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Lookout for These Police Action League Players

The Police Action League Basketball segment has reached its play-off staged, and a number of the upcoming basketballers will move their game into high gear as they jockey for pole position in the league. Almost all the players in the Under 13 and Under 16 leagues have demonstrated high quality of performance, and as the play-offs kick-off this weekend, there are a number of players that fans should look out for. We have included some of them in this week's PAGE2 Section of Newsline.





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Alleged Kew Town Rapist Reportedly Held With Firearm



The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force apprehended a male suspected of sexually assaulted a woman in the Kew Town community on August 18, 2024.

The suspect, whose identity has not been disclosed, was detained after officers executed a search in the Kew Town area. During this operation, authorities discovered that he was in possession of an illegal firearm and ammunition. This discovery adds a layer of complexity to the ongoing investigation, as the suspect now faces additional charges related to the possession of prohibited weaponry.

The arrest came after a rape report was filed earlier in the week. According to the police, the victim's account prompted an immediate and thorough investigation, leading to the identification and subsequent apprehension of the suspect. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force have emphasized that this case remains under active investigation, and they are committed to providing updates as more information becomes available.

The presence of the illegal firearm in the suspect's possession has raised concerns about public safety and the potential implications for the case. While the police have not yet revealed the nature of the firearm or the specific type of ammunition found, the arrest highlights the broader issue of illegal arms trafficking and its impact on crime in the region.

Authorities are urging the community to assist in the investigation by coming forward with any relevant information. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force have issued a public appeal for anyone who may have witnessed any suspicious activity or who has additional information related to the case to contact them. Individuals can report tips to the nearest police station, or dial 911 for immediate assistance.

For those who wish to provide information anonymously, the Safeguarding and Public Protection Unit can be reached at 231-6696. Additionally, Crime Stoppers offers an anonymous tip line at 1-800-8477. The Crime Stoppers P3 app is also available for individuals who prefer to submit their information electronically.

The police are particularly interested in hearing from anyone who may have seen the suspect in the area around the time of the reported rape or who has any details about the suspect's possession of the firearm. Public cooperation is deemed crucial to ensuring that justice is served and that such incidents do not go unresolved.

As the investigation progresses, authorities will continue to update the public on any significant developments. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force have reiterated their commitment to tackling crime and maintaining safety within the community. They remain vigilant and are actively working to address any issues that may arise in connection with this case.

Undocumented Immigrants Nabbed During 'Operation Might'



Man of the country's undocumented individuals come by boat. This photo released by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, sees several undocumented migrants being ushered to shore after being intercepted by local officials in their twin-engine vessel, trying to get to the TCI.

On August 13, 2024, a joint operation conducted by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Tactical Unit and the Immigration Department resulted in the detention of fourteen individuals at two locations in Providenciales. The operation, known as Operation Might, took place in Blue Hills and along Leeward Highway.

Operation Might aims to combat criminal activities and enhance community safety by deploying the full resources of the RT&CIPF to disrupt criminal operations. During this exercise, authorities detained nine adult males, two minor males, and three females for immigration-related matters.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force encourages the public to report any information related to illegal activities or illicit firearms. Tips can be provided to the nearest police station, through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477, or by dialing 911. The RTCIPF also urges individuals to download the Crime Stoppers P3 app to submit information anonymously.

Cancer-Causing Asbestos Discovered at South Base

By Vivian Tyson, Editor-in-Chief



A section of the South Base facility, which was found to contain Asbestos -a construction material which causes cancer -is cordoned off to prevent members of to have easy access.

Authorities have confirmed the presence of asbestos at South Base, Grand Turk, a site formerly operated by the United States Government.

Asbestos, a cancer-causing material once commonly used in construction, poses serious health risks when its fibers become airborne and inhaled. The discovery has sparked immediate safety measures and a plan of action to address the hazardous material.

Testing and Surveying at South Base

In July 2024, the public was notified that testing for Asbestos Containing Materials (ACMs) would be conducted at South Base. The survey, carried out from July 10 to July 15, 2024, aimed to locate, assess, and document the condition of any asbestos-containing materials present in the structures.

This was done to create a comprehensive report indicating confirmed and suspected asbestos, identifying its location, condition, and extent. The survey, however, focused on approximate estimations rather than precision measurements.

The findings were significant. Out of 103 samples collected during the survey, 59 tested positive for asbestos. The types of materials identified as containing asbestos included bitumen, cement, flat sheets, felt, floor tiles, mastic/sealant, papers, and ropes. The presence of asbestos in these materials means that any disturbance or degradation could lead to dangerous asbestos fibers being released into the air.

Risk Classification of Asbestos-Containing Materials

To ensure appropriate safety measures, the ACMs were categorized into different risk levels based on the potential danger they pose.

The authorities said the materials at South Base fell within Risk Bands C & D, both of which involve some degree of monitoring but vary in the immediacy of the required actions:

Risk Band C: This category, which scored between 8 and 12 points, includes medium-risk materials. While the current risk of asbestos fiber release is low, these materials require regular monitoring because their condition could worsen over time due to natural aging or accidental damage. If the materials deteriorate, the risk of harmful asbestos exposure could increase significantly.

Risk Band D: Scoring between 1 and 7 points, this category includes low-risk materials. Although the risk is lower than that of Band C materials, annual inspections are still necessary to detect any changes in their condition. These materials do not currently pose an immediate threat but must be kept under surveillance to ensure they remain stable.

Government Response and Safety Measures

In response to these findings, the government has swiftly implemented restrictions on access to the affected structures at South Base. Safety protocols for the abatement and removal of the ACMs are being developed, following the recommendations made by the surveyors. These actions aim to prevent any accidental exposure to asbestos fibers and protect the health of those who frequent the area.

Public safety is a top priority, and the government has installed clear warning signs throughout the South Base compound. These warnings are meant to prevent people from inadvertently disturbing asbestos-containing materials, which could result in fibers being released into the environment. The government has strongly urged the public to adhere to these warnings to avoid exposure.

Funding and Future Phases

The Washington Misick administration said that funding for the abatement, removal, and disposal of ACMs at South Base has been secured under the Grand Turk Enhancement and Sustainability Agency (GTESA), through the Turks and Caicos Islands Government's Appropriations Bill for 2024/2025. Given the health risks associated with asbestos, this project has been classified as a high priority. Immediate action is necessary to ensure that the hazardous materials are safely removed or contained to prevent future health risks.

The authorities said once the ACMs are removed, the government plans to initiate further safety inspections and ensure that all asbestos is adequately addressed. Subsequent phases of the project will be announced through a public tendering process, allowing qualified contractors to bid for the asbestos removal work. These later stages will be publicly accessible, and updates will be shared regularly to ensure transparency.

Health Risks of Asbestos

Asbestos is a known carcinogen, and prolonged exposure to its fibers can lead to serious health issues, including lung cancer, mesothelioma, and asbestosis. The material was widely used in construction and other industries throughout the 20th century due to its fire-resistant properties, but its dangers became well-known in later years. Many older buildings, such as those at South Base, still contain asbestos in various forms.

The risks associated with asbestos are primarily related to inhalation of its fibers, which can become airborne when the material is disturbed. These fibers can remain in the lungs for long periods, leading to inflammation, scarring, and eventually life-threatening diseases. As a result, the safe handling and removal of asbestos require specialized procedures and trained professionals.

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Shattering glass ceilings: The significance of Kamala Harris's leadership

Kamala Harris's journey to the presidency marks a watershed moment in American history.

As the first woman, first black woman, and first person of South Asian and Jamaican descent to ascend to the highest office in the land, Harris's rise symbolises a seismic shift in the political landscape. Her journey is a personal triumph and a collective victory for the countless individuals who have fought for representation and equality.

This column explores the multifaceted impact of her presidency, from her trailblazing path to the broader implications for minority representation and American politics. In the annals of political history, women have continually fought against the constraints of patriarchy and bias to assume roles of leadership and influence.

Harris, the daughter of an Indian mother and a Jamaican father, epitomises the multicultural tapestry of America. Her Jamaican heritage, often highlighted in her public discourse, is a testament to the diverse experiences that shape her world view.

From California to the White House

Harris's political career began in California where she served as the district attorney of San Francisco before becoming Attorney General of California. Her tenure in these roles showcased her commitment to justice reform, consumer protection, and fighting for the marginalised. Harris's ascent to the US Senate further cemented her reputation as a formidable advocate for civil rights and progressive policies.

Her journey reflects the resilience and determination required to break through the glass ceilings that have long impeded women and minorities in American politics. Here is a list of women who have run for president of the United States:

1) Victoria Woodhull ran in 1872 for the Equal Rights Party. She was the first woman to run for president of the United States.

2) Belva Ann Lockwood ran in 1884 and 1888 for the Equal Rights Party. She was the first woman to appear on official ballots in multiple states.

3) Gracie Allen ran in 1940 for the 'Surprise Party'. Allen was a popular comidienne and her campaign and party were launched as a publicity stunt.

4) Margaret Chase Smith ran in 1964 for the Republican Party. She was the first woman to be placed in nomination for the presidency by a major party.

5) Shirley Chisholm ran in 1972 for the Democratic Party. She was the first black woman to run for president and first woman to run for the Democratic Party's nomination.

6) Patsy Mink ran in 1972 for the Democratic Party. She was the first Asian American woman to seek the presidency.

7) Ellen McCormack ran in 1976 and 1980 for the Democratic Party. She was the first woman to qualify for federal matching funds.

8) Sonia Johnson ran in 1984 for the Citizens Party. She was an advocate for the federal equal rights amendment.

9) Patricia Schroeder ran in 1988 for the Democratic Party. She briefly entered the race but withdrew before primaries.

10) Lenora Fulani ran in 1988 and 1992 for the New Alliance Party. She was the first African American and first woman to appear on the ballot in all 50 states.

11) Elizabeth Dole ran in 2000 for the Republican Party. She withdrew before primaries due to fund-raising challenges.

12) Carol Moseley Braun ran in 2004 for the Democratic Party. She was a US senator and an ambassador.

13) Hillary Clinton ran in 2008 and 2016 for the Democratic Party. In 2016 she was the first woman to win the nomination of a major political party.

14) Cynthia McKinney ran in 2008 for the Green Party.

15) Michele Bachmann ran in 2012 for the Republican Party.

16) Jill Stein ran in 2012 and 2016 for the Green Party.

17) Carly Fiorina ran in 2016 for the Republican Party.

18) Tulsi Gabbard ran in 2020 for the Democratic Party.

19) Kirsten Gillibrand ran in 2020 for the Democratic Party.

20) Kamala Harris ran in 2020 for the Democratic Party. She is the first female vice-president of the United States.

21) Elizabeth Warren ran in 2020 for the Democratic Party.

22) Marianne Williamson ran in 2020 and 2024 for the Democratic Party.

22) Amy Klobuchar ran in 2020 for the Democratic Party.

This list includes women who officially ran campaigns for the US presidency, inclusive of third-party candidates and major party contenders. This leaves only one question: Can Harris become the first female president of the US and what message does this send to minority groups all around the world?

The Significance of Harris's Vice-Presidency

Harris's selection as vice-president was itself a historic milestone. Serving as the second-in-command, she demonstrated the capability and readiness of women to hold executive power. Her role in the Joe Biden Administration included significant responsibilities, from addressing the COVID-19 pandemic to championing voting rights and immigration reform.

Harris's vice-presidency serves as a crucial stepping stone, proving that women of colour can excel in high-stakes political arenas traditionally dominated by white men. As president, Harris would bring a unique perspective shaped by her diverse background and extensive legal and political experience.

Her Administration would prioritise issues such as health-care reform, climate change, criminal justice reform, and economic equity.

Harris's leadership style emphasises collaboration, empathy, and inclusivity, reflecting her belief in governance that works for all Americans. Her presidency would aim to redefine what leadership looks like in the 21st century, setting new standards for future generations.

The Impact on Women and Minority Groups

Harris's presidency would send a powerful message to women and minority groups worldwide: representation matters. Her achievement would inspire young girls and marginalised communities, showing them that no dream is too ambitious. The symbolic significance of her presidency cannot be overstated, it would serve as a beacon of hope and progress, encouraging more diverse candidates to pursue political careers.

