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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 10

Aug. 11, 2023 - Aug. 18, 2023

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**LEPROSY,
THE NEW
COVID?**

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More Highlights From The ISU Launch

The Informal Settlement Unit, the body charged with regulating especially housing settlements in the Turks and Caicos Islands was launched recently. The ISU which is located at the Laporte Plaza, Downtown Providenciales has been charged with ridding the TCI of all unpanned settlements. The following are highlights of the event.



Astwood: Cashflow Problems At NHIP



Persons have also been informing my office of instances where our patients and their accompanying relatives were put out of hotels onto the streets for not having, and waiting on, the money to cover the time they were required to be in the countries of treatment.

Leader of the Opposition Hon. Edwin Astwood is citing a myriad of problems at the National Health Insurance Plan (NHIP), stating that it has also become apparent that there is a cash-flow problem at the entity. The opposition leader said that he has been contacted countless times by members of the public regarding ailing persons attempting to use the service but found it very difficult. “What is going on with NHIP?” the opposition leader queried. “I have been receiving many calls on the issue of persons who have been sent off on Treatment Abroad (Programme) not re-

ceiving their subsistence pay, and many are facing additional hardship because of it. “I am also being informed that there is a cash flow issue in NHIP and that the program has no money in the Bank.” He pointed out that patients have also indicated that there were many outstanding payments, which include previous subsistence payments. “Persons have also been informing my office of instances where our patients and their accompanying relatives were put out of hotels onto the streets for not having, and waiting on, the money to cover the time they were required to be in the countries of treatment. “Other patients are saying that they had to continue calling different persons at home, pleading for money to be sent in order to avoid eviction and starvation,” the opposition leader lamented, noting that, this should not have been taking place, especially with the history-making budget passed earlier this year. “None of this should be happening in the year 2023, especially with the biggest budget ever as continually stated by the PNP Government. “Why are our unwell and ailing people being treated this way? Where is the caring Government in all of this?” he asked, reminding that NHIP got a massive chunk of the budget passed in May. “With the passage of the 2023/24 Budget in May of this year, NHIP received \$ 35,699,371 in subvention from the Turks and Caicos Government. Their projected revenue from private contributions was \$36,929,429, contributions from the Government at \$5,690,592, and when adding in all other fees, the total Income for NHIP was estimated at \$79,507,006. “NHIP has to pay \$34,515,537 of the above amount to Inter-Health Canada for Clinical Services. One may question whether or not we the people are getting the level of service that we are paying for here. I will revisit this later,” he said. He pointed out that Overseas Medical Travel has been budgeted to be over \$4million, stating also that here are have been sufficient funds budgeted for other areas relating to the overseas treatment, and so, it is mind-boggling as to why persons

were finding it difficult to get full access to the programme. “Overseas Treatment Medical expense is stated at \$16,290,470 for the year. Overseas Medical Travel is stated at \$4,179,402 for the year, and air ambulance (Medivac) is stated at \$1,000,000. Overseas Subsistence is stated at 994,571 for the year, which is \$137,217 LESS than the actual spent last year. “From the numbers presented, there is no seeable reason why our unwell people should not be getting their money on time and their health issues adequately addressed, unless there are other reasons that are hidden from the public’s eye,” Astwood surmised. He added: “What is the PNP government hiding? What is going on in NHIP and Health Care under their watch? “During the Budget Debates, the Minister of Finance said in his speech, ‘My good cousin, Hon. Minister of Health, you are getting \$84.6 million, which is an increase of 1.9%, plus \$2.5 million in capital projects. And just like how you like it, you are getting the biggest piece of the pie.’ “He Went on to say, ‘Mr. Leader of the Opposition, I am sure that you have figured out by now that when you stated that this budget has ‘no expansion of preventative health’, and that it does not address increasing access to quality and affordable health care’, that you were wrong!’ “The Hon. Ministers of Finance and of Health must realize that Time always reveals all, and it gives me no pleasure to be right on this issue of health care because our people are dying at an alarming rate, and many from preventative disorders and curable ailments. Additionally, they are suffering consequences arising from not receiving their subsistence in a timely manner.” Astwood urged the government to promptly investigate the matter and to put in the necessary mechanisms to address it. “I call upon the PNP government to immediately address these issues outlined, and treat our unwell people with compassion, fairness, dignity, and respect. “As with Justice, Health Care delayed is health care denied. Health care denied results in further injury, disability, and death,” he stated.

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Wednesday, August 23, 2023



- ♦ Restaurant Managers
- ♦ Restaurant Supervisors
- ♦ Boat Captains *
- ♦ Scuba Instructors*
- ♦ Dive Masters *
- ♦ Housekeeping Supervisor
- ♦ Income Auditor
- ♦ Accounts Receivable Clerk
- ♦ Housekeeping Room Attendants
- ♦ Loyalty & Travel Consultants
- ♦ Room Technicians
- ♦ Security Officers
- ♦ Entertainment Player
- ♦ Gift Shop Sales Representative
- ♦ Dining Room Servers
- ♦ Watersports Attendants
- ♦ Groundsmen
- ♦ Bar Porters
- ♦ Laundry Attendant
- ♦ Steward

- REQUIRMENTS:**
- Updated Resume
 - Passport/Birth Certificate
 - Local Status Document [Belonger Card, Freelance Permit, Residence Permit, Permanent Resident Certificate, Naturalization Certificate]
 - Qualifications/Experience required *
- BENEFITS:**
- Healthcare
 - Education and Training
 - Staff Transportation
 - Competitive Salary Packages
 - Opportunities for Growth & Development
 - Banking Details [Bank, Branch, Account#]

Governor, Premier Issue Joint Statement On Crime-Fighting Measures



Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam, Premier Misick and Commissioner Botting



Governor for the Turks and Caicos Islands Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam have issued a joint statement on crime prevention measures in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In recent weeks there has been an escalation in gun crimes, including murders, with two slayings taking within the heart of the TCI Tourism

belt – Grace Bay. The following is the joint statement from both the Governor and the Premier: Since our joint statement released on 2 August following a fatal shooting incident in Providenciales, there have been two further non-fatal shooting incidents in Blue Hills and Five Cays. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force

(RTCIPF) are actively investigating all three incidents.

