile reports that outline successes, constraints, and the way forward.

Job Requirements:

- Computer literate, with sound knowledge of working with microsoft office suite.
- Excellent programme, event planning, and supervision skills.
- Upbeat, communicative, and empathic disposition.
- Committed to fostering well-being and fun.
- Willingness to avail yourself for weekend work.
- Appropriate training and/or certification is highly advantageous.
- Must have experience supporting and leading Recreation Activities
- Must have 3+ years as a Recreation Specialist/Kids Club Programme Lead
- Must be able to work outdoors: stand for long hours and work efficiently under pressure

Salary expectations - \$30,000 - \$35,000 per annum

◆ Maintenance Technician

Job Specification:

- Inspecting machinery, equipment, buildings and systems, including heating, ventilation and air conditioning
- Performing routine cleaning and sanitising, including specialist cleaning of delicate or high-value items such as entry systems, security equipment, lifts and escalators
- Completing small repairs such as fixing locks, leaky taps and broken windows
- Checking and maintaining safety equipment such as fire alarms, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors
- Performing grounds maintenance such as mowing lawns, trimming bushes and replacing exterior light bulbs
- Inspecting and troubleshooting problems and issues reported by clients or colleagues
- Maintaining vehicles, tools and equipment required to perform the role effectively
- Following a maintenance schedule to ensure that all routine tasks are completed

Job Requirements:

- Must have 2-3 years working in the Maintenance or Mechanical departments
- Must have a good experience in problem solving and fixing issues as required within the hotel environment, water waste, carpentry, mechanical issues, maintenance and fixtures.

Salary expectations - \$22,000 - \$35,000 per annum

APPLY NOW!

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Interested applicants should also send a copy of your resume to the Labour Department located Downtown, Airport Road, Providenciales

◆ Guest Experience Expert

Job Specification:

- Use Intelity, Opera and Micros, Open table softwares to navigate guest stays prior to their arrival.
- Up-sell and assist in booking future stays and experiences prior to arrival
- Manage and build guest Itineraries In the GMS (Guest Management System)
- Provide seamless transition of guest onboarding to Intelity Guides to prepare for in-stay
- Build rapport and trust with all guests through direct communication via Phone and email
- Manage and navigate various calendars using Microsoft Outlook and Inter-company tools
- Interpret survey results or provide feedback on guest technology to guests
- Protect the privacy and confidentiality of all guests
- Support FO, RD and Villa teams with guest coordination
- Input new bookings into systems in a timely manner and share reports of guest stays with relevant departments as needed.
- Review and send Daily Flash reports to designated teams
- Send weekly reservation reports to Leadership
- Other work that may be assigned by management

Job Requirements:

- Detail-oriented with multi-tasking different systems
- Spa and Wellness education and training preferred
- Reservations or Communication experience preferred
- Phone etiquette training
- Experience with Microsoft programs (Excel, Word, Outlook, OneDrive)
- Experience with Opera and Intelity preferred.

Salary expectation - \$9.00 - 11.00 per hour

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

This week on NEWSLINE Feat-ured Church, we turn the spotlight on God’s Instrument Ministries International, locat-ed Millennium Highway Pro-vincials. The church is led by Pastors Alces Dor/Isaac Joseph. The following is the list of activi-ties for the week: Sunday – 8am to 9am is Sunday School. From 9am to 11am is Sunday Service. Sunday event from 7p.m to 8:30p.m. is High Praise and Bi-bble Study. On Tuesday starting at 7:30p.m. is Bible Study. And on Thursday between 7p.m. and 8:30p.m. is Men and wom-en’s fellowship. For further in-formation about the church services contact 649-242-4551 or email: alcesdor@yahoo.com.

GOD’S INSTRUMENT MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL



LIFE LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581 | Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240 | Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624 |
| Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030 | Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438 | Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349 |
| One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com. | Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136 | Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349 |
| Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731 | Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073 | Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565 |
| Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755 | New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631 | Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181 |
| Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289 | Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352 | St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499 |
| Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118 | Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867 | Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales |
| Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854 | House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309 | United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852 |
| Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866 | Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727 | Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596 |
| Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212 | Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205 | 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 |
| Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc. | New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759 | |
| | New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402 | |

Sales Begin for Kempinski Grace Bay Residences, a Refined Beachfront Retreat in Turks and Caicos

A limited offering of discreet private residences on Grace Bay Beach, presented and operated by Europe's most time-honoured hospitality brand



An aerial rendering of Kempinski Grace Bay reveals its rare beachfront footprint and low-density design.

Kempinski Grace Bay, the much-anticipated luxury resort and branded residence being developed on a serene stretch of Grace Bay Beach, has officially launched its sales phase. This milestone signals a new era of refined beachfront experiences and vacation ownership opportunities in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Thoughtfully envisioned by global developer JTRE and managed by Kempinski Hotels — Europe's oldest luxury hospitality brand — the property comprises 119 private residences and four oceanfront villas. Nestled across 11 acres of unspoiled shoreline, a low-density design ensures both privacy and a sense of tranquility that honours the natural beauty of Grace Bay.

JTRE, the developer of Kempinski Grace Bay, is a leading European real estate firm with offices in Providenciales and an expanding



A view inside Kempinski Grace Bay where the poolside courtyard creates an atmosphere of serene luxury just steps from the turquoise waters of Grace Bay Beach.



With Grace Bay as your morning view, each residence is thoughtfully designed to embrace the natural surroundings.



Indoor-outdoor living, elevated by uninterrupted views of Grace Bay from your private balcony.



The lobby lounge at Kempinski Grace Bay offers a refined welcome — where contemporary design meets island ease and European hospitality.

international footprint. The project reflects JTRE's long-term commitment to the islands and its focus on creating enduring, high-quality developments that respect both the community and environment.

"This is a meaningful moment for our team in Providenciales," said Marek Baca, Chief Representative for the Americas at JTRE. "Kempinski Grace Bay offers the opportunity to be part of something very special — something only a few in the world will experience. As we open this new chapter, we invite future owners to experience the essence of Grace Bay in a way only Kempinski can provide."

"Our presence on Grace Bay reflects Kempinski's belief that true luxury lies in rarity and timelessness," added Xavier Destribats, Chief Operating Officer EMEA and the Americas, Kempinski Group. "This is not simply a new resort. It is a continuation of a story that began in 1897—and an invitation to live each moment with grace, ease, and enduring beauty."

A Rare Coastal Sanctuary

Kempinski Grace Bay blends the quiet elegance of European hospitality with the gentle rhythm of Caribbean life. Every detail — from architecture and interior finishes to the resort's timeless amenities — is crafted to connect land, sea, and soul.

Future owners may choose from studio to five-bedroom residences, each offering expansive living spaces and a seamless flow between indoor and outdoor life. A limited number of six-bedroom beach-front villas complete the offering, each with direct beach access and sweeping ocean views.

The resort will also feature:

- Signature fine dining restaurant
- Beach club restaurant
- Exquisite 3,000 square foot wine cellar
- European spa and fully equipped fitness area with an ocean view
- On-site exclusive boutique
- Sports pavilion with padel and pickleball courts
- Kids club

Presented by Leading Local Real Estate Firms

Sales are exclusively represented by Christie's International Real Estate Turks & Caicos and Engel & Völkers Turks and Caicos — firms known for their local expertise and global reach. Pre-construction pricing is available for a limited time, with private appointments now being scheduled.

Sandals Makes Major Investment in Team Member Experience as ‘All That’s Good Road Show’ Takes Flight Across Caribbean



Corporate Manager of Employee Experience for Sandals and Beaches Resorts, Jamie Green, is a picture of focus as he engages team members during the Antigua leg of the Sandals All That’s Good Road Show held recently.