Harris's success challenges systemic barriers and paves the way for greater inclusivity in all levels of government.

If she is elected president of the United States, it would have far-reaching global implications. It would signal a commitment to diversity and inclusion that would resonate beyond American borders. Countries around the world would watch closely as Harris implements policies prioritising human rights, social justice, and equality.

Her presidency would encourage international movements for gender and racial equality, amplifying voices that demand change and inspiring leaders in other nations to embrace diversity in their political systems.





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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

$2 Million Marijuana Bust Leads to 56 Migrant Detentions



A portion of the marijuana seized from a boat ferrying illegal migrants

In a series of successful operations over the weekend, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) made significant strides in curbing illegal activities within the territory.

The RTCIPF seized cannabis sativa valued at over $2 million and detained 56 illegal migrants during two separate incidents, highlighting the ongoing challenges of drug trafficking and illegal immigration in the region.

The first operation took place late on Friday, August 18, when police officers responded to reports of an illegal landing at Bird Rock, Providenciales. According to the RTCIPF, officers arrived at the scene around 11:40 p.m., where they found and apprehended 15 illegal migrants. During a subsequent search of the surrounding area, authorities discovered a stash of cannabis sativa with an estimated street value of $131,660.

Just a day later, on Saturday, August 17, the RTCIPF's Marine Unit was called into action following reports of suspicious activity near Jones Cay. The unit quickly mobilized and intercepted two vessels that were attempting to land on the shores of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Onboard, they found 41 illegal migrants, including 32 males, 6 females, and 3 minors. Alongside the migrants, officers seized a large quantity of cannabis sativa valued at approximately $2,704,932.



One of the boats from which more than $2million worth of marijuana was discover

The successful operations were the result of coordinated efforts between the RTCIPF, the Border Force, the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment, and vigilant local citizens. Commissioner of Police Edvin Martin praised the collaboration, stating that the joint efforts of law enforcement and the community played a crucial role in the success of the operations. He also expressed deep concern about the dangers faced by illegal migrants who undertake perilous journeys to reach the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"These individuals are risking their lives in the hope of a better future, but instead, they are met with extreme danger and, in many cases, exploitation by criminal elements," said Commissioner Martin. "The severe penalties for those involved in drug trafficking should serve as a stark warning to others considering similar activities. The RTCIPF and our partners are committed to pursuing all leads to bring those responsible to justice."

The operations underscore the ongoing challenges faced by the Turks and Caicos Islands in addressing both illegal immigration and drug trafficking. The significant amount of cannabis seized indicates the scale of the drug smuggling operations targeting the region, while the large number of migrants apprehended highlights the persistent issue of illegal immigration.

Authorities have launched a comprehensive investigation to identify and apprehend those responsible for organizing the smuggling operations. The RTCIPF is urging anyone with information that could assist in their investigations to come forward. Tips can be provided anonymously via the Crime Stoppers hotline or the P3 app.

The recent operations mark a significant victory in the fight against illegal activities in the Turks and Caicos Islands, but they also serve as a reminder of the ongoing challenges that law enforcement faces in securing the territory's borders and protecting its residents.



Some of the marijuana displayed by the police

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ANDAZ Turks and Caicos Completes Structural Construction



It is celebration time as Andaz completes structural construction phase



Photo shows the complete structure of ANDAZ Resort

Andaz Turks & Caicos at Grace Bay, developed by Vista Development Inc., has announced a key milestone thanks in large part to its construction partner BYD TCI Construction.

The project recently celebrated the topping off with a ceremony at the site of the future resort and luxury residences. Marking the completion of the building's fundamental framework and roof, the event included remarks from key project representatives along with a celebration of Andaz Turks & Caicos' team who delivered the milestone significantly ahead of schedule. Attendance included Andaz Turks & Caicos leadership Jon Siegel, Matt McDonald and Steve McConaghy.

"After breaking ground last August, we are thrilled to celebrate Andaz Turks & Caicos' topping off as one of the many significant construction milestones we have surpassed ahead of schedule," says Vista Development Construction Manager Steve McConaghy. "This milestone would not be possible without our team's tireless efforts towards delivering this much-anticipated project, and we look forward to continuing the momentum until we pass the torch to the Hyatt team."

In addition to its recent topping off, Andaz Turks & Caicos said it continues to demonstrate significant progress across sales and construction, stating that its first model hotel rooms will debut this fall, adding a physical component to the Andaz Turks & Caicos' sales office experience for owners and prospects.

ANDAZ Turks and Caicos said the project continues to see strong interest from buyers, surpassing $70M in sales to date along with the sell-out of its studio offerings and the release of the premium "Reef Collection" this past June.

Demonstrating Andaz Turks & Caicos' commitment to sustainability, 1% of sales proceeds from each Reef Collection residence will be donated to Turks and Caicos Reef Fund, (TCRF), an organization dedicated to the protection and conservation of the region's coral reefs.

Stretching more than five and a half acres, Andaz Turks & Caicos at Grace Bay will begin welcoming guests in early 2026 as the first Hyatt hotel in Turks & Caicos and the first Andaz hotel in the Caribbean.

Offering an unparalleled five-star experience, the premier property will boast a 59-key resort and 73 residences, all featuring breathtaking ocean views. The thoughtfully designed resort will be home to exceptional dining including three restaurants and bars. and an elevated rooftop venue with unobstructed panoramic views of the bay.

Additional amenities include a state-of-the-art fitness facility, a garden yoga studio, tennis and pickleball courts, kid's club, and a full-service indoor/outdoor spa with cold plunge.

Historic Health Professions (Amendment) Ordinance and Regulations 2024 Officially Signed into Law



Health Minister Hon. Shaun Malcolm signs the Health Professions Ordinance and Regulations 2024. Looking on is Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Human Services Renessa Williams.

The Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands is pleased to announce the official assent of the Health Professions (Amendment) Ordinance and Regulations 2024 by the Governor, followed by its publication in the Gazette.

The Honourable Minister of Health, Shaun Malcom, has signed this landmark legislation, which officially came into force Friday, August 16, 2024, marking a pivotal moment in the evolution of healthcare regulation in the territory.

The amendments introduced by the Ordinance are designed to bring transformative changes to the healthcare landscape of the Turks and Caicos Islands. The most notable of these amendments include:

Empowerment of the Nursing and Midwifery Professions Council (NMPC): The NMPC is now vested with the authority to regulate the curriculum and training of nurses; host and administer examinations for nursing registration; and serve as the sole authorized body for administering nurse registration and licensure examinations. This landmark change will, for the first time, allow for the training and licensing of registered nurses within the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Enhancement of the Health Professions Authority (HPA): The amendments also expand the functions of the HPA, particularly in the process of verifying the registration and licensure of medical professionals providing services through the Migrant Health Programme.

Additionally, the ordinance will significantly enhance the operational efficiency of the HPA, streamlining its processes to improve overall functioning and effectiveness.

The Honourable Minister of Health, Shaun Malcom, expressed his pride in the legislative advancements, stating, “These amendments represent a crucial step forward in our commitment to ensuring that healthcare professionals in the Turks and Caicos Islands are held to the highest standards of practice and professionalism. By empowering our local regulatory bodies, we are not only enhancing the quality of healthcare services but also investing in the future of our healthcare system.”

These legislative changes underscore the Government’s dedication to strengthening the regulatory framework governing health professions, ensuring that both the NMPC and HPA continue to uphold the highest standards of healthcare within the Turks and Caicos Islands.

For additional information, please visit the Ministry of Health and Human Services Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/tciministryofhealth/.

Government Launches Turks and Caicos Islands Diaspora Questionnaire



Premier Hon. Washington Misick

The Office of the Premier and Public Policy launches the Turks and Caicos Islands Diaspora Questionnaire.

The Diaspora Questionnaire seeks to identify Turks and Caicos Islanders across the globe, capture their interests and accommodate the desire of Turks and Caicos Islanders and British Overseas Territories Citizens BOTC (TCI) abroad to become connected with the Islands.

“If you hold Turks and Caicos Islander status, or if you are a British Overseas Territories Citizenship (BOTC) (TCI), or are eligible for the status you are encouraged to participate in this Diaspora Questionnaire, a release from the Premier’s Office said.

The released said the questionnaire will take about 4-5 minutes to complete and requires that you provide your name and contact information.

“It also asks for information on your association with the TCI, your interests and an option to receive information on upcoming diaspora events, employment opportunities in the TCI, trade, real estate and tourism,” the release further noted.

Those eligible are encouraged to participate and encourage family and friends abroad to complete the Diaspora Questionnaire at: https://diasporaregistration.gov.tc/

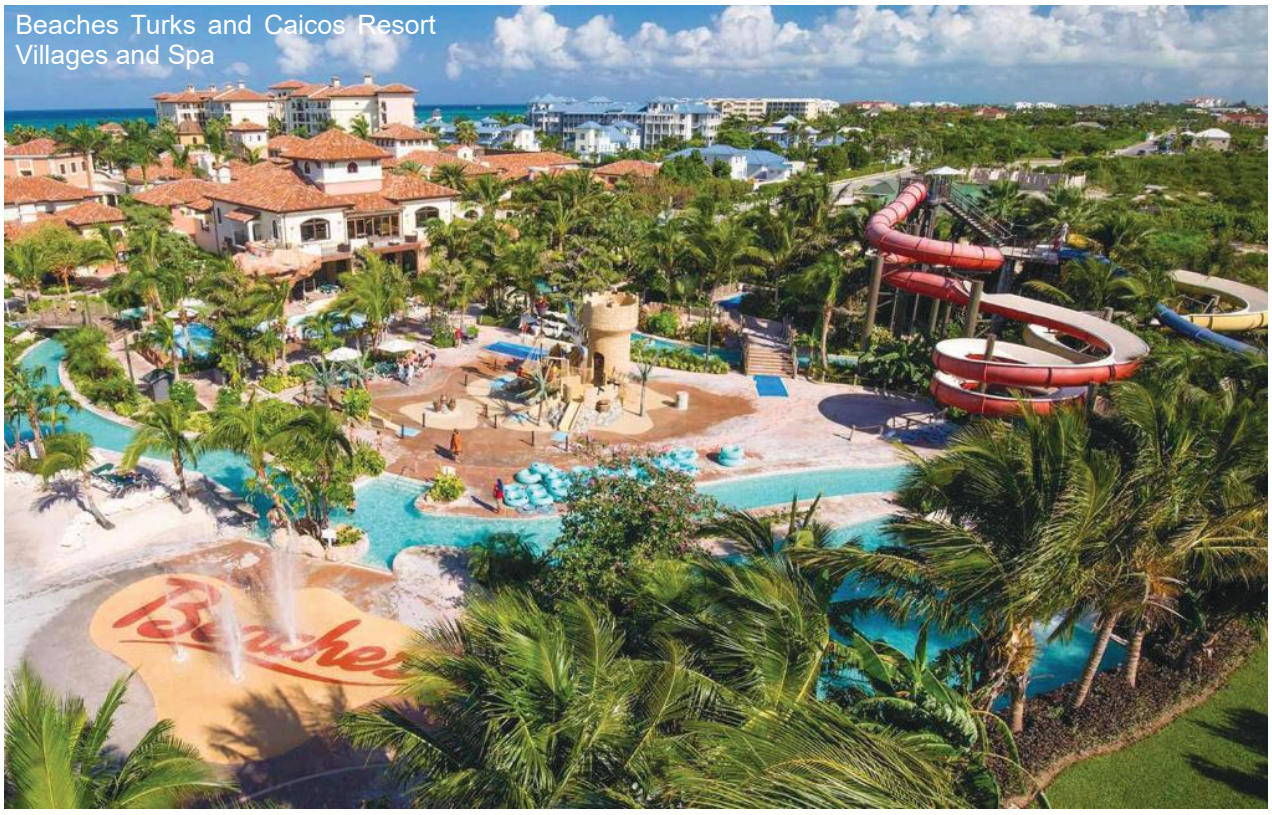
Links can be found on all TCIG social media platforms.