We undertook to keep you informed on the steps we are taking to support the operational policing response, to ensure the threats to our safety are gripped and effectively tackled, in both the immediate and longer term.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Tactical Unit remain in active deployment in addition to strengthened patrols by our Community Policing Units. You will see more operational police officers across Providenciales as the RTCIPF continue their investigative and enforcement operations.

In support of these operations, the following capability has been put in place to date:

- The Royal Cayman Islands Police Service (RCIPS) has deployed one of its H145 helicopters. The helicopter and crew arrived on Sunday. Since their arrival, the crew have been working with RTCIPF on planned operations to provide critical aerial support as part of our operational response measures. The UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) is funding this deployment.

- In tackling our shared threats, the HMBS Bahamas, the flagship of the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, is currently in our jurisdiction, working in collaboration with our maritime partners to patrol our territorial waters against any illegal activities occurring at sea. Members of the RTCIPF and TCI Regiment are on board the HMBS Bahamas as part of this joint operation.

- The Turks and Caicos Islands continues to work in partnership with our colleagues from US Homeland Security Customs and Border Protection (CBP). CBP assets are supporting the surveillance of our waters and those further afield, enabling early warning of suspicious vessels and acting as a deterrent to those who want to reach our islands undetected.

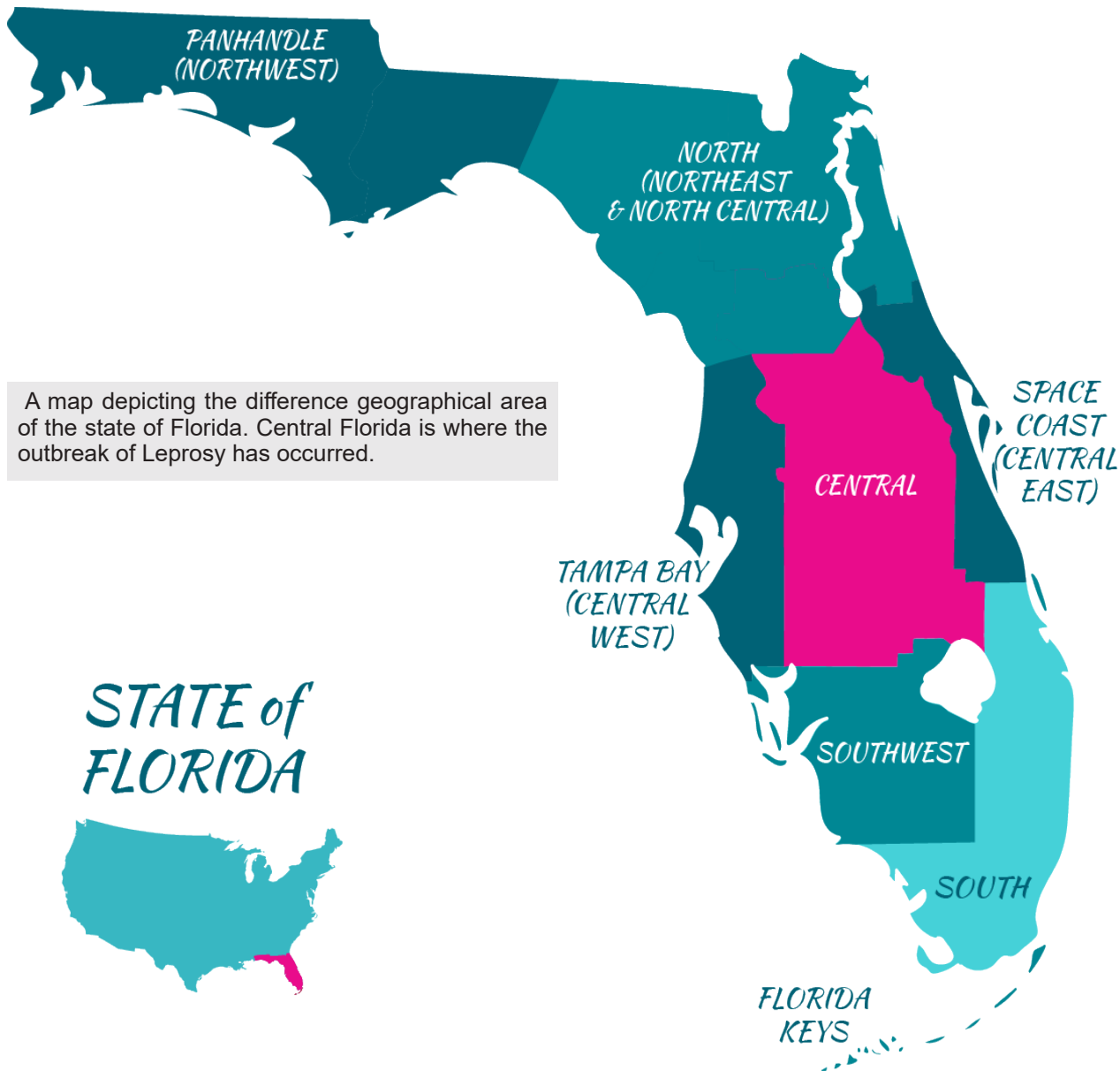
- To ensure the ongoing investigative capacity of the RTCIPF, the FCDO has allocated additional funding to extend the timeline of the serious crime team deployment.