Spa receptionist at Sandals Grande Antigua, Kzuri Knowles, walked away with a new 55-inch TV during the Sandals All That’s Good Road Show in Antigua.

After roving across Jamaica, making dynamic stops in all four regions where Sandals and Beaches Resorts operate, the All That’s Good Road Show has officially taken flight, landing first in Antigua and energizing team members at unprecedented levels. This one-of-a-kind employee engagement experience is a fresh twist on how Sandals and Beaches connect with their team members, bringing joy, entertainment and jaw-dropping prizes straight to team members’ doorsteps. With non-stop music, big performances and giveaways that wow, the Road Show is doubling down on wholesome employee experience in the region. Led by Corporate Manager for Employee Experience, Jamie Green, a powerhouse team from Sandals’ corporate office in Jamaica was tasked to deliver the magic. Their mission? To create pure fun, fuel excitement and share positive energy with team members across the region, with-out asking them to lift a finger. “At Sandals and Beaches Resorts,

our team members are the heart-beat of everything we do,” shared Green. “This Road Show isn’t just

a social event. It’s an immersive, all-out celebration. From the music, food and drinks, to the local

guest entertainers and incredible prizes, it’s all crafted to bring joy and make our team feel seen, val-



Managing Director of Sandals Resorts in the Eastern Caribbean, Winston Anderson (centre), is flanked by a group of team members celebrating after winning appliances courtesy of Courts, proud sponsors of the recently held All That’s Good Road Show in Antigua.



Team members participate with excitement in a friendly three-legged race as they vie for big prizes at the Sandals All That's Good Road Show in Barbados, held recently.



Soca artiste Lady Lava entertains a captivated crowd at Sandals' All That's Good Road Show in Barbados, held recently.



These team members from Sandals Barbados and Sandals Royal Barbados were captured in high spirits during the All That's Good Road Show on the island recently.

while keeping the same high-energy layout and flow. That mix of familiarity and freshness is what makes it so electric."

Sparing no detail, Sandals engaged local vendors in Antigua and over in Barbados to serve up top-tier food and entertainment, and partnered with sponsors such as Digicel, Courts, Sagicor Life, and Flow for giveaways that were nothing short of extraordinary. Team members walked away with everything from luxury items, appliances and electronics, to gift baskets and certificates, cruises and hotel stays.

Managing Director of Sandals Resorts in the Eastern Caribbean, Winston Anderson, has been making his rounds throughout the region and says team members have been buzzing with excitement. He described the event as one of the most phenomenal experiences he's been a part of at Sandals.

"I've had the pleasure of attending both the Antigua and Barbados Road Shows, and I just have to say, what an incredible vibe! The activities, the phenomenal prizes, the sheer ecstasy radiating from the team – it's all been absolutely electric," Anderson stated.

Team members like Kzuri Knowles, spa receptionist at Sandals Grande Antigua, shared Anderson's sentiments.

"This day has been such a release, and to be gifted something of this magnitude is beyond anything I could've imagined," said Knowles, who walked away with a brand new 55-inch TV.

Dining room server at Sandals Barbados, Regina Sandiford, was equally thrilled, describing the Road Show as "a really good time." "It's one of the best events I've ever attended at Sandals Barbados in all my eight years here. From the décor to the location, the food choices, the prizes, and the entertainment – my favourite part – it was all so well put together. The prizes were amazing – things anyone would enjoy having in or around the home," she stated.

The Road Show now heads full speed through the Eastern Caribbean, with upcoming stops in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada, and Saint Lucia. Eventually, the tour will touch down in all nine countries where Sandals and Beaches operate—including Curaçao, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and The Bahamas—bringing the same magic, energy, and excitement to team members across the region.

EDWARD GARTLAND YOUTH CENTRE ECO-FEST

The Edward C. Gartland Youth Centre hosted EcoFest: Earth Day 2025 this past Saturday. Held under the theme “Restore. Reimagine. Reuse,” the event brought a number of young people to celebrate sustainability through creativity and care for our planet. The day featured a number of insightful presentations for the young people who visited, offering interactive learning experiences and sparking eco-conscious inspiration. The following are photo highlights of the event.





Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome:

A wholistic approach



POLYCYSTIC OVARIAN Syndrome (PCOS) is a common hormonal disorder affecting women of reproductive age. It's characterised by irregular periods, excess androgen levels, and cysts on the ovaries.

PCOS can lead to infertility, and is also linked to an increased risk of other chronic health conditions like type 2 diabetes.

A wholistic approach to managing PCOS involves addressing the condition's various aspects through a combination of lifestyle changes, dietary adjustments, and potentially complementary therapies. This approach focuses on improving hormonal balance, managing symptoms, and promoting overall well-being.

According to Dr RivaneChybar-Virgo, medical doctor and health and wellness coach, speaking at a bi-weekly 'Health Talk Sunday Series' presentation, many women with PCOS have insulin resistance. This means the body cannot use insulin well. Insulin levels build up in the body and may cause higher androgen levels. Obesity can also increase insulin levels and make PCOS symptoms worse.

Treatment for PCOS, she said, depends on a number of factors. These

may include your age, how severe your symptoms are, and your overall health. The type of treatment may also depend on whether you want to become pregnant in the future.

Effective management she said, depends on several factors including individual signs and symptoms, health goals, for example, fertility or weight management and your overall lifestyle.

"Management can include lifestyle changes with or without medication, or surgery, consultation with various specialist and adjunctive therapies. Treatment may include medications to help fertility, regulate hormonal imbalance, with regulating cycle, with acne, excess hair growth, with insulin issues and regulate cholesterol levels," Dr Chybar-Virgo said.

Achieving and maintaining a healthy weight and body composition can help to regulate hormones, which improves ovulation and enhance fertility.

"Weight management can include dietary changes, physical activity, adequate sleep and stress management. In optimising nutrition, persons can take an individualised approach by engaging in healthy eating habits,

for example, regular balanced meals, portion size and a diet comprised of more nutrient dense food than empty calorie foods," Dr Chybar-Virgo said. She said people can consider reducing foods that worsen inflammation, including limiting salt, sugar, saturated fat, avoiding transfat, reducing refined and processed foods, limit red meat and limit alcohol.

If you do plan to become pregnant, your treatment may include a change in diet and activity. "A healthy diet and more physical activity can help you lose weight and reduce your symptoms. They can also help your body use insulin more efficiently, lower blood glucose levels, and may help you ovulate," she said.

Medicines can help the ovaries to release eggs normally. These medicines also have certain risks. They can increase the chance of a multiple birth (twins or more); and they can cause ovarian hyperstimulation. This is when the ovaries release too many hormones. It can cause symptoms, such as belly bloating and pelvic pain. "If you do not plan to become pregnant, your treatment may include birth control pills. These help to control menstrual cycles, lower andro-

gen levels, and reduce acne," Dr Chybar-Virgo said.

Diabetes medicine can also be used to lower insulin resistance in PCOS. It may also help reduce androgen levels, slow hair growth, and help you ovulate more regularly.

A healthy diet and more physical activity can help you lose weight and reduce your symptoms. They can also help your body use insulin more efficiently, lower blood glucose levels, and may help you ovulate.