For all questions or queries regarding the Diaspora Questionnaire please email the Turks and Caicos Islands Diaspora tcidiaspora@gov.tc.

The questionnaire is the first initiative of a wider Diaspora Programme being rolled out this year.

Turks and Caicos Islands Nominated for Travvy Award


The Shore Club Resort


Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort Villages and Spa


Ambrgris Cay

Experience Turks and Caicos has announced that the Turks and Caicos Islands has been nominated for a Travvy Award in the Best Caribbean Destination category.

Three of the county's hotels have also been nominated in the following categories:

- Beaches - Best All-Inclusive Family Resort
- Ambergris Cay- Best All-Inclusive Luxury Resort
- Shore Club- Best Luxury Hotel/Resort

The Travvy Awards, produced by TravelPulse and AGENTatHOME, recognises the top industry suppliers: destinations, hotels, cruise lines, airlines, tour operators, and more, as decided by those who know them best.

Speaking on the new nomination for the destination, Minister of Tourism, the Hon. Josephine Connolly said as evidenced by the increase in visitors in 2024, the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to be a glittering star in the Caribbean.

"I am very proud of the performance of our tourism industry this year. For the first six months of 2024 we attracted almost one million air arrivals and cruise passengers.

The increase in visitors has placed and continues to place the Turks and Caicos Islands on many top destinations lists and we take these nominations seriously as they are determined by those who have visited and could testify to the beauty or our multi-island destination," the Minister said.

The Travvy Awards celebrates its 10th anniversary in 2024. Voting for the Travvy Awards runs till September 6th, 2024. To vote for the Turks and Caicos Islands, visit https://www.travvyawards.com/vote.

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Please Contact
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17-year-old charged with two Grand Turk Murders



Detectives from the Criminal Investigations Department and the Serious Crime Unit have charged a 17-year-old male following the August 04th murders of Necal Pierre and Stavardo Talbot.

Given that the accused is a minor, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force cannot name nor release his photograph.

The accused, who resides in Grand Turk, was charged yesterday (August 20th) for the murder of 47-year-old Pierre. Additionally, the suspect was charged today with the shooting death of Talbot.

Ms Pierre, a resident of Palm Grove, Grand Turk, was found deceased in her home on Sunday, August 4th, 2024, while Mr Talbot, a resident of South Back Salina, succumbed to gunshot injuries on August 4th, 2024, near the Parade Ground in Back Salina.

The accused will appear in court at the next available date.

Head of Crime, Safeguarding, Public Protection and Intelligence Superintendent (ag.) Kenville Charles stated, "Seventeen days of dedicated investigative work by officers working over twelve hours per day resulted in the suspect's arrest. I wish to acknowledge the Serious Crimes Unit investigators and the team in Grand Turk who vigorously worked on these investigations to achieve this result."

The RT&CIPF is asking anyone with information that may help in these investigations to contact the closest police station, 911, the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842, or Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477 to provide any information anonymously.

Additionally, individuals are encouraged to download the Crime Stoppers P3 app to share information.

Opposition Leader Bats for Special Needs Students



Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood

Leader of the Opposition Hon. Edwin Astwood has pointed out that the resources dished towards special needs students is woefully inadequate.

Astwood made the conclusion after he and members of his Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM) met with parents of that democratic recently.

"As the Leader of the Peoples' Democratic Movement, I want to address a pressing issue that impacts our most vulnerable citizens—our special needs children, particularly those facing the critical transition to high school," Astwood said. "Recently, Hon. George Lightbourn, Apostle Ruth Ariza, and I had the opportunity to meet with dedicated parents who courageously shared their experiences and concerns regarding the inadequacies in our education system for their gifted and special needs children."

According to Astwood, it is acrimoniously clear that the country's education system is not equipped with the resources and expertise to accommodate the total needs of special and gifted children, especially at the high school level.

"As these children approach the crucial transition to high school, it has become painfully clear that our educational system is not adequately equipped to support them and their families. This is a matter that transcends politics; it is about our moral responsibility to ensure that every child has the opportunity to thrive," Astwood continued.

He further noted: "The government knows that our high schools are not equipped to provide the necessary support, care, and accommodations for our special needs students, particularly during this pivotal transition period. Therefore, certain actions need to be taken now, as parents have strongly expressed their fears about the lack of tailored resources and trained staff, which are essential for fostering an inclusive and nurturing environment for their transitioning children."

Against that background, Astwood called upon the Washington Misick Administration to cough up the necessary resources in order to satisfy the educational needs of special needs and gifted children.

"I urge the government to take immediate action on these concerns. We must ensure that our high schools are prepared to meet the diverse needs of all students, particularly as they transition from elementary education. This includes implementing comprehensive training programs for educators, increasing accessibility to specialized services, and prioritizing individualized learning plans.

"For those expected to transition in the next two to three weeks, I call upon the current government to take immediate action to address this situation. We, the PDM, propose a comprehensive plan, which we will urgently share with the current government."

This plan, he said, should include:

1. Establishing special scholarships for our current transitioning special needs children to attend specialized schools in the United States, ensuring they receive the education and support they deserve.
2. Creating partnerships with U.S. institutions to facilitate access to specialized programs, potentially through remote learning options that can benefit our students right here at home.
3. Allocating resources for assistive technologies and teacher training, enabling our local schools to accommodate special needs students effectively.

Furthermore, Astwood pointed out that establishing special scholarships can be put on the agenda for the next Cabinet Meeting, with funds identified and allocated.

"A Supplementary Expenditure Bill should be immediately brought to the House of Assembly. I will fully support this Supplementary Bill going through all three readings in that sitting so that the Premier and his government can expeditiously offer the emergency help our special needs students and their parents require.

"As your future government, I commit to championing these reforms. We will continue to work collaboratively with parents, educators, and specialists to create a robust support system that empowers every child to succeed, regardless of their abilities. We will ensure that no child is left behind due to a lack of resources or support.

"I urge the current Premier and his government to act now, and I promise that under my leadership, we will turn these commitments into reality. Together, we can build a more inclusive education system that honors the potential of all our children. The time for action is now," Astwood said.

Archie

HENRY SCARPELLI
CRAIG BOLDMAN

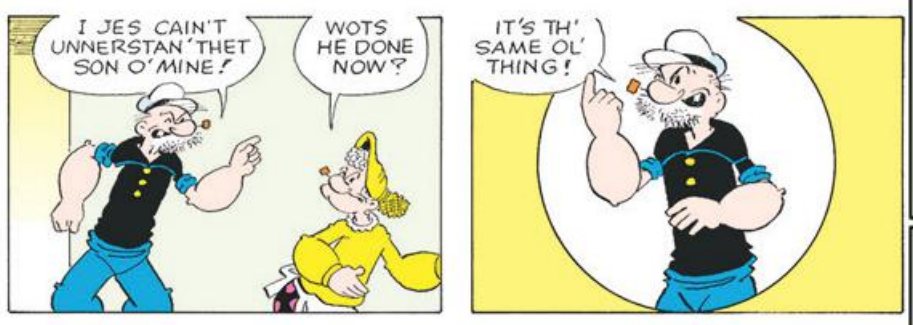






Popeye

HEY EGSMAN



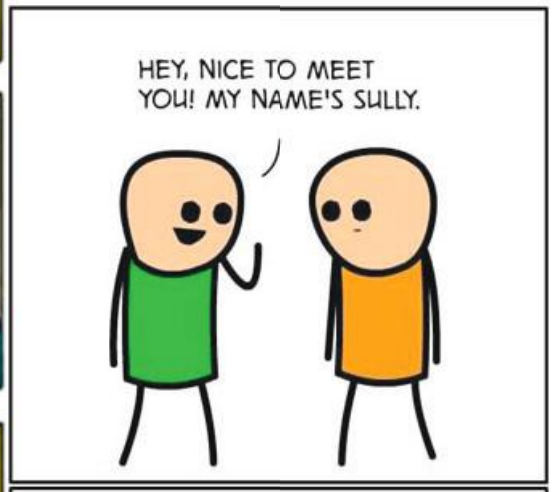


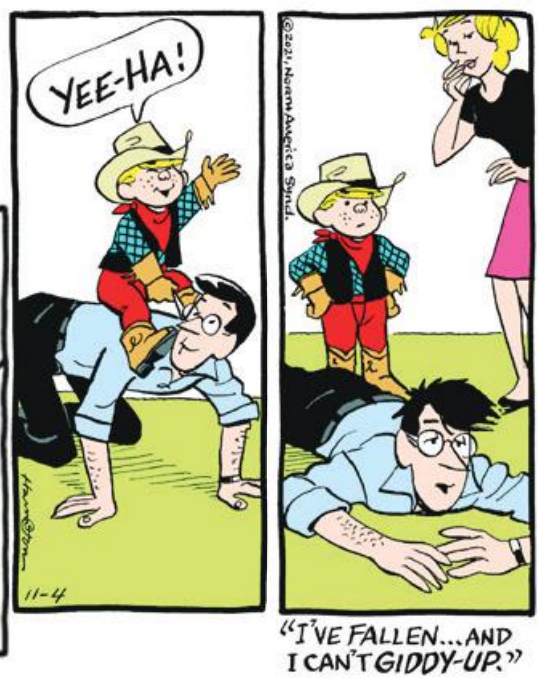


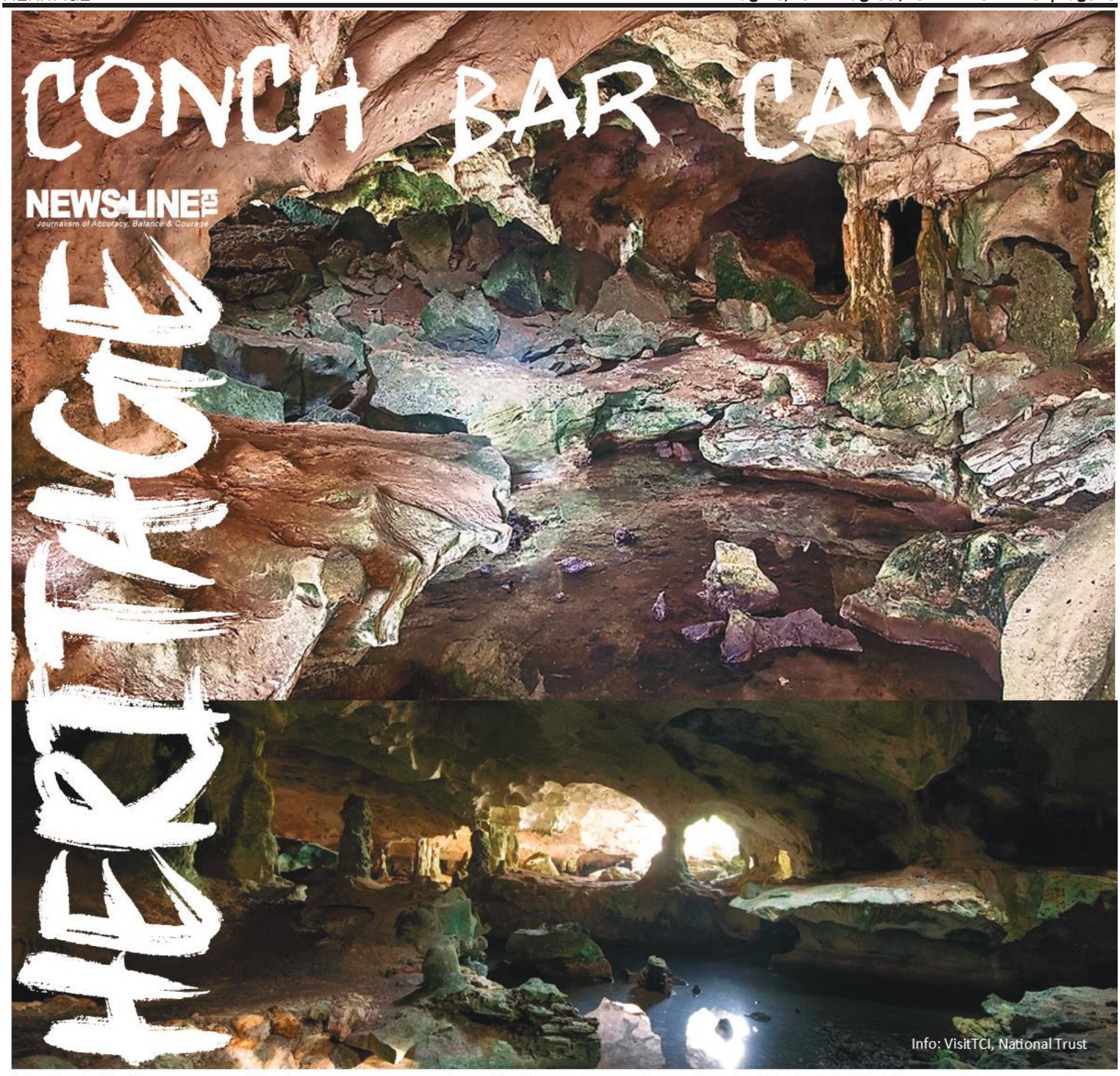
Hagar



Newsline Comics







The Conch Bar Caves are one of the largest cave systems in the Caribbean, they are located on the island of Middle Caicos and house four different species of bats. The cave system is named after the village of Conch Bar nearby. Moreover the cave also boasts the skeletal remains of several extinct animals from birds to tortoise.