This immediate package of measures seeks to provide substantial capability to our operational response, co-ordinating efforts on both land and sea. It will allow us to continue to investigate vigorously and bring to justice those who are causing harm and threatening our peace and security. We are particularly grateful to the Governments of the Bahamas and the Cayman Islands for their steadfast support at this critical time.

We will continue to assess threats and keep you informed of our efforts to ensure the safety and security of our communities.

To assist our police investigations, we kindly ask for your cooperation. If you possess any information, regardless of its significance, please speak to someone you trust or contact TCI Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477 to provide information anonymously and with confidence, for the safety of all.

Is Leprosy The New COVID



A map depicting the different geographical areas of the state of Florida. Central Florida is where the outbreak of Leprosy has occurred.

Exercise social distancing, wear a mask when you go into certain areas and sanitize regularly. That is the precaution members of the public in especially Central Florida are encouraged to take. Such precaution no doubt hearkens us back to the dreaded COVID-19 pandemic, which shut down the world for almost two years.

Cases of leprosy, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and other medical organizations are reporting, are surging in central Florida, which include Orlando, Tampa, St. Petersburg and Daytona Beach. Also called Hansen's disease, medical personnel said leprosy remains extremely rare in the United States. About 150 Americans a year get Hansen's disease. Worldwide, about 200,000 people are diagnosed with it each year. However, a wave of leprosy cases in Florida has led public health officials to conclude the disease-causing bacteria may be naturally found in the state.

In the past, most people with leprosy in the United States had been first infected in some other country where it might be more common. But the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention issued a new report this past week about a wave of cases in Florida, particularly in the central part of the state.

Leprosy also exists in other parts of United

States. For example, one recent report described six cases of leprosy among California residents. All were diagnosed between 2017 and 2022.

Leprosy appears to be spread through respiratory droplets and close contact with an infected person.

The patient is no longer contagious to anyone after a few doses of antibiotics.

Early signs of leprosy, according to the CDC, include pale or slightly red areas or rash on the body that is often associated with a loss of sensation in the affected area, according to the FDOH.

Other symptoms include:

- Loss of feeling in hands and feet;
- Dry, stiff and sometimes painful skin in the affected area;
- Thinning of the eyebrows and eyelashes (if the face is involved);
- Nasal congestion is sometimes reported.

If the disease goes untreated, weakness in the muscles of the hands and feet can also occur.

The CDC said that the number of reported leprosy cases in southeastern states has more than doubled in the last decade.

Citing the National Hansen's Disease Program, it said 159 new cases were reported in the U.S.

in 2020, with Florida among the top reporting states.

Central Florida accounted for 81% of cases reported in the state and nearly a fifth of nationally reported cases.

"Whereas leprosy in the United States previously affected persons who had immigrated from leprosy-endemic areas, ~34% of new case-patients during 2015-2020 appeared to have locally acquired the disease. Several cases in central Florida demonstrate no clear evidence of zoonotic exposure or traditionally known risk factors," the CDC noted.

Zoonotic diseases are caused by germs that spread between animals and people.

In one central Florida man, a 54-year-old without risk factors for known transmission routes, the authors reported lepromatous leprosy. Lepromatous leprosy is one of three main types of leprosy, and people who are infected with it have widespread sores and lesions. The disease is more contagious, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

The man, who has lived in the area his whole life and is a landscaper, had sought treatment at a dermatology clinic for a painful and progressive erythematous rash. He denied recent foreign or domestic travel, exposure to armadillos, prolonged contact with immigrants from leprosy-endemic countries or connections with someone known to have leprosy.

Whereas, a high percentage of unrelated case in the South were found to carry the same unique strain of *M. leprae* as nine-banded armadillos in the region, suggesting a strong likelihood of zoonotic transmission.

Many cases reported in eastern United States, including Georgia and central Florida, lacked zoonotic exposure or recent residence outside the U.S., and the CDC said that there is some support for the theory that international migration of persons with leprosy is a potential source of autochthonous, or native, transmission.

The CDC said a link to migration may account for the increase in incidence of leprosy in historically nonendemic areas and that further reports show that rates of new diagnoses in people born outside the U.S. has been declining since 2002.

The absence of traditional risk factors in many Florida cases and the high proportion of residents who spend a great deal of time outdoors supports the investigation into environmental reservoirs as a potential source of transmission, medical personnel said.

To lessen the spread of the disease, individuals are also asked to avoid contact with nine-banded armadillos, which transmit leprosy in places like Florida, Louisiana and Texas. Direct contact with these animals through hunting, touching, skinning and eating them may put you at risk. People with indirect contact may also acquire leprosy, and research is attempting to learn more about this.

Invest Turks and Caicos boosts economy with MSME Program

By Ruthea Robinson



Ms. Robinson is currently participating in the TCI National Internship and Apprenticeship Program, which is being conducted by Career Services under the Ministry of Education. She is a student journalist, podcaster, and documentarian studying at Leeds Trinity University, Leeds, United Kingdom.

Lead: Kacy Higgs became one of the first awardees of Invest TCI's MSME program and now her products can be found on shelves in IGA

The entrepreneurial spirit has long existed in the Turks and Caicos Islands, from the straw markets to boat tours. Carrying on that spirit, Kacy Higgs managed to revitalize an outdated

industry with the support of Invest Turks and Caicos' MSME program.