Life Construction

located in Blue Hills, Providenciales

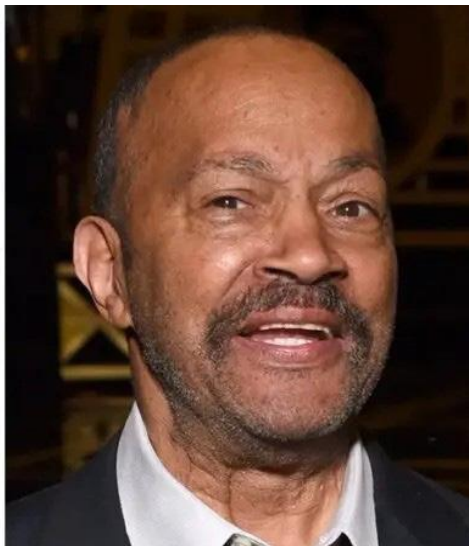
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Jamaican-born musicians Pepa, Thom Bell among Rock & Roll Hall of Fame inductees



Two Jamaican-born musicians are among 2025's class of Rock and Roll Hall of Fame inductees. The musicians, Sandra 'Pepa' Denton, an integral member of the Grammy winning trio Salt-N-Pepa,

will receive an award for musical influence, while the late legendary record producer Thom Bell will receive the prizes for musical excellence. Sandra Denton, also known as

Pepa, of the hip-hop group Salt-N-Pepa, was born in Kingston, Jamaica. Pepa's Jamaican heritage is a significant part of her identity and has been acknowledged by the group as being a major influence on the group's sound and fashion forward style.

Known in rap and hip hop culture as "The First Ladies of Rap", Salt-N-Pepa won the 1995 Grammy Award for Best Rap Performance by a Duo or Group for their song None of Your Business, making them one of the first female rap acts to win a Grammy Award, along with Queen Latifah.

In 2021, they won a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Salt-N-Pepa have sold more than 15 million records worldwide, making them one of the best-selling female rap acts of all time.

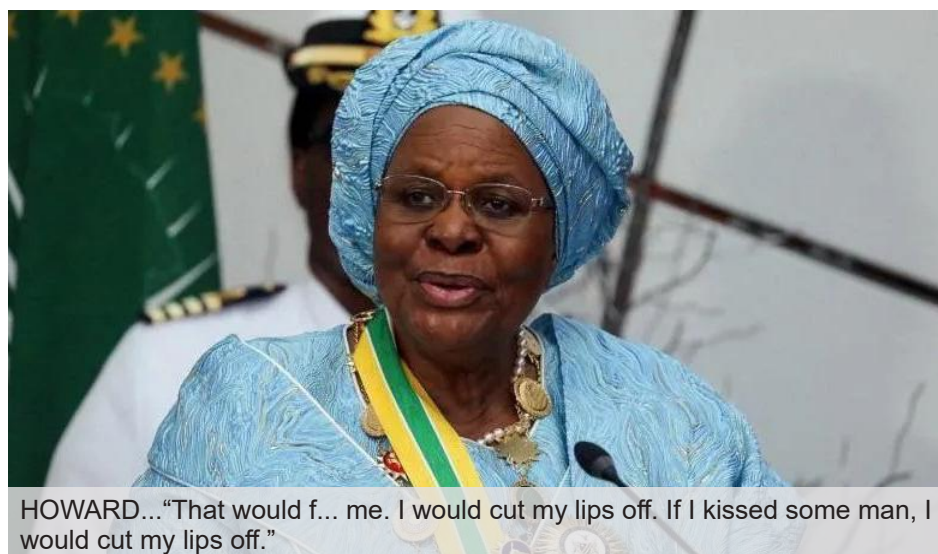
Meanwhile, the late Thom Bell was a Grammy-winning songwriter and producer. He was one of the key architects of the richly-orchestrated 'Sound of Philadelphia' brand of soul music along with Kenny Gamble and Leon Huff.

Bell was born on January 26, 1943 in Kingston, Jamaica, to Anna and Leroy Bell, and moved to Philadelphia with his parents when he was four. Bell was one of 11 siblings.

Thom's mother, Anna, worked as a stenographer and was a pianist. Leroy, his father, owned a fish market and restaurant in addition to being musical, playing the accordion and Hawaiian guitar.

He is credited on dozens of classics including the O'Jays' Back Stabbers, Harold Melvin and the Blue Notes' I Miss You, and The Stylistics' Betcha By Golly Wow.

'Fees have fallen' in Namibia as president announces free higher education



HOWARD... "That would f... me. I would cut my lips off. If I kissed some man, I would cut my lips off."

Namibian President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah says the free education scheme will be phased in gradually. Namibia's new president has announced that university fees will be scrapped from 2026.

President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, the country's first female president, made the announcement during her maiden state of the nation address on Thursday evening.

Addressing lawmakers, Nandi-Ndaitwah said that students

would pay "no registration [or] tuition fees" at all public universities and technical colleges.

However, she said there would not be "significant" extra funding, raising questions about the scheme's feasibility.

Nandi-Ndaitwah said free university education would be phased in gradually and that the only "contribution as families and students for now will be towards accommodation and other related costs".

"We have heard your cries: 'the Fees have Fallen'," she said, a ref-

erence to previous demands by university students in Namibia, as well as neighbouring South Africa.

'We are students thanks to South Africa's #FeesMustFall protests' South Africa #FeesMustFall: Stories behind the protests

She said the money would come from the subsidies already given to some of the country's public universities and the money allocated to the student financial assistance fund.

"If we are going to add, we are not going to add a significant [amount of funds]," she said.

Primary and secondary education is already free in all the country's public schools.

While some student organisations welcomed Nandi-Ndaitwah's announcement, others have criticised it as unfeasible and vague.

One of these is the Affirmative Repositioning Student Command (ARSC), which said it was just an attention-seeking ploy by the Namibian government.

"There is no plan, it is just a confused announcement which raises [the] question of what [Nandi-Ndaitwah] means by tertiary education," the organisation told

the BBC.

Elaborating, the ARSC questioned which students would benefit - post-graduates or only undergraduates - as well as where the funding would come from.

This echoed sentiments expressed by Tannen Groenewald, an economist who spoke to local news site the Windhoek Observer.

He suggested that scrapping fees without providing extra funding could lead to student numbers being capped.

He also speculated that it may eventually only apply to students from low-income households.

This is what happened in neighbouring South Africa.

In 2017, the government gave in to calls for tertiary education fees to be scrapped which were made during what was known as the #FeesMustFall protests - but only a small number of students benefited.

It has since been criticised as being too restrictive because as the so-called "missing middle", were excluded - those considered too wealthy to qualify for financial aid but who struggle to afford tuition fees.

Terrence Howard Rejected Marvin Gaye Biopic Because He Didn't Want to Kiss a Man



HOWARD...“That would f... me. I would cut my lips off. If I kissed some man, I would cut my lips off.”

Terrence Howard admitted that he passed on playing Marvin Gaye because if he had to kiss a male co-

star he would “cut my lips off.” During a recent appearance on the Club Random podcast, How-

ard told host Bill Maher about the “biggest mistake” he ever made in his career. The actor recounted how he was invited to dinner by Smokey Robinson because “he wanted me to play his life” in a movie. Unfortunately Howard had to turn Robinson down because he was in a conversation with Lee Daniels about playing Marvin Gaye in another biopic.

Maher responded, “You would’ve been perfect as Marvin Gaye, and that is a story that needs to be told.” However, Howard confirmed he ended up in neither project. He ended up turning down the role of Gaye once he learned how the singer’s sexuality would be explored in the film.

“I was over at Quincy Jones’ house and I’m asking Quincy, ‘I’m hearing rumors that Marvin was gay’ and I’m like, ‘Was he gay?’” Howard recalled. “And Quincy’s like, ‘Yes.’” Ultimately, Howard decided he “could not” play the singer.