The cave system is considered mid-sized on a global scale, and is a live cave system. Conch Bar Caves has many of the common cave features found in caves in other regions, including stalactites, stalagmites and columns, along with pools that fluctuate with the ocean tide.

The cave's recorded history started when guano (bat manure) mining began in the 1880s. Guano was in great demand at the time as a fertilizer, and the guano from Conch Bar Caves was exported from the Turks and Caicos. During these initial diggings, skeletal remains of animals and Lucayan Indian artifacts were found, but unfortunately, these findings weren't preserved. Recent archeological excavations at the nearby Indian Cave site uncovered skeletons of extinct animals, including a giant iguana, a tortoise unique to the Turks and Caicos, and owls, hawks and other birds, so the discoveries in Conch Bar Cave were probably much of the same. Carved and painted names and dates from the guano mining period can still be seen in the cave today.

The system spans more than 1.5miles of underground caverns.

Dante Taylor's Mother, Jestina Delancy, Expresses Gratitude for Public Support



Dante can be seen in his hospital in high spirits as he continues to fight is medical challenges

Jestina Delancy, the mother of Dante Taylor, has expressed deep gratitude for the overwhelming support her family has received during Dante's ongoing hospitalization in the UK.

In a heartfelt message, she thanked the public for their well-wishes, prayers, and generous donations made through the GoFundMe campaign that has been set up to help with Dante's medical expenses.

"We truly appreciate and are uplifted by the support and prayers for Dante," said Delancy. "The donations through GoFundMe have been an incredible help, and we are extremely grateful to all who have contributed."

Dante Taylor, who remains in the ICU, is making steady progress. Though still being monitored closely, he is awake, alert, and able to communicate. His doctors are pleased with his improvement. Currently, Dante has a tracheostomy and is on a ventilator, but there are hopes that he will soon be able to breathe independently once the tracheostomy is removed.

With the help of physiotherapists, Dante has been able to sit and stand briefly, and the team is optimistic that he will take his first steps soon. His kidneys are being monitored, and he undergoes filtration treatment for several hours a day, with the hope that they will return to normal function. Although his liver is decompensated, it is stable under the circumstances.

Delancy acknowledged that the road to recovery is long but expressed her family's confidence in Dante's eventual recovery. She also called upon the public to continue their prayers and support as Dante's journey continues.

The family remains hopeful, and donations to assist with Dante's medical costs are still needed as they face ongoing expenses.

"Please continue to keep Dante in your thoughts and prayers," Delancy urged.

This is the link to the GoFundMe: https://gofund.me/7513c4c0, to support Dante's Journey.

Bankers Association Hosts Country-Wide Back-to-School Giveaway Event

The Bankers Association of the Turks and Caicos Islands successfully held a country-wide Back-to-School Giveaway event on Saturday, August 17th. The event took place simultaneously across Providenciales, Grand Turk, North Caicos and South Caicos, bringing together communities from all corners of the islands.

The giveaway featured the distribution of backpacks filled with essential school supplies, all sourced through a local small business. The backpacks, available in a wide range of colors and sizes, allowed eager students to select options that best reflected their unique personalities and styles. Roughly three thousand school children benefitted from this initiative.

In addition to the distribution of school supplies, the event also featured a lively atmosphere with food, drinks, games, music, and dancing. Volunteers from every bank in the Turks and Caicos were present on each island, ensuring a smooth and joyful experience for all attendees.

The consensus among the volunteers was that it was truly heartwarming to witness the excitement and sheer glee on the children's faces as they explored their backpacks, treating them as treasured possessions.

The event organizing committee was Co-Chaired by Mr. Kenrick Walters, General Manager of Bordier Bank and Mrs. Kerryl-Lyn King-Henry, Country Manager and Area Vice President of RBC Royal Bank.

Mr. Walters shared his thoughts on the initiative: "While all of our member banks support the community in various ways, we were excited to collaborate as an association on helping to ensure that every child in our community has access to the school supplies that they need to succeed. It's about giving back to the community and supporting the next generation."

Ms. King-Henry encouraged the young people of Turks and Caicos to take advantage of all available opportunities: "Our member banks offer excellent youth training and leadership programs, and we are keen on supporting projects that enhance financial literacy and promote career opportunities. This Back-to-School Giveaway is just one example of how we can make a positive impact."

President of the Bankers Association, Mr. Marcus Samuel, who also serves as the Managing Director of British Caribbean Bank, stated "We are happy to have invested and will continue to invest in our youth as this planted seed will become tomorrow's tree which will feed us in our latter years."

He further emphasized the importance of community outreach: "Among the many functions of our association, one of the most important is community outreach.

Our commitment to community outreach is multifaceted with one of our primary focuses being promoting financial literacy across all stages of life – from basic financial literacy to understanding the complexities of lending and debt management. Additionally, we aim to showcase the numerous opportunities awaiting residents in the banking sector."

The Bankers Association extends its heartfelt thanks to all staff members who participated and community partners whose invaluable support made this nationwide event a resounding success.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

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

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

CHURCH OF CHRIST, BLUE HILLS



LIFE LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

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

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Beaches Turks and Caicos Hosts Prize-Giving Ceremony for More Than 100 Interns

Beaches Turks and Caicos hosted more than 100 interns this summer, and on Wednesday, August 14, a graduation and prize-giving ceremony was held at the property in their honour. Guest speaker for the event was Zaria Ingham, the Communications Coordinator at the Office of the Premier. Also in attendance was Edgar Howell, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education.




CERTIFICATE


CERTIFICATE













| Style

Shoes Every Woman Should Own

Every woman needs a simple staple selection of shoes in her arsenal. These are 5 shoes that every woman needs to complete any outfit.



Pumps

These make any outfit instantly more elegant.

Statement Pair



These shoes are a bold texture, colour or pattern that you are not sure how to pair with your typical clothing. These are best worn with simpler outfits and so become the star of the wardrobe. A good quality pair of statement heels will come in handy for special occasions.

A Good Pair Of Sneakers



On days when you're running errands or just want to be comfortable, a good pair of sneakers is a must. Look for a pair that's versatile and can be worn with jeans, leggings, or even a dress.

White sneakers/ or black are a great option because they go with everything. They are the perfect casual shoe that can give an outfit a more laid back and effortless look. They're also versatile enough to be paired with several different outfits for everyday wear, like dressing down your suit at work or adding them alongside some chic date night dresses.

Flats

On days when you don't want to wear heels but still want to look put-together, a pair of flats is the way to go. Look for a pair made with comfortable materials like canvas or leather. These shoes can be worn with jeans, shorts, skirts, and dresses. If you want to add a bit of personality to your flats, look for a pair with an interesting print or design.



Sandals

Summer is the perfect time to break out a pair of cute sandals. Whether you're hitting the beach or just running errands, a good pair of sandals can keep your feet cool and comfortable. Whether you prefer slides, thong sandals, or something in between, there are endless style options to choose from. Look for a pair that's both stylish and practical.



Gender Affairs Hosts Camp Build A Boss







During the week of August 5th to 9th the Department of Gender Affairs within the Ministry of Home Affairs, Transportation and Telecommunications Commission hosted Camp Build A Boss.



The week-long empowerment camp for boys 11 to 18 was a residential adventure which explored the development of leadership capacities, enhanced decision-making capacity and gave a grounding in key concepts of personal and interpersonal development to the thirty-two (32) participants.

The opening ceremony featured powerful words of encouragement from Acting Permanent Secretary Ministry of Home Affairs Mr. Frederico Johnson, the Director of Gender Affairs Mrs. Carolyn Dickenson and the District Commissioner for Salt Cay Ms. Aisha Thomas.

The camp was declared open by Minister of Home Affairs, Transportation and Telecommunications Commission the Honourable Otis C, Morris. During his declaration statement, Minister Morris spoke to the importance of the camp and its role in shaping the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands through the young men present.

The address counseled the boys to reject the scourge of violence plaguing the beautiful by nature islands that they stand to inherit. The boys were also called upon to ensure they made the best of the opportunities the coming week would have afforded.

During the five days of camp there was coverage of several developmental topics which included communication, decision making, the role of a leader, etiquette and good manners, peer pressure and conflict management and resolution. Skill building sessions were also a part of the camp and these were facilitated by partners such as the Dept. of Environmental and Coastal Resources, the Department of Agriculture, Fire and Rescue and the Dept. of Youth Affairs.

The participants closed the camp on Friday night with a concert which featured their singing, sharing poetry which they composed on the themes of the camp and sharing their own thoughts on what they had learnt and how it impacted them.

They were presented with certificates of participation, special prizes which they had won during sessions during the week and other rewards they had earned for their participation in Camp Activities.

At the concert, members of the community and some family members of the boys present showed their appreciation for the expressions of the campers. They also gave their commitment that the community of Salt Cay would always be a home for the hosting of Camp Build A Boss .

Premier failed on Leadership of National Affairs

An OpEd by Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood



My People of the Turks & Caicos Islands, it is with great concern and a sense of duty that I address you on the failures of the current leadership, particularly the Premier, in addressing the critical issues that are affecting our country.

Just recently, the Premier appeared on the Expressions Talk Show, attempting to discredit the valid concerns raised about the actions of the Informal Settlement Unit. Despite clear evidence from videos released by our people, he chose to dismiss this as mere political propaganda. This is not a matter of politics; these are real occurrences that demand attention and action. The Premier's refusal to acknowledge the truth is a betrayal of the trust placed in him by the people.

At a point in the show the Premier attempted to explain why it is easier for him and his government to target Turks & Caicos Islanders, and more difficult to target illegal persons illegally occupying and illegally erecting structures on privately owned land. The Premier's excuses for not targeting those who illegally build structures on private land are out of order and extremely unacceptable. It is the duty of the government to uphold the rule of law and protect the rights of property owners, not to make excuses for lawlessness. His failure to address this issue speaks volumes about his lack of commitment to justice and accountability, and it shows his disregard for the well-being of our society.

Furthermore, his comments on hotel developments having to submit housing plans for their laborers are misguided and out of touch. Instead of championing opportunities for our own Turks & Caicos Islands people to provide rental units for these developments, he promotes a system that preserves dependency and stifles entrepreneurship, where the developers get the additional benefit of collecting rent from their employees. This shows again where he is directing business away from Turks & Caicos Islanders. The Premier's inability to grasp the potential for economic empowerment within our communities is a clear indication of his outdated and ineffective leadership.

All who watched the show saw the Premier's avoidance of the difficult topics of recent murders and illegal boat landings. This was a grave disservice to our nation. These are not issues that can be swept under the rug; they are urgent crises that demand immediate attention and decisive action. His reluctance to address these challenges showcases a lack of courage and a failure to prioritize the safety and security of our citizens.