Caicos Traditions, the brand, started with Kacy Higgs leaving her corporate job to tend crops in her backyard. She initially gave away the produce to friends and family or sell it at pop-up markets. Now her products are sold alongside international brands in IGA.

Higgs modernized the traditional way of farming by adding her own "Caicos touch" to every level of the business, from purchasing seeds from neighbouring countries and experimenting with local seeds, to producing her signature corn flour and grits to integrating modern machinery and packaging.

Farming in Turks and Caicos Islands today has proven to be quite the challenge compared to modern consumption practices that rely heavily on importing food; back then, staple foods like corn, beans, cassava, and pumpkins were readily accessible in these islands. Climate change, lack of affordable irrigation systems, sparse rainfall, and increasing frequency of hurricanes are all factors that have discouraged many local farmers. Higgs experienced this firsthand after Hurricane Fiona destroyed her bean supply in 2022.

Outside of the challenges she's faced, Higgs shared that she has had many opportunities granted over the years, kicking off with Invest TC's approval of her courageous business plan. Caicos Traditions was among the first businesses accepted into the Micro Small and Medium Enterprise program.

The MSME Program serves as a collaboration between Invest Turks and Caicos and the government in the form of financial assistance. The program provides small businesses financial support, technical assistance, and duty concessions.

Caicos Traditions was awarded a \$25,000 package, including a \$10,000 cash grant, \$10,000 duties concessions, and \$5,000 digital/marketing assistance.

When speaking about the impact of the cash grants, Vice President of Small and Medium Enterprise Development at Invest Turks and Caicos, Alexa Cooper, directly referenced Invest Turks and Caicos' past use of the term 'free money,' saying: "It's not a loan -- it is more like free money but not really -- you have certain obligations that you need to meet within the program."

These obligations include being monitored for the five years that the business is a part of the program and complying with rigorous checks and inspections, all while meeting agreed-upon milestones.

Kacy Higgs admitted that she needed help understanding how to take advantage of the award initially. However, the team behind the MSME program was understanding and lenient enough to accommodate her.

She said: "I had a choice, start with the little that I have and hit the road running or wait for more, and I'm happy that I started with their push,"

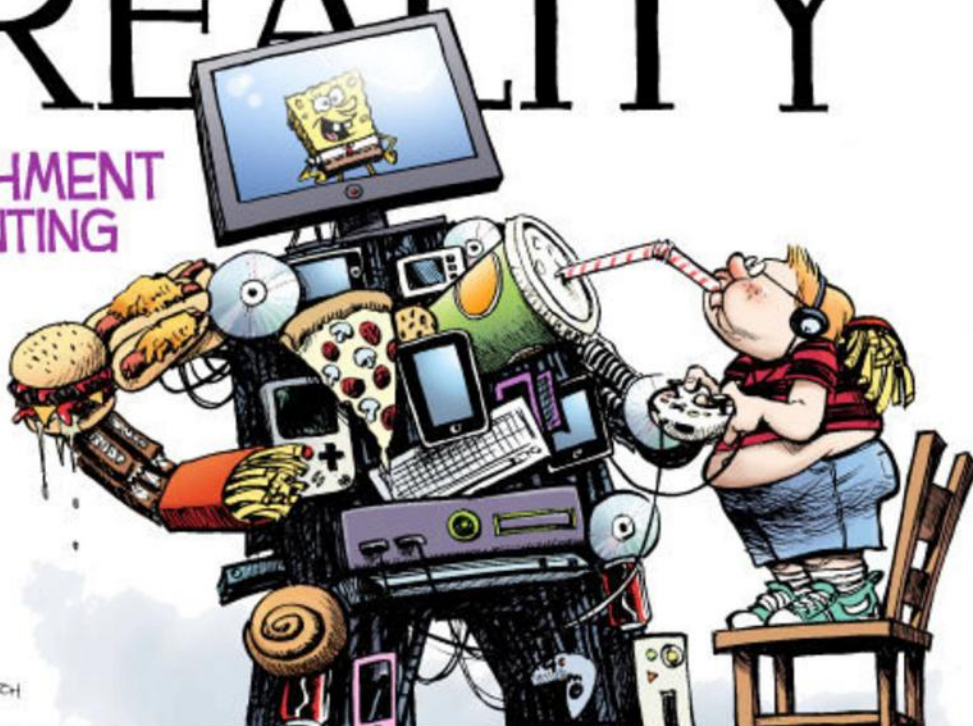
Kacy Higgs hopes to refresh the way we think about produce in the TCI by showcasing the vitality of the agriculture industry in North Caicos.

Her collaboration with the MSME program contributed to the growth and development of the program, making it more widely accessible to other local businesses.

She encourages local entrepreneurs to chase their dreams, saying: "There is no stupid dream. If you look around Turks and Caicos, there are so many niche markets that are waiting to be tapped into."

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NEWSLINE TCI is located at
1085 Leeward Highway,
Providenciales,
Turks & Caicos Islands, BW1.

Our numbers are:
1649 348-9587
1649 242-6695
You can email us at
contact@newslinetci.com or
viviantyson@newslinetci.com

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

Captured Haitian Migrant Number Surpasses 3,000

By Vivian Tyson



A boat laden with Haitian Migrants

Up until August 4, the authorities have confirmed that more than 3,000 undocumented migrants from Haiti attempting to make landfall along these shores by boats have been captured and repatriated.

According to information from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, 3,030 illegal migrants from Haiti have been captured and sent back to their homeland. This number represents almost half the Turks and Caicos Islands voting population, which went to the polls in 2021, bearing in mind that we are just in the eighth month of 2022.