“They would’ve wanted to do that, and I wouldn’t have been able to do that,” Howard told Maher of portraying a gay relationship. He explained that he couldn’t kiss a

man onscreen because “I don’t fake it.”

He continued, “That would f... me. I would cut my lips off. If I kissed some man, I would cut my lips off.” Howard explained that “it does not make me homophobic to not want to kiss a man.” He added that it’s about being able to represent something accurately onscreen. “I can’t play that character 100 percent,” Howard said. “I can’t surrender myself to a place that I don’t understand.”

Howard most recently appeared in *Fight Night: The Million Dollar Heist*, a Peacock miniseries that aired last year. He is best known for portraying Lucious Lyon on *Empire*, which was co-created by Daniels, and for his Oscar-nominated role in *Hustle & Flow*. The actor shared similar sentiments on the PBD Podcast, saying he had turned down gay roles because he didn’t want to lose his “man card.”

“I’ve lost businesses because I don’t bend over in that way,” he said. “I don’t compromise. I don’t play gay roles. I don’t kiss a man. I don’t do that shit because the man card means everything.”

Diddy now grey as dye isn't allowed in prison



Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs arrives at the Billboard Music Awards in Las Vegas, May 15, 2022. He has pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges alleging he coerced and abused women for years with help from a network of associates and employees. His trial is set to start on May 5 in New York City.

Prosecutors at Sean ‘Diddy’ Combs’ upcoming federal sex trafficking trial can show jurors video of the hip-hop mogul hitting and kicking one of his accusers in a Los Angeles hotel hallway, a judge ruled at a hearing Friday.

US District Judge Arun Subramanian said Combs’ lawyers failed to convince him that the explosive

security camera footage should be excluded. Its relevance to the case outweighs any potential prejudice to the 55-year-old defendant, the judge said.

Subramanian ruled on the video as he set ground rules for the May 5 trial in New York City.

Combs sat between his lawyers in a yellow jail suit, his formerly jet black

hair now almost fully grey because dye isn’t allowed at the Brooklyn federal lockup where he’s been held since his arrest last September.

Prosecutors disclosed that Combs was offered a plea deal, which he rejected.

The video shows Combs punching, shoving and dragging his former protégée and girlfriend, R&B singer Cassie, and throwing a vase in her direction on March 5, 2016, at the InterContinental Hotel in Los Angeles’ Century City district.

The video wasn’t public until CNN obtained and aired it in May 2024. The network turned the footage over to prosecutors in response to a subpoena. Prosecutors say it’s “critical to the case.”

Combs’ indictment alleges he tried to bribe a hotel security staffer to stay mum about the video. Cassie, in a since-settled November 2023 lawsuit alleging years of abuse, claimed he paid \$50,000 for the footage.

In seeking to exclude the video from the trial, Combs’ lawyer Marc Agnifilo argued that the footage was

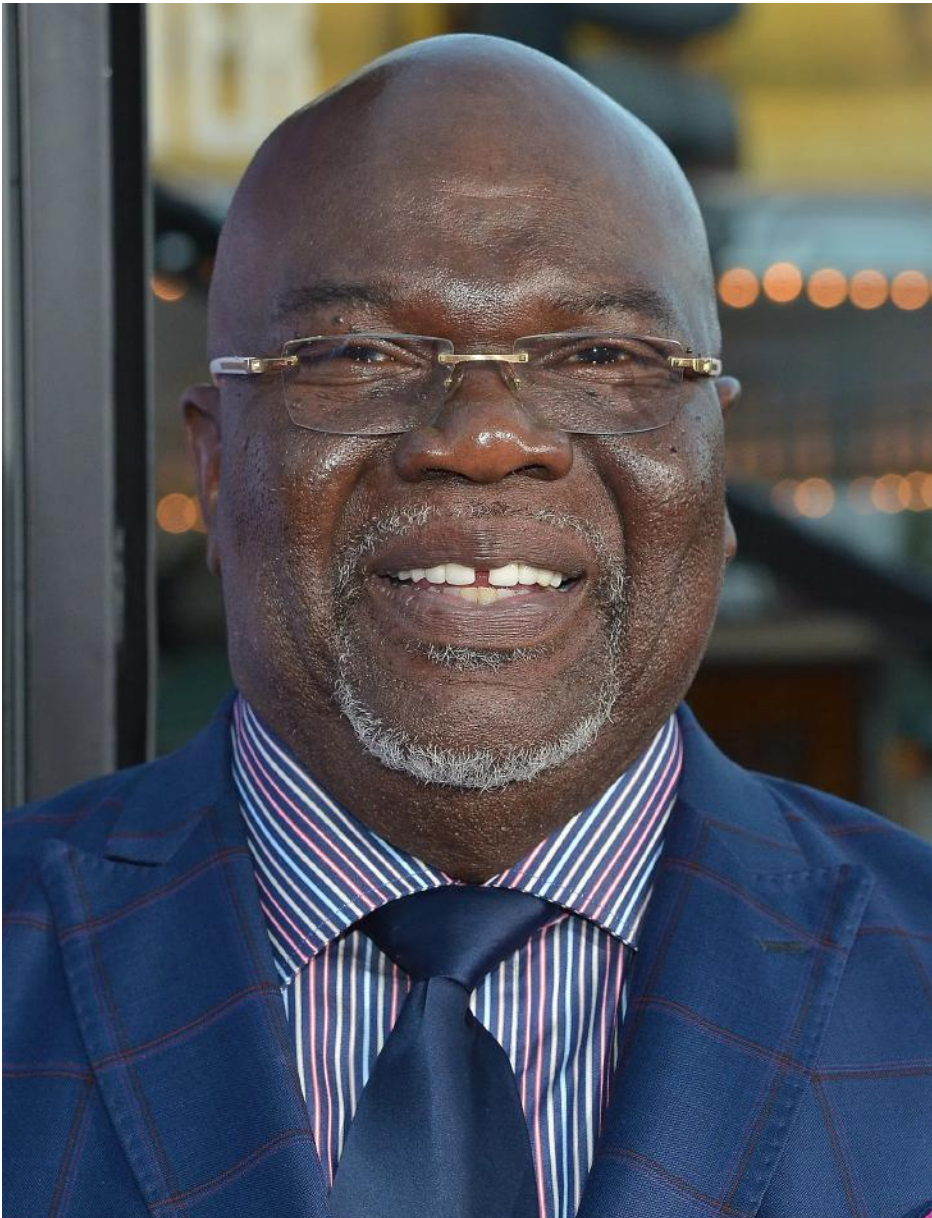
“deceptive and not in accordance with the actions that took place”. He said certain portions of the video were sped up by as much as 50 percent or taken out of order, making it a “misleading piece of evidence”.

Prosecutors told Subramanian that they were working with Combs’ lawyers to come up with a suitable version that can be shown by jurors. They said that includes having a video expert review the footage and slow down the clips to reflect the speed at which the event shown actually transpired.

The Associated Press does not typically name people who say they have been sexually abused unless they come forward publicly, as Cassie, whose legal name is Cassandra Ventura, did.

Combs has pleaded not guilty to racketeering conspiracy and sex trafficking charges alleging he coerced and abused women for years with help from a network of associates and employees while silencing victims through blackmail and violence, including kidnapping, arson and physical beatings.

Bishop T.D. Jakes steps down from megachurch, hands leadership to daughter and son-in-law



Bishop TD Jakes attends the "Hillsong - Let Hope Rise" premiere at the Westwood Village theater on September 13, 2016 in Los Angeles, California.