Moreover, his emphasis on increasing social welfare programs instead of creating opportunities for entrepreneurship and good-paying jobs perpetuates a cycle of dependency and stifles individual growth and ambition. While social welfare is important for those in need, such as the elderly, true empowerment comes from providing pathways to economic independence and self-sufficiency, not from keeping our people reliant on the state for survival. The Premier's desire to maintain power by keeping people dependent on him, and not to take control of their own lives and livelihoods is a travesty that must not be overlooked.

In his closing remarks on the talk show, the Premier and show host likened the challenges facing our nation to barking dogs that you should not waste time throwing stones at, yet he fails to recognize the "loud barking" true threats of crime and illegal boat landings that loom large over our society. By diverting attention to minor issues such as illegal structures, he demonstrates a profound lack of leadership and an inability to prioritize the safety and well-being of our people.

The Premier and his government's performance on these critical issues and their failing leadership over the affairs of our nation are unacceptable. It is time for a new vision, a new direction that places the power back into the hands of the people, where success and prosperity are within reach for all.

As leader of the PDM, I pledge to you, my people of our Turks & Caicos Islands, that I will not waver in my commitment to championing your rights, empowering you to succeed, and leading our country towards a brighter future. Together, we must hold our leaders accountable, demand transparency, and strive for a society where every individual has the opportunity to thrive and prosper.

The time for change is now. The Premier's failures have been laid bare for all to see, and it is incumbent upon all of us to forge a new path forward, guided by integrity, courage, and a relentless dedication to the betterment of our nation.

Let us unite in our quest for a better future, where every one of our people has the opportunity to shape their destiny and where true leadership is defined by service to the people.

Thank you,

The Lights Will Not Go Out In The Nation's Capital!

An OpEd by Former Speaker of the House of Assembly Dwayne Taylor



"When the last person leaves Grand Turk, turn out the lights", is what was echoed some years ago by a few anointed PNP prophets. Offensive as the statement was made back then there were some persons who were hell-bent on making this a reality, intentionally or out of greed, stands true today.

In case some of us have forgotten, Grand Turk still is and will always be the capital of the entire Turks and Caicos Islands. I have watched in disbelief over the years where the people of Grand Turk were neglected and placed on the back burner. Quite recently the double murders in GT was a crescendo of a underlying deliberate and benign neglect, misplaced accountability and a gross lack of care for the people and the Nation's capital.

Over the past few years what has been extremely appalling is how we have abandoned the security and protection of our beloved people in the Capital of Grand Turk. It is quite obvious from the Governor to the Government their actions and policies have cemented this imposition.

Security of the Residents

The escalated number of crimes is of and has been a paramount concern of the people over the years. We have watched the stripping of the Police officers from Grand Turk to police a population between 8k-10k, not to mention the Cruise Port industry that brings in millions of tourists each year where they've implemented modern day apartheid, but that's another topic coming! The inefficiencies and inadequacies displayed by the Police is as a result of scarcity of manpower and the full complement of professionals in their respective roles. i.e; Scenes of Crime, Fingerprint, Tactical Task force, Drug Squad, CID, Beat & Patrol and Traffic officers. The Police officers are overworked, underpaid and their morale is at an ALL time low. Every time there is some major crime in GT they have to await these officers to get in a plane and the crime scene is left for contamination or a reactive approach to resolving. Weak policy and budgeting at the feet of the elected government.

Carnival has a fund amounting to about 9m-11m and this government refuse to build some major attraction for the island and bring some other development that will realize the true potential of GT. This same Premier and the PNP are hell-bent on keeping their feet on the necks of the people of the Grand Turk. Let me make this clear to the Hon. Premier and his PNP government, inspite of your lackluster efforts and deliberate disregard for the Nation's capital, the lights will 'NOT' go out in Grand Turk and we will be bringing economic growth and development that will benefit all and not a few of the people in Grand Turk and the entire Turks and Caicos Islands, not just a few friends and family members.

Beaches Turks and Caicos Celebrates Graduation of Over 100 Summer Interns



Valedictorians of Beaches Turks and Caicos Summer Internship 2024 stand proudly with their certificates. (From l-r Phildreka Mayham, Learning and Development Manager, Twefena Gilzene and Ericka Gaspard)

Beaches Turks and Caicos (BTC) recently honored the achievements of over 100 summer interns who completed their program with distinction. The interns, who embarked on their journey with BTC on July 8, concluded their internships on August 16, culminating in a vibrant graduation ceremony.

The ceremony, held to recognize the interns' contributions and achievements, featured notable guests including Edgar Howell, Acting Permanent Secretary of the Department of Education, who extended greetings on behalf of the Minister of Education, Hon. Rachel Taylor. The event also welcomed Guest Speaker Zaria Ingham, Communications Coordinator in the Office of the Premier, along with Hotel Manager Ghislain Boutoulle and other BTC managers and staff.

The performance of this year's interns was so remarkable that BTC selected two valedictorians for the first time. Twefena Gilzene from the Learning and Development Department and aspiring chef Ericka Gaspard, who honed her culinary skills during her internship, each delivered heartfelt and inspiring speeches.

Among the many standout interns, several have been offered opportunities to further develop their skills and gain additional work experience during the upcoming holiday season.

The internship program at BTC continues to be a valuable platform for nurturing young talent and providing real-world experience to aspiring professionals.

TCI Government Launches Clean-Up Campaign Ahead of Hurricane Season Peak



Deputy Premier and Minister responsible for Disaster Management Hon. Jamell Robinson

As the Turks and Caicos Islands approach the peak of the hurricane season, the government, spearheaded by Deputy Premier and Minister for Disaster Management Hon. Jamell Robinson, has initiated a comprehensive clean-up campaign.

This effort aims to prepare communities for potential storms and minimize the impacts of hurricanes.

"The hurricane season has been notably active, with high-intensity storms already making their mark," Robinson said. "To mitigate future risks, the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies, in collaboration with the Environmental Health Department, is organizing a national clean-up drive."

Residents are urged to participate by removing large debris from their properties, such as pieces of wood and old furniture, which can become dangerous projectiles during storms. To facilitate this the clean-up campaign, according to Robinson, residents should place items for disposal in garbage bins or at their gates for scheduled collection.

The clean-up exercises have already held on Providenciales and Grand Turk, with initial clean-up on August 17, and others scheduled August 24 and 31. South Caicos, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, and Salt Cay will have their clean-up exercise on August 24 and 31.

It is instructed that smaller items be placed in regular garbage bins for standard collection.

Hon. Jamell Robinson emphasized the importance of this initiative, stating, "Our clean surroundings are crucial for our safety and wellbeing. By taking part in this clean-up, we not only protect our properties but also uphold the beauty of our islands."

Residents are encouraged to seize this opportunity to help maintain the natural beauty and safety of the Turks and Caicos Islands. For more details on the clean-up schedule and guidelines, please contact the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies.

"Together, let's ensure our communities are prepared and resilient this hurricane season," concluded Hon. Robinson.

Sleep apnea – How to get the help you need



ACCORDING TO Dr Khia Josina Duncan, ears, nose and throat (ENT) surgeon and general practitioner, sleep apnea is a potentially serious sleep disorder in which breathing repeatedly stops and starts. If you snore loudly and feel tired even after a full night's sleep, you might have sleep apnea.

The main types of sleep apnea include obstructive sleep apnea (OSA), which is the more common form that occurs when throat muscles relax and block the flow of air into the lungs. Obstructive sleep apnea also referred to as obstructive sleep apneahypopnea, is a sleep disorder that involves cessation or significant decrease in airflow in the presence of breathing effort.

"It is the most common type of sleep-disordered breathing and is characterised by recurrent episodes of upper airway collapse during sleep. These episodes are associated with recurrent oxyhaemoglobin desaturations and arousals from sleep. OSA that is associated with excessive daytime sleepiness is commonly called obstructive sleep apnea syndrome, also referred to as obstructive sleep apnea-hypopnea syndrome," Dr Duncan said.

Central sleep apnea occurs when the brain does not send proper signals to the muscles that control breathing. "The repeated awakenings associated with sleep apnea make typical, restorative sleep impossible, in turn making severe daytime drowsiness, fatigue, and irritability likely. You might have trouble concentrating and find yourself falling asleep at work, while watching television, or even when driving," Dr Duncan said.

The symptoms of sleep apnea include excessive daytime sleepiness; loud snoring; observed episodes of stopped breathing during sleep; waking during the night and gasping or choking; awakening in the morning with a dry mouth or sore throat; morning headaches; trouble focusing during the day; mood changes, such as depression or being easily upset; frequent urination, especially at night-time; and in children, hyperactivity and poor concentration.

According to Dr Duncan, sleep apnea is diagnosed by including the family history of the patient, physical examination, and diagnostic tests. An examination includes an endoscopy, which may also include drug-induced sleep endoscopy, if indicated.

"Tests to detect obstructive sleep apnea include polysomnography. During this sleep study, you are hooked up to equipment that monitors your heart, lung, and brain activity and breathing patterns while you sleep. The equipment also measures arm and leg movements and blood oxygen levels," Dr Duncan said.

This can be done in the hospital. There are also other home sleep study tests, which include overnight oximetry to determine decreases in oxygen level, a relatively good indicator of sleep apnea. The results of these tests will determine your apnea/hypopnea index and the severity of sleep apnea, which will guide treatment.

There are various treatment options, depending on what is found on physical examination and diagnostic tests. Treatment is as simple as losing weight. The examination of the patient is very important, especially by an ENT specialist. The patient may benefit from an oral appliance if sleep apnea is mild. There are also various surgical procedures.

"Surgery is done by an ENT surgeon who specialises in sleep surgery, and the aim is to increase the diameter and airway and to relieve obstruction. Surgery includes pulling the tongue or jaw forward. Removing tonsils along with surrounding tissue. The newer type of surgery which I am trained to do is the Inspire technique, where a nerve stimulator is used to essentially move the tongue forward at periods of obstruction during the night," Dr Duncan said.

A CPAP machine, she said, delivers just enough air pressure to a mask to keep the upper airway passages open, preventing snoring and sleep apnea. This is an extremely effective way of treating sleep apnea without surgery. There are also various modifications, and the newer machines are more comfortable.

"The time it takes to recover or feel better after treatment for sleep apnea depends on the treatments themselves. For example, if surgery is done, the period of recovery may be longer due to wound healing and swelling post-surgery. Some people will feel better almost immediately, while others may need three to six months of consistent nightly treatment to see the full benefits .Several patients have benefited almost immediately, but that will not happen in every case," Dr Duncan said.

If left untreated, sleep apnea can have devastating effects on almost every single organ system, including the risk of stroke, cardiovascular diseases such as hypertension and heart attacks. Having sleep apnea also increases your risk of developing insulin resistance and type two diabetes.

"People with sleep apnea are more likely to have irregular results on liver function tests, and their livers are more likely to show signs of scarring, known as non-alcoholic fatty liver disease. Loud snoring can keep anyone who sleeps nearby from getting good rest. It is common for a partner to have to go to another room, or even to another floor of the house, to be able to sleep," Dr Duncan said.

Dr Duncan's advice for people diagnosed with sleep apnea is to take the condition seriously, as too many people have had sudden death from untreated sleep apnea.

"Please get an evaluation and get treatment as soon as possible. The treatment will help you to feel refreshed in the days and allows you to enjoy life with your family. The assessment is pretty simple," she said.

Dr Duncan has also partnered with the Courts (Unicomer) Jamaica BEDucation campaign, that is designed to promote the benefits of quality sleep and choosing the right mattress for optimal rest.

Heartlyn Forbes

is seeking to employ a

Domestic Worker

this position is currently held by a work permit holder.

Responsibilities of this position include:

•To perform household chores, Daily cooking, cleaning, washing, folding clothes and ironing.

SALARY: $8.00 per hour

Please submit an application no later than Friday, September 06, 2024 to:kornell@misickstanbrook.tc

Matthew Perry's assistant among 5 people charged in 'Friends' star's death



Matthew Perry appears at the premiere of 'Ride' in Los Angeles on April 28, 2015.

A prosecutor says five people have been charged in connection with Matthew Perry's death from a ketamine overdose last year, including the actor's assistant and two doctors.