Giving the male/female breakdown, the police said further that 2,408 of those migrants captured were males and 622 were female. From that general number, 21 were children.

The massive capture was because of the interception of 23 illegal vessels, which included the traditional sloops as well as engine boats.

The latest batch of Haitian Migrants to be intercepted and apprehended took place on August 4, when the Marine Branch of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force netted 148 a few miles off Providenciales.

The influx of boats has become a head-scratching puzzle for successive administrations, who, despite implementing some of the severest and most stringent measures, failed to thwart the influx.

Quite often citizens from that country, attempting to escape arid economic conditions, hop onto boats, risking treacherous waters to attain greener pastures. On many

occasions they perish before reaching their intended destination.

On a regular basis, local authorities have intercepted boats ferrying desperate Haitians, who NewslineTCI understands, would empty their piggy banks to pay smugglers to take them places where they could better their lives.

However, the frequency of the boats being dispatched from that country to other territories, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, exponentially amplified since the assassination of President Jovenel Moïse on July 7, 2021.

Now, not only are the people trying to escape harsh economic conditions, but also the potential of being kidnapped and killed, by gangs, who, for the most part have taken over the country. It understood that kidnapping for ransom is big business in Haiti. Gang violence has killed more than 1,000 Haitians, as the security and political situation in the Caribbean nation continues to degenerate.

Reported decades of corrupt leadership and weakened democratic institutions have brought a state of terror and lawlessness to Haiti without an achievable political solution or even an end to the violence in sight. As a result, there has been a mass exodus of people fleeing both the terror and unbearable economic conditions. Many of them turn to smugglers for their salvation, but not without forking out a hatful of cash.

However, it is understood that many of those smugglers often sell them false hope, telling them that they could assure them of safe passages to places like the Turks and

Caicos Islands, The Bahamas, and the United States.

Some years ago, a group of Haitians, who were caught by local authorities trying to make landfall, told local reporters that they paid up to US\$10,000 to make the boat trip, having sold all their belongings.

They said on most occasions they request to go to the United States, and because they were ignorant to regional geography, were told that once dropped off in Turks and Caicos Islands, they could walk to the United States.

Local political directorate and the police have long concluded that there has been a profitable human trafficking ring operation between the Turks and Caicos Islands and Hispaniola, that often traffic desperate Haitians and women from the Dominican Republic. The women are taken to the TCI to engage in adult entertainment, which include sexual activity.

However, even though it is well known most of the times by citizens that many of these Dominican women have been in the country illegal, they are hardly bothered as the unwritten rule, according to a police source, they are more 'sexually valuable' than Haitian women.

Meanwhile, back to the situation in Haiti, in recent weeks, citizens have formed themselves in vigilante groups to defend their neighborhoods from gang members. At times, men suspected of being gang members are corralled and beaten, and instances, burned to death.

The United Nations said in a report published on Monday, May 1, 2023, that insecurity in the capital has reached levels like countries at war.

Armed gangs continue to compete to expand their territorial control and that clashes with police and rival gangs have "become more violent and more frequent," claiming many civilian lives, the report added.

Many schools and health centres have been forced to close and the violence has also affected access to many goods and services.

"The people of Haiti continue to suffer one of the worst human rights crises in decades and a major humanitarian emergency," the report further stated.

Since Moïse's assassination, the Caribbean nation has been led by Prime Minister Ariel Henry, who has failed to rein in the gangs that now control an estimated 60% of the capital.

Henry and UN officials have repeatedly called for the deployment of an international force to help police in their fight against the criminal gangs.

Cancer breakthrough as groundbreaking pill found to 'kill tumours'



Scientists at a leading US hospital have developed a “cancer-killing pill” that kills solid tumours through “targeted chemotherapy.”

Likened to a “snowstorm that closes a key airline hub, shutting down all flights in and out only in planes carrying cancer cells”, the protein was developed by a research team at the City of Hope, one of the largest cancer research and treatment organisations in the US.

The AOH1996 molecule works by targeting a cancerous variant of PCNA, a protein critical to DNA replication and repair of enlarging tumours.

Developed over the last two decades, it has shown to be effective in preclinical research treating breast, prostate, brain, ovarian, cervical, skin and lung cancers.

The study, published in the journal *Cell Chemical Biology*, tested the protein across over 70 cancer cell lines. The results noted that AOH1996 selectively killed cancer cells by “disrupting the normal cell reproductive cycle”, with the next stage aiming to further the clinical trial in humans.

“PCNA is like a major airline terminal hub containing multiple plane gates. Data suggests PCNA is uniquely altered in cancer cells, and this fact allowed us to design a

drug that targeted only the form of PCNA in cancer cells”, said Linda Malkas, Ph.D., professor in City of Hope’s Department of Molecular Diagnostics and Experimental Therapeutics and the M.T. & B.A. Ahmadi Professor in Molecular Oncology.

“Our cancer-killing pill is like a snowstorm that closes a key airline hub, shutting down all flights in and out only in planes carrying cancer cells.

“Results have been promising. AOH1996 can suppress tumour growth as a monotherapy or combination treatment in cell and animal models without resulting in toxicity. The investigational chemotherapeutic is currently in a Phase 1 clinical trial in humans at City of Hope.”

“No one has ever targeted PCNA as a therapeutic because it was viewed as ‘undruggable,’ but clearly City of Hope was able to develop an investigational medicine for a challenging protein target,” Long Gu, Ph.D., lead author of the study and an associate research professor in the Department of Molecular Diagnostics and Experimental Therapeutics at Beckman Research Institute of City of Hope, added.