Bishop T.D. Jakes announced he will be stepping down and handing leadership of the Potter's House Church, a non-denominational Christian church, to his daughter and her husband.

On Sunday, Jakes, 67, announced that his daughter, Sarah Jakes Roberts, and son-in-law, Touré Roberts, will take over the church, which he founded in 1996.

He made the announcement during an emotional sermon, where he asked the congregation to welcome their new pastors with open arms.

"This is legacy," Jakes said. "Not because they're kin, but because they're the kind. They've immersed themselves into the DNA of this church for years."

The pastor said that while he is stepping down from his current

role, he wants to continue doing work with the community. As you [co-pastor elect,] I'm grateful, I'm honored," Jakes daughter said as she was called on to the stage. "As your daughter, I'm so happy you're going to get some rest."

The change comes after Jakes suffered from a heart attack on stage in November.

In a video posted online, Jakes is seen pausing during his hour-long sermon, before shaking suddenly as other church members gathered around him, according to USA TODAY's previous reporting. He was then rushed to an intensive care unit. A week after the "slight health incident," he spoke to his congregation remotely and told them that they were "looking at a miracle."

Jakes has been in ministry for



Toure Roberts and Sarah Jakes Roberts attend the World Premiere of Warner Bros.' "The Color Purple" at Academy Museum of Motion Pictures on December 06, 2023 in Los Angeles, California.

47 years, and has advised many high-profile individuals, including the "last three presidents," according to the bio on his website. The bio does not specifically name which presidents, but says Jakes was a featured speaker at Barack Obama's inauguration in 2009.

Jakes is also a best-selling author and award-winning filmmaker. With "minimal resources," he founded the Potter's House in 1996, according to the bio.

His wife is Serita Jakes, and the couple has been married for over 40 years. They have five children together.

The bishop has made headlines after being a longtime spiritual mentor to Sean "Diddy" Combs, the record executive who was indicted for sex trafficking and other federal charges.

Sarah Jakes Roberts is a New York Times best-selling author and CEO of Women Evolve,

where she hosts a conference each year that focuses on women's empowerment through faith and draws thousands. The event this year will be held in Atlanta in July and is already sold out.

She and her husband, Touré Roberts, are both co-pastors at ONE: A Potter's House Church in Los Angeles and Potter's House of Denver.

Roberts is also a bestselling author, entrepreneur, investor, producer, humanitarian, and podcast host.

The couple has been married since November 2014, reported Essence. This is both Roberts' and Jakes Roberts' second marriage.

Together, the two have five children from their previous marriages and a sixth child together, reported the lifestyle magazine. This story has been updated to add new information.

- Source: USA TODAY

Canada will ‘never’ yield to Trump’s threats as Prime Minister Carney declares election victory



Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said his country would “never” yield to the United States as he declared victory in federal elections early Tuesday, following a campaign overshadowed by relentless provocations and steep trade tariffs imposed by US President Donald Trump.

The Liberal Party leader issued a stunning rebuke to Trump as he sent a message of unity to a divided nation, promising to “represent everyone who calls Canada home.”

“As I have been warning for months, America wants our land, our resources, our water, our country. But these are not idle threats. President Trump is trying to break us so that America can own us,” Carney said, as he hailed a remarkable reversal in fortune for his party. “That will never ever happen.”

Carney reiterated statements he made on the campaign trail about the vastly changed nature of Canada’s re-

lationship with the United States.

“We are over the shock of the American betrayal but we should never forget the lessons. We have to look out for ourselves. And above all we have to take care of each other,” he said.

Voters have returned Canada’s Liberal Party to power for a fourth consecutive term. The Liberal’s victory was tempered by them appearing set to fall short of winning the 172 seats needed to govern without support from a smaller party.

Conservative opposition leader Pierre Poilievre conceded defeat early Tuesday. Capping a bad night for his party, Poilievre – whose party enjoyed a lead of more than 20 points over the Liberals before Trump returned to the White House – also lost his seat of Carleton to the Liberal challenger, Bruce Fanjoy. Poilievre had held that Ottawa-area seat for more than 20 years.

Former central banker Carney, 60, has led a wave of anti-Trump sentiment since winning his party’s leadership contest in a landslide after former prime minister Justin Trudeau stepped down last month. He has rallied the public against the US president’s threats to annex the country as “the 51st state” and made the defense of Canada a central part of his platform. Poilievre had been the favorite to win when Trudeau announced his resignation in January in the wake of dire polls, a serious cost of living crisis and an internal revolt in his cabinet.

But Trump’s tariffs on Canadian goods and threats to its sovereignty dramatically transformed the race into something of a referendum against the US president.

Poilievre said his Conservatives will work with Carney and other parties in “defending Canada’s interests” and “protecting our sovereignty.”

“We will always put Canada first as we stare down tariffs and other irresponsible threats from President Trump,” he said.

Carney had never held political office before becoming prime minister. His decades in finance saw him steering governments through major global crises and periods of upheaval, including shepherding Canada’s economy through the 2008 financial crisis.

As governor of the Bank of England, he helped the United Kingdom navigate Brexit – which he said mirrors what could happen to the US in the face of tariffs.

The idea that Canada needs to forge its own path outside of US influence has been central to Carney’s messaging since he took office.

Carney pitched himself throughout the campaign as an experienced professional from the political center who can steward Canada’s economy through a period of profound turbulence.

“I understand how the world works,” Carney told podcaster Nate Erskine-Smith in October. “I know people who run some of the world’s largest companies and understand how they work. I know how financial institutions work. I know how markets work ... I’m trying to apply that to the benefit of Canada.”

Trump’s tariffs against Canadian exports pose a grave threat to the country’s economy and lasting stability. The US president’s decision to levy a 25% duty on Canadian steel and aluminum, cars and car parts, and threats to tariff pharmaceuticals and lumber have shaken Canadian businesses and pushed the country toward recession. It’s a reality Carney has not sugarcoated, warning of “tough days ahead” with pressure on Canadian employment.

But the prime minister has pledged to “build things in this country again” to make Canada less reliant on the US: new homes, new factories, and new sources of “clean and conventional energy.”

Carney has not ruled out continued talks with Trump, but he has also been moving to deepen ties with more “reliable” allies. In an unusual move, his first prime ministerial trip abroad was to Europe, where he spoke to French and British officials about deepening security, military and economic ties.

In his victory speech early Tuesday, Carney said that when he does sit down with Trump, “it will be to discuss the future economic and security relationship between two sovereign nations.”

“And it will be with the full knowledge that we have many, many other options than the US to build prosperity for all Canadians,” he said.

Many Canadians see Carney as someone well-placed to navigate a trade war with a long-standing ally, experts say.

“In a crisis it’s important to come together and it’s essential to act with purpose and with force. And that’s what we will do,” Carney said earlier this month as he positioned himself as the leader to take on Trump.

Another upset on Tuesday was the future of the New Democratic Party, which has so far not won enough seats to keep its party status. The NDP, a centre-left party, has played a key role during previous Liberal Party minority governments. Party leader Jagmeet Singh announced he would step down after failing to retain his seat.

“He has an important job to do, to represent all Canadians and to protect our country and its sovereignty from the threats of Donald Trump,” Singh said of Carney.

Vessel assures that God is in control with ‘Pure Gold’



When a member of the Christian flock strays, many Jamaicans denounce

them as ‘backsliders’ or ‘grease cans’.

Singer Vessel prefers not to judge, saying temptation goes hand-in-hand with religion.