US Attorney Martin Estrada announced the charges Thursday, saying the doctors supplied Perry with a large amount of ketamine and even wondered in a text message how much the former "Friends" star would be willing to pay.

"These defendants took advantage of Mr Perry's addiction issues to enrich themselves. They knew what they were doing was wrong," Estrada said.

Perry died in October due to a ketamine overdose and received several injections of the drug on the day he died from his live-in personal assistant. The assistant, Kenneth Iwamasa, is the one who found Perry dead later that day.

Two of the people, including one of the doctors charged, have been arrested, Estrada said. Two of the defendants, including Iwamasa, have pleaded guilty to charges already, and a third person has agreed to plead guilty.

Iwamasa's attorneys did not immediately return a message seeking comment.

Among those arrested Thursday are Dr Salvador Plasencia, who is charged with seven counts of distribution of ketamine and also two charges related to allegations he falsified records after Perry's death.

The other person arrested Thursday is Jasveen Sangha, who prosecutors described as a drug dealer known as the "ketamine queen." Ketamine supplied by Sangha caused Perry's death, authorities said.

Messages to her attorneys were not immediately returned. Attempts to leave messages at Plasencia's medical office were unsuccessful because its voicemail was full and an email was not immediately returned.

Sangha and Plasencia could make their first court appearances later Thursday.

Records show Plascencia's medical licence has been in good standing with no records of complaints, though it is set to expire in October.

The prosecutor said the defendants exchanged messages soon after Perry's death referencing ketamine as the cause of death. Estrada said they tried to cover up their involvement in supplying Perry ketamine, a powerful anaesthetic that is sometimes used to treat chronic pain and depression.

Los Angeles police said in May that they were working with the US Drug Enforcement Administration and the US Postal Inspection Service with a probe into why the 54-year-old had so much of the surgical anaesthetic in his system.

Iwamasa found the actor face down in his hot tub on October 28, and paramedics who were called immediately declared him dead.

His autopsy, released in December, found that the amount of ketamine in his blood was in the range used for general anaesthesia during surgery.

The decades-old drug has seen a huge surge in use in recent years as a treatment for depression, anxiety and pain. People close to Perry told coroner's investigators that he was undergoing ketamine infusion therapy.

But the medical examiner said Perry's last treatment 1 1/2 weeks earlier wouldn't explain the levels of ketamine in his blood. The drug is typically metabolised in a matter of hours. At least two doctors were treating Perry, a psychiatrist and an anaesthesiologist who served as his primary care physician, the medical examiner's report said. No illicit drugs or paraphernalia were found at his house.

Ketamine was listed as the primary cause of death, which was ruled an accident with no foul play suspected, the report said. Drowning and other medical issues were contributing factors, the coroner said.

Perry had years of struggles with addiction dating back to his time on Friends, when he became one of the biggest television stars of his generation as Chandler Bing alongside Jennifer Aniston, Courteney Cox, Lisa Kudrow, Matt LeBlanc and David Schwimmer for 10 seasons from 1994 to 2004 on NBC's mega hit sitcom.

Eugene and Dan Levy to co-host the Emmys



Eugene Levy (left) and his son, Dan, will be the first-ever father-son hosts at the Emmys and the first duo to co-host since 2018.

Eugene Levy (left) and his son, Dan, will be the first-ever father-son hosts at the Emmys and the first duo to co-host since 2018.

Eugene Levy and Dan Levy will make history at the Emmy Awards next month as the first-ever father and son co-hosts.

"We are thrilled to welcome two generations of comedy genius to the Emmy's stage as hosts," said Television Academy Chair Cris Abrego in a statement Friday.

The Levys cleaned up at the 2020 Emmys – the year the winners appeared remotely due to the pandemic – thanks to their hit series, Schitt's Creek. Eugene Levy won for outstanding comedy actor and Dan Levy won for best supporting comedy actor. Dan Levy also picked up wins for writing and directing, while both won the outstanding comedy series trophy as executive producers.

"For two Canadians who won our Emmys in a literal quarantine tent, the idea of being asked to host this year in an actual theatre was incentive enough," the Levys said in a statement. "We're thrilled to be able to raise a glass to this extraordinary season of television."

The Levys will also be the first duo to do it since 2018 with Saturday Night Live stars Colin Jost and Michael Che.

The 76th Emmys air live in Los Angeles on September 15 on ABC, and streams the next day on Hulu.

Eugene Levy isn't just a co-host this year, he also nominated for his Apple TV+ series The Reluctant Traveler With Eugene Levy, the unlikely wedding of a droll and cautious host with some of the most beautiful places on Earth.

Belize Rapper-turned-politician Shyne shares heartfelt advice to Kartel: 'Be patient, move with humility and purpose'



Belize's Opposition Leader Moses "Shyne" Barrow (left) with dancehall star Vybz Kartel during a trip to Jamaica recently. (Photo: Instagram/ Shyne)

Former Bad Boy Records rapper-turned-politician Moses "Shyne" Barrow has some words of wisdom for dancehall star Vybz Kartel, who he visited during a recent diplomatic trip to Jamaica where he met with political leaders and business magnates.

Shyne, who is the Leader of the Opposition in the Belize House of Representatives, and the leader of the Belize United Democratic Party, shared a touching post, toasting the freedom of the 'Teacha'

"To now see my musical brother free in the flesh after 13 years of bondage moved me to the core. We should all be inspired by the resilience of Vybz who never gave up on his freedom, never gave up on making great music beyond most of his counterparts," he wrote.

READ: Kartel freed!

Shyne said that the "last time I saw Adi was 8 years ago September 2016 at the Horizon Correctional Facility in Kingston Jamaica". He recalled the dire, depressing nature of Kartel's incarceration.

"I visited him with my brother Michael Peyrefitte. It was a distressing experience to see a global musical icon in captivity. Having been wrongfully held in captivity myself I felt the pain of his suffering deeper than most," Shyne said.

Shyne, known for his US recording career with Sean 'Diddy' Combs, was incarcerated after a club was shot up on the evening of December 27, 1999.

He had gone to a nightclub with his mentor/ label boss Combs, and Combs' then-girlfriend singer/actress Jennifer Lopez. An argument broke out in the club between Combs and another man, guns were drawn, shots fired, and three bystanders were injured. In June 2001, he was convicted of assault, and sentenced to 10 years in prison. His 2000 debut album was nevertheless a success, and he continued to record music while incarcerated – a similarity he shared with Vybz Kartel.

Shyne, who has had an impressive second act after he was released from prison in 2009 and deported to Belize, offered heartfelt advice to Kartel, who was released from prison on July 31, 2024 after his murder conviction was quashed due to jury-tampering.

"All of us, especially the youth should know the resilience of Adidja Palmer is within all of us. We should also learn that life will humble you, life will sit you still to teach you but once you draw near to the Creator and never give up life will vindicate you with the rewards you sacrificed for," he intoned seriously in his lengthy post.

Shyne converted to Judaism – practicing Orthodox Judaism – while incarcerated and officially changed his name to Moses Michael Levi Barrow in 2006.

"Take your time brother Adi, be patient with yourself, move with humility, strategy and purpose. You have been resuscitated, given life anew, may you enjoy in good health, happiness and the greatest dancehall music you will ever make," Shyne concluded.

Social media users reacted with fire and heart emojis.

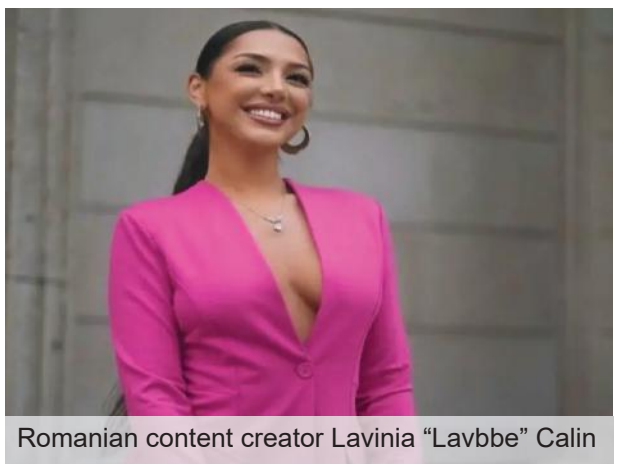
Shyne's visit to Jamaica included meetings with the Prime Minister Andrew Holness, Opposition Leader Mark Golding, and former Miss World-turned-Member of Parliament Lisa Hanna and billionaire investor Michael Lee Chin.

Shyne is best known for his 2000 singles Bad Boyz and Bonnie & Shyne, both songs featuring Barrington Levy.

Shaggy, Lavbbe make a Move



Grammy-Award winning artiste Shaggy



Romanian content creator Lavinia "Lavbbe" Calin

Grammy-Award winning Jamaican artiste Shaggy as well as Romanian content creator Lavinia "Lavbbe" Calin have seen massive success for their collaboration titled Move.

The track has an accompanying music video that has gained over 1.3 million views on popular streaming platform

YouTube since its June release.

"The reception has been good enuh. We actually went #1 on On The Radar, which is a massive platform, and we've actually surpassed Drake, which was at #1 on there. We went on tour a couple weeks back; she came [and] did all the promo. We did New York, we did Baltimore, we did West Virginia, and recently I was in California and a couple of the fans were coming up and asking if she was going to be there," Shaggy told the Jamaica Observer.

Move was produced by Costi, while the music video was directed by Jay Will.

Shaggy also said that the world can expect to hear more collabs with the trendy, fast-rising star.

"We wrote like six songs with her. We have some other songs in the works. We ago help her out; we do music for a whole bunch of people. We always a mek music and come up with new vibes for multiple people. It doesn't matter where the artiste is, or who they are, whatever the vibe that we come up with and it sounds like a particular person, we draw for that person," he added.

Meanwhile, Lavbbe revealed that it was a dream come true to finally collaborate with a Jamaican artiste after listening to reggae and dancehall all her life.

"The UK is big on Jamaica, and the music itself. I grew up in the culture… and I grew up within that kind of vibe listening to the great artistes of Jamaica. There's so much that I can say I love about the Jamaican songs and the way they have influenced me," she told the Observer.

At 15 years old Lavbbe moved from Romania to the UK to continue her studies at Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Though she did her degree in aviation management, inspired by the experience of the world's great dancers, she also attended contemporary dance, acting, and singing classes for one year.

With millions of followers on social media already, Lavbbe says she anticipates further success in her budding music career.

"I've always seen myself as a big star ever since I was a child. I am going after my dream, and doing what I love to do, and then I will let God decide what to do with it," she said.

The Ministry of Health and Human Services hosts a Seniors' Retreat



The Minister for Health and Human Services Hon. Shaun Malcolm bringing remarks at the Decade of Healthy Ageing Launch.



Ministry of Health and Human Services team at the Seniors' Retreat and Decade of Healthy Ageing Launch.



A senior being pampered by a ministry professional



Fun and games with the seniors

The Department of Aged Care and Rehabilitation and the Health Promotion and Advocacy Unit, under the Ministry of Health and Human Services, organised a Seniors' Retreat from 28th July – 3rd August 2024, themed "Vitality Through the Ages," in observance of World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on 15 June 2024.

The week-long event began with a worship service at St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral in Grand Turk, followed by the launch of the Decade of Healthy Aging. The Seniors' Retreat and the introduction of ICOPE (Integrated Care of Older Person), an assessment tool to determine the needs of older individuals, were officially inaugurated by the Honourable Shaun D. Malcolm, Minister of Health and Human Services on 29th July 2024.

The Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Nadia Astwood, highlighted the significance of the programmes during the opening ceremony, while Dr. Eldonna Boisson, the PAHO/WHO representative for The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, emphasised the role of these initiatives in promoting healthy ageing and personalised care plans through the ICOPE Programme.

The remainder of the retreat featured morning and evening sessions aimed at bridging the intergenerational gap. The activities included the launching of "Move to Live," a fitness programme for seniors, a spa day, a beach day, nutrition presentations, aerobics, karaoke, dance sessions and candle making.