“We discovered that PCNA is one of the potential causes of increased nucleic acid replication errors in cancer cells. Now that we know the problem area and can inhibit it, we will dig deeper to understand the process to develop more personalized, targeted cancer medicines.”

Motor Vehicles Department Introduces Suggestion Box



The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) wishes to advise the general public of its recent introduction of suggestion boxes at customer services counters within the Department.

According to the department, this introduction is geared towards improving customer service and service delivery across the department.

“To better serve you, we want to hear from you! Customers are encouraged to utilize the boxes by providing feedback on our service and ways in which

we can improve. Your voice is important, as we seek ways to make doing business more convenient and your experience more pleasant. We encourage you to take the time to share your opinion, as we do value your business,” a release from that department said.

In the meantime, the DMV is reminding the public that its office operating hours are Monday to Thursday, 8:30 am to 3:30 pm and Friday 8:30 am to 3:00 pm.

TCICC Now An Approved NCCER Institution



The Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) is proud to announce that it has achieved approval as a National Centre for Construction Education & Research (NCCER) Institution.

This significant milestone marks a moment of triumph for TCICC's Technical Vocational, Education, and Training Programme, cementing its commitment to delivering top-tier construction training and certification and empowering the workforce with industry-leading skills.

With the NCCER's seal of approval, TCICC is poised to offer a selection of NCCER courses in the short term designed to prepare individuals for entry-level positions in the construction field.

The main NCCER courses in the short term are:

Core: Introduction to Basic Construction Skills - A comprehensive course that equips participants with essential knowledge in safety practices, hand and power tool operation, construction maths, materials handling, construction drawings, rigging, and employability skills.

Carpentry: Providing learners with a solid foundation in general carpentry skills, this curriculum advances to cover more complex topics such as framing, finish carpentry, concrete, and form carpentry. Looking forward, TCICC aims to introduce additional NCCER courses in the medium to long term, further enriching the technical education offerings. These forthcoming courses include HVACR, Plumbing, Masonry, Drywall Installation and Finishing,

Construction Craft Labourer, Painting, Project Management, Project Supervision, and Solar Photovoltaic Installer.

The Minister of Education, Hon. Rachel Taylor commented, "It is critical for us as a country, to ensure that we bridge the skills gaps through improved certified programs offered at our Turks and Caicos Islands Communities College. Our Government is investing heavily in our TCICC, as we aim to make it the college of first choice for our people.

NCCER is recognized by the construction industry as the training, assessment, certification and career development standard for the construction and maintenance craft professional. This initiative will provide a greater pathway for our Caribbean Vocational Qualifications (CVQ) and Technical Vocational Education Training (TVET) students to up-skill and retool themselves as they prepare confidently and efficiently for the workforce."

Who We Are?

"We are thrilled and honoured to receive the first level of approval to gain accreditation status for NCCER, a significant step towards closing the national skills gap," expressed Dr. Candice Williams, President of the TCI Community College.

"This recognition reaffirms our commitment to excellence in education and workforce development, enabling us to bridge the divide between industry demands and skilled professionals.

"With this milestone achieved, we look forward to

empowering our trainees with the highest standards of training, preparing them to become the workforce of tomorrow and contribute meaningfully to our nation's economic growth."

Mr. Kevin Baxter, Dean of TCICC's Technical Vocational, Education, and Training (TVET) Programme, also expressed his elation and spoke enthusiastically about the future of the College's TVET programme. "Being recognised as an NCCER Institution opens doors for our students and positions them for success in their chosen careers. We are excited about the boundless opportunities that lie ahead."

Director of Workforce Development at NCCER, Mrs. Cathy Tyler, reiterated the organisation's commitment to supporting TCICC in its mission to foster a skilled and capable construction workforce in the region.

As TCICC progresses towards its vision of becoming the institution of first choice in the Turks and Caicos Islands and beyond, this NCCER Institution approval serves as a vital stepping stone, offering students a pathway to excellence in their career path within the construction industry.

TCICC is a leading institution of higher education in the Turks and Caicos Islands, offering a diverse range of academic and technical programmes. With a focus on student success and community development, TCICC strives to prepare individuals for rewarding careers and lifelong learning.

CRIME SURGE 'DEEPLY' CONCERNS TCHTA

President of the TCHTA James McAnally



In the wake of the recent upsurge in violent crimes, the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) has expressed deep concern for the loss of young lives, the citizens' uneasy as a result, and the negative effects it could deal the economy.

The Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association is deeply concerned about the recent surge in serious crime within our communities. As a leading advocate for the safety and well-being of our residents, we feel it is crucial to address the growing apprehensions and take necessary steps to ensure a secure environment for all.

Over the past two months, our Board of Directors has met with the Police Commissioner and the Governor's Office to voice these concerns as we saw a serious trend starting once again of extreme violence not common to our islands.

We are concerned as an industry and as the nation's largest employers that our citizens and guests must believe Turks & Caicos is a safe place to live and to visit. We field calls from travel advisors and prospective visitors having to provide comfort and assurance we are a safe destination. The only way this happens is if we see an increase in both com-

munication and presence of the Royal Turks & Caicos Islands Police Force along with arrests and convictions of guilty criminals. We must see a consistent improvement instead of reactive efforts after major events.

We are extremely disturbed by the incident that occurred in Grace Bay this week. Although it may be isolated towards a specific individual, it clearly was a display of the blatant disregard for the law and human life. We are certain that everyone agrees it should never happen and we will strongly advocate for a "Zero Tolerance" approach to these heinous crimes which have a direct negative impact on our islands economy and well-being.