On Pure Gold, his latest song, the South Florida-based gospel artiste assures the brethren that God is with you, “whatever comes your way”, and “one must always focus on the end result, which is pure gold”.

Released on April 15, Pure Gold is produced by Craig McDonald, who has guided Vessel on most of his songs. It is a blend of the singer’s dancehall and hip hop influences.

As a practicing Christian, Vessel says fighting temptation is not as difficult as many people think. Being positive is critical.

“There is light and there is joy in the morning. If we hold on, if we persevere

and remain resilient, joy will come in the morning,” he reasoned. “It’s a process we all have to go through, a purification process where He strips us and moulds us, and refines us in His image.”

Pure Gold is Vessel’s follow-up to Love You Forever, which was produced by McDonald who has played a pivotal role in his career. He also produced Christwalker and His Steps, Vessel’s two albums.

As a youth in Jamaica, Avlon Coleman (Vessel’s real name) was drawn to dancehall acts like Beenie Man and Bounty Killer, as well as hip hop giants including the Notorious BIG. Those secular influences are evident on Doing It Big and Truly Blessed, two of his previous songs.

Crime and violence stifling Latin America and Caribbean, says World Bank



A new report by the World Bank says organised crime and violence have become a central obstacle to development in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). The report, titled "Organised Crime and Violence in Latin America and the Caribbean", projects the region to grow by 2.1 per cent in 2025 and 2.4 per cent in 2026, positioning it as the slowest-growing region globally.

"Organised crime is rapidly proliferating

across the region, transcending domestic borders and becoming a pervasive threat," said Carlos Felipe Jaramillo, vice president for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World Bank.

"This is no longer an isolated issue; it demands a regional and global dialogue to elevate solutions and mobilise our collective expertise and resources," he added. As such the chief economist for Latin America and the Caribbean at the World

Bank, William Maloney, will on Wednesday participate in a panel discussion along with Beatriz Magaloni, Professor of International Relations at Stanford University and General Óscar Naranjo, former Vice President of Colombia and a security expert on the issue.

"Together, they will explore how the lack of opportunities fuels organised crime and violence, what reforms can strengthen states to face these challenges, and the need for greater international cooperation and collaboration to protect citizens," the World Bank said.

The Washington-based financial institution said its Latin America and the Caribbean Economic Review (LACER), has underscored how these issues "exacerbate the region's already fragile economic landscape".

The report notes that "the region grapples with alarmingly high levels of lethal violence linked to organised crime" and that victimisation rates are three times higher than the global average, with homicide rates standing at eight times the global average.

The report also outlines several factors contributing to the rise in organised crime, including escalating global demand

for illegal goods, government crackdowns that have reconfigured criminal networks, and the COVID-19 pandemic, which allowed these groups to solidify their power in areas where state presence is weak.

The report states this proliferation has clear development consequences.

"The uncertainty surrounding property rights, rampant extortion, and pervasive insecurity inflate transaction costs for businesses, undermining competitiveness. Moreover, the diversion of public security resources from essential services like health and education burden countries already facing high debt and fiscal challenges," the report noted.

Maloney said that fighting organised crime is "not merely a law enforcement issue; it's a development priority."

"It undermines governance, distorts investment, and exacerbates inequality. We must address this issue head-on to prevent it from becoming a permanent drag on growth."

To address these challenges, the report calls for a "robust agenda" to enhance state capacity against organized crime, including police reform, improved prison systems and strengthened judicial processes.

Persad Bissessar leads coalition to victory in Trinidad and Tobago election



The leader of Trinidad and Tobago's main Opposition United National Congress (UNC), Kamla Persad Bissessar, claimed victory in the general election after the ruling People's National Party (PNM) was swept aside on Monday.

Prime Minister Stuart Young conceded defeat as the PNM had sought a third consecutive victory at the polls, having defeated the then UNC-led People's Partnership government in 2010.

Young, 50, said that the members of the population have spoken "and despite tonight I will fight for Trinidad and Tobago." "We will hold the UNC and the coalition of self interest to the coals," he said, adding that with the full results yet to be declared by the Elections and Boundaries

Commission (EBC), the PNM, which had controlled 22 of the 41 seats in the last parliament, is now expected to win 10 or 12 seats.

Persad Bissessar, 73, told cheering supporters that she was giving the country the assurance that "no one will be left behind, because when UNC wins, everybody wins."

"We will walk into government together. You will now have a prime minister who cares, a prime minister who loves you, a prime minister who will fight so that we will all win together. We will work for you. You are the real bosses and we are here to serve the people, serve the people, serve the people."

Persad Bissessar, flanked by members

of the coalition, expressed thanks to the population for returning her and the party to government, saying "let us rejoice and celebrate this day in our history."

"This has been a tremendous blessing and once again I thank you Trinidad and Tobago. We will be with you every step of the way over the next five years and beyond and I want to say tonight to all our candidates who gave everything that they give...give it up for all the candidates of the UNC, give it up for the candidates of the coalition of interest."

"I say get ready to win, it is time to win because now the UNC did win, everybody wins. I have told you before, I have always told you, you have had leaders before me, you will have leaders after me, but I know you will never ever have a leader, who loves you as much as I do," she said.

"Thank you for your confidence for a better TNT and for letting the world know that we the people have the real power in Trinidad and Tobago," she said, dismissing the "fake elites" and the "financiers with all their money."

"This victory is for the senior citizens to keep their pensions, this victory is for public servants to get their rightful salary increases, this victory is to re-open the Children's Hospital, this victory is to re-open Petrotrin," she added.

The Oilfield Workers Union (OWTU) is part of the UNC coalition, and its leader, Ancel Roget had said that any deal signed close to the general election "will not be honoured" by a future UNC government. The OWTU had been unsuccessful in reaching an agreement with the last government to operate the loss-making

refinery and Roget told the UNC public meetings that the refinery closure caused immense suffering to families.

"Since Stuart Young shut down Petrotrin, thousands of families have suffered. That will change on April 28," he said.

Meanwhile, former prime minister Dr Keith Rowley, who was present at the PNM headquarters when Young conceded defeat, told reporters, it is "not a good night for the PNM."

He said that from all reports, the 70-year-old party had not been successful in retaining power saying "it is clear we have lost the elections."

"Sometime you win some and...we wish all the winners well," he said, adding that the party will on Wednesday announce the new Opposition Leader.

"We will continue to remain faithful to our course. What we are doing here is that we are conceding defeat. We do not have final figures for any constituency. We have some preliminary numbers, we have seen trends that indicate we are not likely to win those seats," Rowley said, noting that the party is sufficiently knowledgeable about the remaining seats to know that it will not be victorious.

"We know we have lost the election, but to tell you which seats and by what margin we can't do that now," Rowley said, defending his decision to step down from active politics last month and allowing Young to lead the government and the party into the election.

For his part, Young insisted that the PNM "is not the sour grapes type" and will "bounce back" as it has done over its decades of existence.



AMAZING PERFORMANCES

Despite not winning any medals, Turks and Caicos Aquatics, and Track and Field Athletes set a number of personal bests



Melique Evans in flight during the Under 20 Boys Long Jump.
Photos: Sports Commission

See Story on Page 32

Wright says he 'cannot accept' Aluko's apology



Ian Wright says he "cannot accept" Eni Aluko's apology for suggesting the former England striker risked blocking female pundits from being given broadcasting opportuni-

ties. Wright, who is a pundit for various outlets on the men's and women's game, said he had seen the apology from the ex-England forward

but wanted to move on from it. "I'm very disappointed by what Eni has said," the 61-year-old Arsenal legend said. "She knows how I have helped her and supported her publicly.