On 2nd August 2024, a stakeholders consultative meeting was led by Dr. Patricia Morsch, Ageing Advisor for the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO/WHO), to prepare for the development of a National Policy on healthy ageing for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The meeting focused on concepts for healthy ageing and strategic actions to deliver the Decade of Healthy Ageing in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) is a global initiative aimed at enhancing the well-being of older individuals and their families, in alignment with the final ten years of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The week culminated with a gala banquet at the Yellowman and Sons Auditorium, on 3rd August 2024, under the auspices of Mrs. Sylvia C. Melhado, the Patron of the Sylvia Melhado Aged Care and Special Needs Centre. The event also marked the official launch of the Decade of Healthy Ageing.

Guest Speaker Dr. Patricia Morsch delivered a presentation on "Vitality through the Ages," emphasising that healthy ageing enables individuals to maintain their independence and engage in activities they enjoy. She underscored that older persons desire mobility, continuous learning, growth, decision-making autonomy, fulfilment of basic needs, nurturing relationships, and participation in decision-making processes at various levels.

The Director for Aged Care and Rehabilitation, Betty-Ann Been, stated, "The Seniors' Retreat was an awesome experience from the preparation meetings with the seniors, to the debriefing. The seniors enjoyed and participated in the activities, especially the karaoke night and the consultative sessions, expressing their desires for the Healthy Ageing Policy for the Turks and Caicos Islands. The oldest participant was ninety-seven years of age. One senior stated it was a week to remember- growing old gracefully".

The Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Minister of Health and Human Services, stated, "As a country, the Turks and Caicos Islands is seeing the same demographic shift as the rest of the world and the region and as such, it is vital that we engage in initiatives and develop strategies, focused on enhancing the quality of life of older persons in our society" .

For additional information, please visit the Ministry of Health and Human Services Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/tciministryofhealth/.

Their hopes dashed, Venezuelan migrants abandon plans for return



BARCELONA, Spain — A woman holds a sign reading “No more dictatorship. Free Venezuela” as thousands of people demonstrate after a call for global protests against the results of the disputed election in Venezuela, on August 17, 2024 in Barcelona. Venezuelan Opposition Leader Maria Corina Machado, who claims Nicolas Maduro was defeated in the disputed July 28 election, called demonstrations for more than 300 cities in Venezuela and abroad

When Nicolas Maduro was declared president-elect for a third successive term, Colombian-based Venezuelan migrant Jose Ochoa started packing his bags for the long and dangerous trek to the United States.

Like others who have sought respite from Venezuela’s economic collapse in various countries around the world, Ochoa’s last hope for a change that would allow him to return home was dashed by Maduro’s disputed win at the polls.

Ochoa, 38, had been confident of an Opposition victory, as predicted by opinion polls, in the July 28 vote.

And he thought he would finally be able to return home four years after fleeing the economic crash overseen by Maduro.

An 80 per cent drop in GDP in a decade pushed more than seven million Venezuelans to seek a better life elsewhere — most of them, some three million, in neighbouring Colombia.

Now, with the prospect of another six years of Maduro — whose purported election victory has been rejected by the Opposition, the United States, European Union and several Latin American countries — many fear that things will never improve.

“I am hitting the road for the United States,” Ochoa told AFP in Madrid, a small municipality near Bogota where he rented a small room.

“It makes me angry because we all had hope that things are going to change,” he said of the “hard decision” to move on.

When AFP visited Ochoa just days after the election, he had already sold his bed and a bicycle he had used to get to work at a flower plantation.

He had packed a backpack with what he thought he would need for the estimated 15-day walk through the so-called Darien Gap between Colombia and Panama — a perilous journey through the jungle that claimed dozens of lives last year alone.

After the interview, AFP lost contact with Ochoa.

Venezuelan Opposition Leader Maria Corina Machado, who was barred from seeking election by institutions loyal to Maduro, had warned that if the strongman “grabs power”, another “three, four, five million” Venezuelans will likely join the exodus.

“What’s at stake here goes beyond our borders, beyond Venezuela,” she said on election day.

Ochoa told AFP that a defeat for Maduro — which the Opposition says is what in fact happened — would have prompted him to join his father back in Venezuela.

His mother and a sister died in his absence.

Instead, he was set to take on the Darien Gap, where migrants face treacherous terrain, wild animals and violent criminal gangs that extort, kidnap and abuse them.

Ronal Rodriguez of the Venezuela Observatory at Colombia’s Rosario University told AFP “we already have” a new migration wave from Venezuela.

In 2023, more than half a million migrants crossed the lawless corridor, most of them Venezuelans, according to Panamanian figures.

So far this year, the figure stands at 200,000.

In 2022, 62 people died on the trek, and a provisional count for 2023 stands at 34.

Keeping track is difficult as many deaths are never reported, and jungle animals sometimes devour the bodies of those who perish along the way.

In Brazil, fellow migrant Yajaira Deyanira Resplandor said she felt “defeated” when she heard the news of Maduro’s claimed victory.

“I was sad, hopeless for my country, for the people who have died and those who are imprisoned,” the 56-year-old told AFP in a shantytown of Rio de Janeiro.

She arrived in Brazil seven years ago with her two daughters, but yearns to go home “provided the president leaves”.

According to official figures, almost 600,000 Venezuelans entered and remained in Brazil from 2017 to June 2024.

For William Clavijo, president of the NGO Venezuela Global, which supports migrants in Brazil, the election outcome plunged many into “great sadness”.

“There is uncertainty about the possibility of returning… of having stable lives again, decent wages,” he said.

Yet Resplandor remains convinced that one day “God will remove” Maduro.

Further south, in the Uruguayan capital Montevideo, migrant Alba Olivero, 70, said she was anxious for a change that would allow her to return home.

“I want to get my life back in Venezuela,” she told AFP.

“As soon as the Maduro Government falls, I will return to help in the reconstruction of the country,” she added.

In Argentina, 29-year-old Mariangel Navas said she had been “almost sure” this would be the year she returned home after six years in Buenos Aires.

“But in this context, I’m not going back,” Navas said.

UTech raises tuition by 3%; president laments 'financial distress' due to subvention cut



The entrance to University of Technology, Jamaica in St Andrew


President of the University of Technology Jamaica Dr Kevin Brown speaking during a post-Cabinet media briefing at Montego Bay Convention Centre.

Lamenting that a $1 billion cut in Government subvention "has caused significant financial distress" to the tertiary institution, University of Technology Jamaica (UTech) President Dr Kevin Brown says he's liaising with the authorities to reassess the current amount granted towards supporting the operation of the university.

"There's a need for a bit more equity… the funding model for tertiary education needs to be completely reviewed," Dr Brown told Observer Online on Saturday.

With the university growing and currently hosting 12,000 students and employing 1,200 staff members, it is facing financial challenges due to what Dr Brown lamented as inadequate funding.

"The government's subvention needs to be adjusted, that's without a doubt," he said, noting that the yearly grant plays a crucial role in impacting the ability of the university to operate effectively at an affordable rate for students.

According to Dr Brown, "For the fiscal year 2024-2025, our subvention is about $2.3 billion, and that is a reduction relative to the last fiscal year, because we had a cut of $1 billion.

"An unexplained cut… that has caused significant financial distress" he said.

The president of the Old Hope Road, St Andrew-based institution said the reduction in funding forced the university to increase tuition fees to students. The initial proposal of a five per cent increase for the 2024/2025 academic year was met with pushback from the University of Technology Students' Union. Following further talks, a three per cent increase has been agreed.

"This increase is due to inflation… to ensure that we have the appropriate financing to keep the institution operational and to provide everything that the students would expect to have with respect to resources," Dr Brown said.

President of the Students' Union, Rick Darby expressed disappointment with the manner in which the tuition increase was initially executed.

"It was extremely concerning regarding the fact that the tuition was raised and there was no formal notice sent to the students," Darby said, adding that "it should be a consultative process in which the students' union is informed of what will happen … in whatever decisions that the university will take."

In the meantime, Dr Brown said "we are in continuous talks with the government, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Finance, and I believe that we will find a resolution as it relates to funding."

Doubling down on the need for equity, he noted that UTech receives three-times less in funding than the University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona campus.

"So, essentially, if the government gives us $3, they give you $9. So there's a significant gap. And the fact is, I mean, I'm sure UWI deserves every penny that they get," Dr Brown said.

"So, I have no problems with them receiving the amount that they get. What we're saying, though, is that there's a need for a bit more equity. And the national university, which is the University of Technology, now needs to be appropriately funded, right?" he continued. "So, it cannot be that if you attend UTech, the government funding that you receive is significantly below a student who chooses to attend UWI Mona."

However, the UTech president has urged students not to be deterred by the financial dilemma as the university is "constantly looking at how we can help our students".

These include a variety of scholarships for students who are pursing degrees in science, medicine, technology and engineering (STEM), as well as those who are interested in healthcare, Dr Brown said.

Students can expect formal communication on the matter and updates on their expected tuition on Monday morning, he noted.

CXC developing regional policy on AI


Dr Wayne Wesley, Registrar and CEO of CXC.

ROSEAU, Dominica, CMC – The Barbados-based Caribbean Examinations Council (CXC) on Monday said it has embraced artificial intelligence (AI) and is now creating the environment for academic integrity and safeguarding against "intellectual laziness".

CXC's Registrar and chief executive officer, Dr Wayne Wesley, said AI is something of interest to the region's premier examination body, adding "in fact we have embraced artificial intelligence.

"We believe…what we need to do is to create the environment with the requisite safeguards, academic integrity, safeguarding against what I call intellectual laziness. In other words you want persons to develop cognitively," he said in an interview on the state-owned DBS Radio.

'We want to also ensure that the information being created by AI is verifiable and accurate, so to prevent the hallucination that it tends to do," said Wesley, who is leading a CXC delegation in Dominica ahead of the release of CXC examination results on Tuesday.

"What we are currently doing for the region is creating a generative regional AI policy for the secondary education system. Some work has been done in Guyana at the tertiary level and some work has also been done at the University of the West Indies for how AI should be governed and we are now doing it for the regional secondary education system that will provide the kind of guidance and framework within which teaching, learning and assessment could be properly governed and utilised within the education system," he added.

CXC was established in 1972 under Agreement by the participating governments in CARICOM and provides regional and internationally recognised secondary school leaving examinations relevant to the needs of the region.

TCI SENIOR MEN GEAR UP FOR CONCACAF NATIONS LEAGUE



TCI midfielder Chistopher Lousy (#6) executes a tackle against a British Virgin Islands player in this file photo.

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Raheem Sterling's representatives seek 'clarity' on his future at Chelsea


Chelsea's Raheem Sterling

Raheem Sterling's representatives are seeking "clarity" about the forward's future at Chelsea after he didn't even make the bench for Sunday's Premier League opener against Manchester City.

The BBC has reported that his representatives noted in a statement that Sterling has a "good working relationship" with new Chelsea manager Enzo Maresca.

His representatives also said there was an "expectation" he would be involved in Sunday's match at Stamford Bridge.

However, Maresca has downplayed the statement sent out by Sterling's representatives.

"It was a technical decision, no more than that," Maresca said about Sterling being left out. "In the next day, we will clarify in case we need to," the Associated Press (AP) reported him as saying.

The AP noted that Chelsea bloated its already large squad even further by bringing in nine new players in the offseason, none of which started the season opener.

Maresca's first game in charge ended Sunday with a 2-0 loss to Manchester City.

Dolphins' Tyreek Hill officially challenges Olympic gold medalist Noah Lyles to 50-yard race



Noah Lyles



Tyreek Hill

Tyreek Hill is serious about racing Olympic gold medalist Noah Lyles in a 50-yard dash.

The Miami Dolphins receiver officially and publicly threw down the gauntlet on social media on Sunday.

"Sign the contract and lock in that 50-yard race," Hill wrote.

This back and forth between the athletes began when Hill — generally viewed as the fastest player in the NFL — said he could beat Lyles in a race. Lyles won the gold medal in the men's 100-meters at the Paris Olympics, thus seizing the unofficial title of fastest man in the world.