The TCHTA remains committed to working hand in hand with local stakeholders, law enforcement and the community to address this pressing issue. The hospitality community has pooled resources in the past aiding the force with lifesaving and surveillance tools and is prepared to assist again. We also support the plea from the TCIG for the community to share information in the most confidential way. Information and communication is key. If provided, a strategic plan can often be created to capture and eradicate a threat before innocent lives are negatively impacted.

As we collectively strive for a safer future, the TCHTA will continue to engage the Governor's office and the RTCIPF, and push for results for our communities. "Peace and Freedom for All" are not just words on a document used for the framework of a nation but are values that are to be protected and given the highest priority. We believe in this and will continue to support every initiative to protect them.

Fishing With Noxious Substances Not Allowed

The Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources Management is advising the public that the use of "noxious" substances is strictly prohibited in the fisheries limits with intent to take any marine product.

Fisheries Protection Regulations 10.08, Restrictions on means of taking marine products and harmful activities 9(1) "No person

shall- (b) possess any noxious substance being bleach or other substance containing or comprising sodium hypochlorite or chlorine or dogwood or quick lime within the fishery limits with intent to take any marine product;" 9(2) "Any person who contravenes any provision of this regulation commits an offence and is liable on conviction to a fine of

\$50,000 or to imprisonment for a term of twelve months, or to both."

The Department of Fisheries and Marine Resources Management said it appreciates the public's assistance in adhering to the laws of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and look forward to a continued collaboration regarding the fisheries of the country.

Bahamas Opposition Leader Pays Courtesy Call On TCI Premier



Premier Hon. C. Washington Misick receives a gift from Hon. Michael Pintard, Leader of the Opposition from the Commonwealth of the Bahamas.

On August 3rd, 2023, Premier Misick met with the Leader of the Opposition of the Commonwealth of the Bahamas, the Honorable Michael Pintard. The Premier's Office said the discussion was highly productive, stating that The Bahamas

Opposition Leader's delegation and the Premier delved into matters of mutual concern. Hon. Pintard was accompanied by other opposition members, including Senator Hon. Darren Handfield and Mr. Joshua Sears.

Made in TCI 2023 Scrambles For Events, Marketing Coordinators

With about two and half months to go before the staging of Made in TCI 2023 Trade Show, the organizers are actively searching for an events coordinator and also a marketing coordinator.

Made in TCI is the National Trade Show is geared towards the promotion of locally produced goods and services.

The inaugural show was held on October 29, 2022, at the Stubbs Diamond Plaza in Providenciales and showcased agricultural products, hand-made jewellery, beverages, skin care products, leather goods, home goods, arts and craft, tobacco products, photography services, catering, services, events management services from providers across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

As preparations are underway to organize Made in TCI 2023, the Department of Trade, Industry & Fair Competition via news release said it was actively searching for capable individuals or companies to take on various advertised roles.

"Qualified consultants are invited to apply to the following available positions for Made in TCI 2023: Events Coordinator and Marketing Coordinator," the release said.

"The core responsibility of the events coordinator revolves around overseeing and managing all logistical aspects related to the event to ensure a seamless execution of Made in TCI 2023.

"On the other hand, the Marketing Coordinator's principal duty is to supervise, manage,

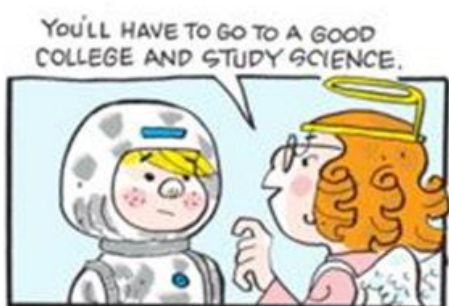
and implement a marketing campaign that efficiently and effectively promotes Made in TCI 2023. To access the comprehensive job descriptions for each position, please visit the DTIFC's website at <https://gov.tc/trade>," the news release further stated.

The news release added: "Persons interested in applying for the positions of Event Coordinator and Marketing Coordinator for the Made in TCI 2023 should forward their application to tradetci@gov.tc by 4:00 p.m. on September 1, 2023. Kindly note that any submission after this deadline will not be considered. "The Department of Trade, Industry, and Fair Competition thanks all applicants for their interest; however, only individuals selected for an interview will be contacted."

Frank Ketchum's

Dennis the Menace

Miss NO-it-all



NEWSLINE COMICS

LOOK AT MY BABY, IT'S SOOOOOO CUTE!

NO, LOOK AT MINE, IT'S MUCH CUTER!

WHICH ONE'S MINE!?

Cyanide and Happiness © Explosm.net

Cheshire Hall Plantation

NEWSLINE
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



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

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

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

Last Friday, July 4, the Department of Disaster Management Emergency (DDME) staged an interactive and engaging hurricane preparedness promotion at the Dillion Hall in Grand Turk between the hours of 10:am to 2 pm. The event was not only to spread hurricane awareness to the people of Grand Turk but also to test their knowledge on hurricane preparedness. As a result, many people who answered questions correctly were given a chance to spin wheel of fortune to win prizes. The following are photo highlights of the event.





EXPERIENCE TURKS AND CAICOS CONTINUES CONSULTATION WITH FISH FRY VENDORS



Minister of Tourism Hon. Josephine Connolly

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, 09 August 2023 - The Ministry of Tourism and Experience Turks and Caicos is committed to showcasing and enhancing TCI'S cultural and culinary heritage at our weekly, Thursday Fish Fry on Providenciales. The weekly, Thursday Fish Fry in Providenciales, was created to provide visitors with the unique opportunity to experience TCI through different types of local food, music, art and craft. The Fish Fry offers Turks and Caicos Islanders an opportunity to showcase their unique culinary, art and craft to guests from all over the world and the inclusive economic growth benefits of tourism.