"I can't accept it [the apology] but I also want to move on from it. I don't need any further social commentary directed at anyone."

Wright has long been an advocate for women's football, on which he has worked regularly as a pundit, with particular focus on Lionesses matches.

In her interview with BBC Radio 4's Woman's Hour on Wednesday, Aluko - who has worked alongside Wright as a pundit - said he needed to be aware of how much he works in the women's game as there are only a "finite amount of opportunities" for women.

The former Chelsea player, 38, has faced scrutiny for her comments. She apologised on Instagram on Friday, saying: "Ian Wright is a brilliant broadcaster and role model whose support for the women's game has been significant.

"In my interview with Woman's Hour this week, I was trying to make a broader point about the

limited opportunities for women in football - whether that's in coaching, broadcasting or commercial spaces - and the importance of creating more space for women to thrive on and off the pitch.

"But it was wrong for Ian's name to be raised in that conversation, and for that I sincerely apologise. I've known and worked with Ian for many years and have nothing but love and respect for him."

Wright thanked the public for their comments of support towards him, but said more needs to be done to help the women's game grow.

"Because of the past, where men blocked the women's game for 50 years, the game has serious systemic challenges and it is going to take everyone to help fix it," he added.

"We are the country that invented modern football so we have a responsibility to lead the way in women's football.

"For me, I will always give back to the game. It has given me so much. "It has never bothered me about who is playing the game, as long as they are playing the game. If you know my story, you know how much football means to me.

Shannon Sharpe says he's victim of 'shakedown' rape allegation, expects accuser to release sex tape



SHARPE:... "This is a shakedown,"

Shannon Sharpe has released a video defending his character against sexual assault accusations by a woman who he claims may release

a sex tape involving the NFL Hall of Famer turned popular podcaster in an attempt to sully his reputation. "This is a shakedown," Sharpe said

in a video statement posted on X. "I am going to be open, transparent and defend myself 'cause this isn't right. This is all being orchestrated by Tony Buzbee (an American lawyer), who has targeted Jay Z, Tony Buzbee targets black men and I believe he is going to release a 30 second clip of a sex tape to make me look guilty and play into every stereotype you can possibly imagine."

Sharpe released his statement in the wake of news that a Nevada woman sued him for sexual assault and battery in a Nevada civil court. The woman filed the suit on Sunday under the pseudonym Jane Doe. The lawsuit alleges that the woman and Sharpe had a "rocky consensual relationship" but that it turned "controlling" and "abusive" over time.

The woman, who claims she met Sharpe at a Los Angeles-area health club in 2023, further alleged that the two-year relationship became "fearful and non-consensual" in the summer of 2024. It says the two last met January 2.

In his hard-hitting response deliv-

ered with his usual bravado, Sharpe suggested that extortionists should release the full 10 minute sex tape instead of the 30 second clip.

"Hey Tony, instead of releasing your edit, put the whole video out. I don't have it, or else I would myself. You know what happened, and you're trying to manipulate the media," Sharpe railed.

Sharpe said that the encounter in question took place "during the day at her invitation" and alleged that the episode was a "deliberate set up" by an Only Fans personality.

"Gabby and Tony Buzbee want 50 million dollars, what they're getting is sued for defamation and trying to take me down. My career is all about real talk and honesty and my family and fans know what exactly this is about," Sharpe said. Sharpe's attorney, Lanny J Davis, released to the media a series of suggestive text messages he said are from the woman and called the suit a "blatant and cynical attempt to shake down Mr Sharpe for millions of dollars.

Donovan Bailey expects SFP, Jackson to challenge for World Champs medals



Jamaica's Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce (right) hands off the baton to teammate Shericka Jackson in the final of the women's 4x100m relay during the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games at the Olympic Stadium in Tokyo on August 6, 2021.

After a less than ideal 2024 season for Shelly-Ann Fraser-Pryce and Shericka Jackson, Jamaican-born Olympic and World Championship gold medallist Donovan Bailey says he's optimistic that the Jamaican sprint duo will challenge for medals at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo, Japan, this September. Fraser-Pryce and Jackson struggled with injuries last year, which saw both being unable to vie for medals at the Paris Olympic Games last summer. However, the pair have returned to competition since the start of the year ahead of a lengthy athletics calendar. Thirty-eight-year-old sprint legend

Fraser-Pryce, in her first race since the heats of the 100m in Paris last August, clocked a wind-aided 10.94 seconds at the Velocity Fest meet at the National Stadium on April 19. It was the earliest start to the season for the five-time 100m world champion since 2021 and the first time in two years where her season started more than two months before a major championship. The three-time Olympic gold medalist, who played down retirement talk to the Jamaica Observer, is also set to compete at the World Relays in China next week, after being named in Jamaica's 4x100m squad. Former world record holder Bailey,

who won the 100m Olympic gold in 1996 and took the 100m world title in 1995 while representing Canada, says he's impressed by Fraser-Pryce's start to the season and is expecting great things. "The excitement and energy of inviting probably the greatest female sprinter ever back to the track and healthy, that's way more important. The fact that she went out, raced, executed and ran sub-11, that's all good. I don't care what the wind was, that doesn't matter to me," he said. "The fact she went out and executed simply means that if this is her last season as a track and field athlete, it means that there's zero chance in hell that she's just going to go out and not challenge for a medal so this is great. I'm glad that she's back on the track, opening up in front of her home audience, injury free from what I understand because I spoke to a bunch of sources so I'm happy to see her back," Bailey added. Two-time 200m champion Jackson, whose 2024 season ended at the Gyulai Istvan Memorial meet in Hungary last July, opened her season in January in the 60m at the Queen's/Grace Jackson Invitational Meet at the National Stadium where she clocked 7.18 seconds. Since then, Jackson has gone on to compete in four more races, including last Saturday's Diamond League in Xiamen, China where she ran her

first 200m race of the season, clocking 22.79 seconds to finish second behind America's Anavia Battle 22.41 seconds. It's the slowest time in her 200m opener since February 2021 where she also clocked 22.79 at the GC Foster College. Despite Jackson not winning the event, Bailey says he's not bothered and believes she should use these races as opportunities to prepare for the World Championships. "From my personal career, the Diamond League is the business part of track and field. You come out, get a great appearance and if you lose one or two, it doesn't really matter at the end of the season. I think that every single one of these ladies or the men competing, should always use the Diamond League to fix things. "So [whether] Shericka wins or loses is not going to make a difference to me or make a difference in her season. The number one thing is executing right and remaining healthy. I want to see her at her best in the finals at the World Championships at the end of the season, that's what I personally what I want to see," said Bailey. As the reigning champion, Jackson has a bye for the 200m at this year's World Championships but will have to compete in the 100m, along with Fraser-Pryce, at the National Senior Championships in July.

Trinidad & Tobago's Joshua James suspended for illegal bowling action



Trinidad & Tobago Legions' Joshua James celebrates the wicket of Barbados Pelicans' Joshua Bishop during the West Indies Breakout T20 League cricket match at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, on April 25.