"I would beat Noah Lyles," Hill said on the "Up and Adams" show last week. "I wouldn't beat him by a lot, but I would beat Noah Lyles."

Hill also questioned whether Lyles was really sick when he won bronze in the men's 200-meters race after testing positive for COVID. The sprinter later withdrew from the men's 4x100-meter relay final due to his illness.

When asked about Hill's remarks on the "Nightcap" podcast, Lyles said the outspoken NFL star is "just chasing clout" and challenged him to back up the bold assertion.

It's worth noting that Hill said he wanted to face Lyles in a 50-yard race, perhaps believing that the Olympic star would overtake him in 100 meters, while NFL players are typically measured in 40-yard dashes. That distance might be part of a negotiation if Hill's representatives were to talk with Lyles' people to make this race actually happen.

When such a competition would take place is another question. Presumably, the Dolphins would not want this to happen during the season. This would be a great event to schedule for the Pro Bowl Games during the week between the conference championship games and the Super Bowl.

However, this seems more likely to be an offseason event. Maybe during the NFL scouting combine, since speed is already a prominent topic among fans, media, scouts and NFL executives? It's apparently time to let agents — and probably TV executives — do the talking.

Reggae Boy 'very excited' as Aston Villa awaits Champions League adventure



Aston Villa's Leon Bailey celebrates after scoring the opening goal during the English Premier League football match against Manchester City at Villa Park in Birmingham, central England, on December 6, 2023.

ALTHOUGH his future with Jamaica's Reggae Boyz is unclear at the moment, there's no question about Leon Bailey's status at English Premier League (EPL) club Aston Villa as he eagerly awaits the start of their UEFA Champions League journey this season.

The Birmingham-based club, which won its opening league game of the new season on Saturday against West Ham United, exceeded expectations in the 2023/24 campaign after finishing in the top four of the EPL. Aston Villa placed ahead of the likes of the traditional 'big six' clubs, including Tottenham Hotspur, Chelsea and Manchester United, to book a spot in Europe's prestigious club tournament.

The 27-year-old Jamaican last played for the country in November 2023 in a Nations League fixture against Canada before then Head Coach Heimir Hallgrimsson suspended him for breaking team curfew.

He then turned down a call-up to the Reggae Boyz squad for the June 20-July 14, 2024 Copa America, citing his previous stated intention to take a break from national duties. The Jamaica Football Federation responded by suspending him indefinitely.

However, Steve McClaren, who was named as Hallgrimsson's successor in late July, has since expressed a willingness to welcome Bailey into the fold.

His relationship with Aston Villa has been far more amicable.

Bailey, who joined the club in 2021, was a key player in the team's success last season with 28 goal contributions, including 10 goals and nine assists in the league. He was rewarded for his fine form with a revised contract that will keep him at the club for another three years, with the option of a fourth.

The league phase draw of the Champions League takes place on August 29, with Villa currently in pot four. They could potentially go up against the likes of many-time champions Real Madrid, Barcelona, Bayern Munich, Inter Milan and Juventus.

Bailey, the former Genk and Bayer Leverkusen attacker, says he relishes the chance to go up against some of Europe's best.

"I'm very excited, trust me, because I've played in the Champions League a few times before but I never had the run that I wanted to because of injuries. But, hopefully, this season can be a very good season — not just for me but for the whole team in the Champions League and the league as well," he said in an interview posted on Aston Villa's YouTube channel.

"It's going to be a lot of games but we just have to manage ourselves and enjoy each moment as they come. It's going to be a good season.

"I think everybody will be buzzing for the first game at Villa Park. I know it's going to be special for us, for the fans, for the whole club, even Birmingham, but it's important that we try to take everything one step at a time and, on those days, try to deliver as much as possible — and that's what we'll try to do."

Villa competed in the UEFA Europa Conference League — Europe's third-tier competition — last season, just missing out on an appearance in the final when they were eliminated by Greece's Olympiakos in the semi-finals.

Brathwaite laments WI first innings batting collapse following series loss



West Indies' captain Kraigg Brathwaite

West Indies Test captain Kraigg Brathwaite believes that West Indies missed a perfect opportunity to put pressure on South Africa when they suffered a batting collapse in the first innings of the just-concluded second Test match at Providence Stadium.

After Shamar Joseph's five-wicket haul helped to rout the visitors for just 160 on the opening day, the West Indies could only manage 144 to concede a first-innings lead of 16.

It proved to be a costly letdown as it allowed South Africa back into the game, which they eventually went on to win by 40 runs inside three days.

The defeat left West Indies without a Test series win against South Africa since 1992.

Brathwaite said despite the 63 last-wicket partnership between Dane Piedt and Nandre Burger that rescued South Africa from 97-9, he still felt the home side was in prime position to press home the advantage.

"Obviously, if you look at it, it was quite big, but to bowl them out for 160, I was still quite happy. Obviously, that partnership for them was good.

IMPORTANT

"It's cricket where partnerships do happen, so I wouldn't really stress on that too much, but what I would say is that our first-innings total needed to be bigger, and we needed to get a lead from it. That was very important," Brathwaite said in a post-match press conference on Saturday.

"I could never complain about the bowlers' efforts to bowl them out for 160, but the batting effort in the first innings just wasn't big enough. We had to fight back into the game, and in the end, we fell short by 40 runs.

"I must say that the lower order really fought, but in the first innings, we didn't put up a big enough total after bowling them out for 160. It wasn't enough for the first innings, but it was good to see the fight from the lower order. We didn't give up," he added.

Despite the 1-0 series loss following the drawn first Test, Brathwaite said he was pleased with the performance of his bowlers, which dismissed South Africa three times in four innings.

"I think all of the guys have potential and talent and they just come out and do it. They have a lot of skill, and I think we have a bright future for our fast bowlers in the West Indies," Brathwaite said.

However, he admitted that the West Indies' batters needed to be more consistent.

"We scored above 200 in three of the innings, so it's just for us to aim to do it more consistently, and that's always the task.

"You always hear about being more consistent, and I think mentally, we have to find ways to be better," the captain maintained.

Women In Sports Concludes 'EmpowerHer Girls in Sport' Mentorship Programme 2024







The 'EmpowerHer Girls in Sport' Mentorship Programme 2024 has successfully concluded after an inspiring four-week initiative across the islands of Grand Turk and Providenciales.

The program's grand finale celebrated joy, growth, and community spirit, leaving a significant impact on all participants.

The program, a blend of insightful presentations and engaging sports activities, fostered leadership skills, confidence, and teamwork among the young women involved. This initiative was not merely a summer program but a vital investment in the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands, nurturing the next generation of leaders.

Rita Gardiner, President of TCI Women in Sports, conceptualized the EmpowerHer initiative. DèAjah Smith, a sports and exercise student-athlete from Northumbria University, planned and spearheaded the program as an intern in the TCI National Internship and Apprenticeship Programme.



Gardiner expressed her satisfaction with the program's impact, stating, "Empowering these young women has been a dream come true. Watching them grow, learn, and build their confidence over these four weeks has reaffirmed my belief in the power of mentorship and sports. They are the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and I am incredibly proud of what we have accomplished together."

DèAjah Smith remarked, "This experience has been transformative, not only for the girls but for everyone involved. It has been an honour to see these young women embrace the opportunities provided to them and flourish into confident individuals. This program is a testament to what we can achieve when we invest in our youth and their potential." She also thanked her team, acknowledging, "The success of this program would not have been possible without their unwavering dedication and hard work."

The program's success was supported by generous sponsors, including:

- Sports Commission
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- Ellen Dickenson
- Jimbo Fulford
- Cheryl Ann Jones
- Island Cooler (Shermal Ariza)
- Keith Jennings
- Alonzo Malcolm
- Monique Cox

Special thanks were given to Mrs. Claudell Miller and HJ Robinson High School in Grand Turk for providing their auditorium and to Father Kendall for the use of the Anglican Church Dillon Hall. In Providenciales, Mrs. Roxanne Wake-Forbes and the Edward C. Gartland Youth Center played a crucial role.

Keynote speakers who contributed their insights included Renelle Smith, Cutella Talbot, Shatalia Hall-Green, Raynae Myers, Mrs. Tonya Greaves, Claudell Miller, Bereniece Dickenson, and Lakeia Lewis in Grand Turk, and Danya Russell, Tinell Garland, Ali Parnell, Cutella Talbot, Brianna Walcott, Jatavia Howell, Zaria Ingham, Jasmine Thomas, and Joddy Harvey in Providenciales.

Looking ahead, the EmpowerHer programme is set to expand in 2025, extending its reach to the islands of North Caicos, Middle Caicos, and South Caicos. This extension will provide even more young women across the Turks and Caicos Islands with the opportunity to benefit from this empowering initiative.

The program's success is a testament to the power of community and mentorship. As it concludes, anticipation is already building for next year's event, promising even greater opportunities and experiences for the girls of Turks and Caicos.

TCI Senior Men Prepare for September CONCACAF Nations League



Ace goalkeeper Sebastian Turbyfield is expected to, again, play a pivotal role in the upcoming encounters.

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) National Football Team is gearing up for the upcoming CONCACAF Nations League, with matches slated to begin in early September. This tournament provides TCI with an opportunity to enhance their regional standing and potentially secure promotion to a higher tier within the competition.

TCI's campaign kicks off with an away match against Anguilla on September 4 at 3:30 p.m. Following this, the team will return home to host Belize at the TCIFA National Academy in Providenciales on September 7, also at 3:30 p.m. The return leg against Belize is scheduled for September 10 in Belize, starting at 3:30 p.m.

The CONCACAF Nations League is structured into three tiered leagues—A, B, and C—each containing four groups. Teams compete within their groups, with promotion and relegation between leagues based on their finishing positions. League A group winners advance to a knockout stage to determine the overall champion, while group winners in Leagues B and C earn promotion to the next tier. Conversely, the bottom four teams in Leagues A and B are relegated to the lower tier. This tournament also serves as a qualifier for the CONCACAF Gold Cup.

TCI is competing in Group B of League C, sharing the group with Belize and Anguilla. The team aims to secure promotion to League B, the second tier of the competition.

League C's Group A includes Barbados, The Bahamas, and the US Virgin Islands, while Group C features St. Kitts and Nevis, the Cayman Islands, and the British Virgin Islands.

In League B, Group A consists of El Salvador, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Bonaire, and Montserrat. Group B comprises Curacao, St. Lucia, Grenada, and Sint Maarten. Group C includes Haiti, Puerto Rico, Aruba, and Saint Martin. Finally, Group D features the Dominican Republic, Bermuda, Antigua and Barbuda, and Dominica.

League A, the top tier, is divided into two groups. Group A contains Costa Rica, Guatemala, Martinique, Guadeloupe, Suriname, and Guyana, while Group B consists of Jamaica, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba, Nicaragua, and French Guiana.

TCI's preparation for these critical matches involves rigorous training and strategic planning. Head Coach Aaron Lawrence has emphasized the importance of these games for TCI's aspirations. "Our goal is to perform at our best and secure promotion to League B," said Lawrence. "We have been working diligently to prepare the team and are confident in our abilities."

The support from local fans will be crucial for TCI, especially during their home match against Belize. The team encourages supporters to come out in numbers and create a vibrant atmosphere at the TCIFA National Academy.

As the TCI National Football Team embarks on this important campaign, the players and coaching staff are focused on delivering strong performances and achieving their goal of promotion. The upcoming matches promise to be an exciting period for TCI football, with the potential for significant regional success.

TCIFA FOOTBALL RAFFLE OCTOBER 25TH

The drawing for the Turks and Caicos Football Association (TCIFA) Annual Raffle takes place on October 25, 2024, and there are some exciting prizes to be won. The first price is a watch courtesy of Royal Jewels; the second prize is an Addidas Bag, official FIFA Club World Cup 2023 Football, Turks and Caicos Islands National Football Team Jersey and a VVIP Pass to the next TCI Home International Match; Third Prize is a Dinner for 2 at Grace's Cottage, Point Grace Resort; and the Fourth prize is a Dinner for 2 at Hemingways Restaurant. All proceeds is in aid of TCIFA Youth Development Programs.