TRINIDAD AND Tobago Legions fast-bowler Joshua James has been suspended from bowling after an independent assessment deemed his action illegal. The decision comes following reports from match officials during the West Indies Breakout League matches against the Barbados Pelicans on April 25 and the Guyana Rainforest Rangers on April 26 at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy. Against the Rangers, James had bagged 3-35 in a 23-run win for the Legions, while against the Pelicans, he was just as good, grabbing 2-21 in a 64-run win. Those performances had left the T&T pacesman fourth on the 'most wickets' column: his five is just one behind teammate Johann Layne and the Rangers' Nial Smith. The Rangers'

Jediah Blades leads all comers with seven wickets. Under Cricket West Indies (CWI) regulations, footage of James' bowling was reviewed by Loughborough University's independent assessor, whose report confirmed that his elbow extension exceeded the legal limit set by the International Cricket Council (ICC). As a result, James is barred from bowling in all CWI-sanctioned matches and other domestic leagues globally until further notice. James will now work with the Trinidad & Tobago Cricket Board to rectify his action. He can seek reassessment once modifications are made, either through a follow-up report from Loughborough or an ICC-accredited testing facility.

Turks and Caicos Islander Deajah Smith Selected for Prestigious 2025 Women's Sport Leadership Academy



Deajah Smith

The Turks and Caicos Islands is proud to announce that DeA-

jah Smith has been selected to join the 2025 cohort of the inter-

nationally acclaimed Women's Sport Leadership Academy (WSLA).

Smith's acceptance into the program marks a significant achievement, as she was chosen from a competitive pool of over 95 applicants representing more than 50 countries.

Her successful application was strongly supported by TCI Women in Sports, with a personal endorsement from the organisation's founder and former president, Hon. Rita Gardiner. A trailblazer for women's sports in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Hon. Gardiner commended Deajah's "unwavering dedication, leadership potential, and her commitment to advancing opportunities for women and girls in sport."

The WSLA selection team expressed high regard for Deajah's skills, experiences, and aspirations, recognising her as someone who would not only benefit from the program but also contribute meaningfully to the global network of women leaders in sport.

A passionate advocate for youth and women's empowerment through sport, Deajah

has been actively involved in promoting inclusivity and development across the islands. Her selection underscores the growing impact of Caribbean women in global sports leadership spaces.

"I'm incredibly honoured to be accepted into WSLA 2025," said Deajah. "This opportunity means so much to me, not only as a personal milestone, but as a chance to represent Turks and Caicos and inspire the next generation of girls in sport. I'm grateful for the support of Hon. Rita Gardiner and TCI Women in Sports for believing in me and championing my journey."

The Women's Sport Leadership Academy, based in the United Kingdom, is a globally recognised initiative that equips emerging leaders with the tools, strategies, and network to drive positive change in sport and beyond.

As Deajah prepares to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands on the international stage, her achievement serves as a source of national pride and a call to continue investing in the leadership potential of young women across the region.

Let's Move TCI Extends Registration Deadline for 30+ Adult Sports League



The Let's Move TCI campaign has extended the registration deadline for its upcoming **Adult League**, a community sports initiative designed for residents **30 years and older** who want to

stay active and have fun through friendly competition. The newly extended deadline of **May 2, 2025** gives individuals and groups a few extra days to form teams and register. Whether it's

a group of co-workers, longtime friends, or family members, the Adult League invites anyone over 30 to get in the game – no elite athleticism required.

The overall league launches on **May 6**, with competitions in three sports:

- **Co-ed Softball** – Starts **May 6**
- **Co-ed Netball** – Starts **May 7**
- **Male Basketball** – Starts **May 8**

Each team must consist of **8 to 12 players** and pay a **\$300 registration fee**. The league caps at **10 teams per sport**, making space limited and registration competitive. The aim is to create a dynamic environment where participants can enjoy the benefits

of exercise, build camaraderie, and relive the joy of organized team sports.

Organizers are emphasizing that the league is about **participation over perfection**, with the core values being fitness, fun, and community engagement. The slogan **"Older – Not Colder!"** captures the spirit behind the event – that age is no barrier to staying active.

Registration can be completed online at www.letsmovepci.com or by scanning the QR code featured on promotional materials.

Let's Move TCI is helping adults reclaim their love for sport – one game at a time.

TCI Athletes Set National Records and Personal Bests at CARIFTA 2025



Farley set a new national record in the 11–12 Boys 200m Breaststroke with a time of 3:18.28, surpassing the 2020 record.

The Turks and Caicos Islands' Aquatics and Track and Field teams showcased significant progress and determination at the 2025 CARIFTA Games in Trinidad and Tobago.

While the teams did not return with medals, they delivered milestone performances—setting national records, achieving personal bests, and marking historic firsts. Their efforts reflect a growing strength in TCI athletics and a promising future on the regional stage.

Held from April 19–22, the Games brought together the Caribbean's most talented young athletes. Representing the TCI with pride, both teams demonstrated unity and resilience throughout the competition.

In the pool, despite fielding a compact nine-member team, TCI swimmers delivered standout performances at the National Aquatics Centre. Isaac Farley set a new national record in the 11–12 Boys 200m Breaststroke with a time of 3:18.28, surpassing the 2020 record.

Danielle Burgess broke the 13–14 Girls 50m Freestyle national

record, clocking 30.84. Gabrielle Martin improved her 15–17 Girls 100m Backstroke time from 1:48.20 to 1:43.52, competing in three events in one day.

The Mixed 11–12 400m Freestyle Relay team—Anaiah Alleyne, Kian Jules, Isaac Farley, and Annabella Albert—made history with TCI's first appearance in the event, finishing in 5:14.00.

Rishith Gururaja delivered a personal best in the Boys 13–14 50m Freestyle, dropping from 36.18 to 31.12. Kian Jules shaved nearly six seconds off his previous best in the Boys 11–12 50m Butterfly, finishing in 38.00.

In Track & Field held between April 19 and 21 at the Hasely Crawford Stadium, TCI's track and field athletes competed with heart and consistency, achieving several personal bests and advancing to multiple event finals.

Melique Evans reached the finals in the U20 Boys Long Jump, recording a personal best of 6.95m to secure 8th place. Love Joseph, a former CARIFTA 3000m bronze medalist, made a strong debut in the U20 Boys 1500m with a signifi-



Danielle Burgess broke the 13–14 Girls 50m Freestyle national record, clocking 30.84.

cant personal best of 4:23.13.

Xavier Joseph improved his time in the U20 Boys 400m to 51.68. Markey Zephirin, representing Excelsior Community College in Jamaica, ran a personal best of 11.01s in the U20 Boys 100m. Eunice Missick clocked 5:33.96 in the U20 Girls 1500m, improving on her seed time of 5:36.00.

The U17 Boys 4x100m Relay team—Daens Saint Hilaire, Kimani Deane, Dylan Gardiner, and Rayvon Black—qualified for the final, finishing with a time of 43.21. Sendia Marcel reached the final in the U17 Girls Long Jump, setting a personal best of 5.14m to place 8th overall.

Rayvon Black, better known for his sprinting, delivered an impressive personal best of 42.56m in the U17 Boys Discus Throw (1.5kg), earning 7th place.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission stated that the athletes representing the Turks and Caicos Islands at this year's CARIFTA Games gained invaluable experience and demonstrated meaningful progress.

Hon Rachel Taylor shares: "I ex-

tend heartfelt congratulations to all our athletes who represented the Turks and Caicos Islands at the 2025 CARIFTA Games. Your record-breaking performances, personal bests, and unwavering determination are a source of national pride.

"While we did not secure medals this year, your achievements signal the tremendous growth of our sports programs and the promise of a bright future. As Minister of Sports, I reaffirm our government's commitment to investing in youth development and athlete performance. This is only the beginning, and we stand behind you as you continue to rise."

In the meantime, the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission has high hopes for the future of the local athletes.

"With continued training and the implementation of our newly introduced Long-Term Athlete Development Framework, we are laying a strong foundation for sustained improvement and future success in regional competition," the Sports Commission said in a statement.