The Ministry of Tourism and Experience Turks and Caicos met with Fish Fry Vendors on Friday, August 4th, 2023, to discuss new standards for operations, infrastructure needs, health, and safety requirements. The meeting was well-attended and productive, with vendors providing valuable feedback on the proposed changes. Experience Turks and Caicos outlined in the new Code of Conduct and Fish Fry Vendor Contract. The Minister of Tourism, Hon. Josephine Connolly, expressed her heartfelt gratitude to the fish fry vendors for their dedication to the Island Fish Fry. "I'm delighted to express my heartfelt gratitude to all the fish fry vendors who participated in our recent meetings. Your dedication to the Island Fish Fry is truly commendable. We're excited about the collaborative efforts that lie ahead, ensuring the continued success and

growth of this cherished event. Your passion for showcasing our vibrant culture and delectable cuisine is what makes our Island Fish Fry truly special. Looking forward to a bright future together!"

Ms. Candesha Mills, Product Manager for Experience Turks and Caicos, expressed "The meeting with our stakeholders for the island fish fry was productive and collaborative. The passion and commitment from everyone involved was evident and it was clear that we all share a common goal.... to enhance the overall experience for both our visitors and community. Together we can and will create a product that will leave a lasting impact on all who participate."

This meeting is part of Experience Turks and Caicos' ongoing efforts to cultivate relationships with all stakeholders in the Turks and Caicos Tourism Industry to enhance the visitor experience. On July 18th, 2023, the Hon. Josephine Connolly - Minister of Tourism, Wesley Clerveaux - Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Tourism, Mr. Avi Adams - Interim Director, Department of Tourism Regulations, Ms. Racquel Brown - Change Manager and Interim CEO, Experience Turks and Caicos met with vendors to discuss "The Way Forward" for the weekly, Thursday, Fish Fry.

Together with Island Fish Fry vendors, the Ministry of Tourism and Experience TCI aims to provide every visitor to the Turks and Caicos Islands with an authentic sample of island life.

THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION LAUNCHES COMPREHENSIVE SUPPORT PROGRAMMES FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

Bright Minds, Bright Futures: Developing our Human Capital; Transforming Education Together.

The Ministry of Education is excited to announce the launch of two groundbreaking initiatives to enhance the educational landscape in the upcoming school year. These initiatives, namely the Early Start Daycare Assistance Programme and Social Enrichment Academic Afterschool Programme, are designed to provide comprehensive support to students, parents, and educators, ensuring that every child can excel in their educational journey.

1. Early Start Daycare Assistance Programme: Nurturing Early Learners

Recognising the importance of early childhood education, the Ministry of Education is proud to introduce subsidised daycare assistance to parents with Belonger Status. This initiative offers a strong foundation for young learners by providing access to high-quality daycare services, ensuring their cognitive, social, and emotional development. Through a network of accredited daycare providers, this program will relieve the

financial burden on parents, enabling them to work and pursue personal growth while ensuring their children receive the best care and education.

2. Social Enrichment Academic Afterschool Programme: Extending Learning Beyond the Classroom

Understanding the demands of modern lifestyles, the Ministry of Education is launching the free Afterschool Programme to cater to the needs of working parents and guardians. This initiative aims to provide students with a safe and productive environment after regular school hours. With supervised activities, homework assistance, and enrichment programmes, students can continue their learning journey and engage in constructive activities, fostering holistic development.

These initiatives reflect our unwavering dedication to the advancement of education for all. The Ministry of Education is firmly committed to creating an educational environment that is accessible, inclusive, and supportive, fostering a generation of well-rounded individuals pre-

pared for success in an ever-evolving world.

The Ministry of Education encourages parents, guardians, educators, and communities to take full advantage of these programmes and actively participate in shaping the future of education in our nation.

The Minister of Education, Hon. Rachel Taylor, commented, "The implementation of these social support programmes is a testament to this government's commitment to providing the needed social support to improve the lives and livelihoods of so many families across the Turks & Caicos. I encourage and welcome all our stakeholders and the people of this blessed and beautiful country to join us as we embark upon this exciting journey toward educational excellence! Together, we can and will shape a brighter future for our children and build the country's human capital."

For further information, programme details, and enrollment procedures, please visit the official Ministry of Education website <https://gov.tc/education/> or contact us at 649-338-4804/649-338-3809.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

This week on Lifeline Featured Church we showcase House of Prayer Ministries, located at 180 Long Bay Road, Providenciales. House of Prayer Ministries is pastored by Senior Pastor, Bishop Edwin Lightbourne and Prophetess Rev. Sandra Lightbourne.

Sunday School begins at 10:20am; Sunday Worship Service begins at 11am; Wednesday at 7pm is Mid-week Service; Friday 6:30pm is the Bi-weekly Youth Meeting, and on Saturday at 6:30am is prayer meeting.

If you desire more information how to share in the worship experience, contact 649-231-4132 pr 649-941-8309. You can also follow House of Prayer Ministries on Facebook: @ House of Prayer Ministries Inc or @ Bishop James Lightbourne Jr.



HOUSE OF PRAYER MINISTRIES

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 Prophecy,
Lower Bight, Providenciales
Tel: 941-8854

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

Calvary Baptist Church,
South Caicos
Tel:946-3212

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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@newslinehci.com

Was Kim Wearing Marilyn's Dress Wrong? 🎄 | Style

Was it her fault?



The 2022 Met Gala, themed 'The Gilded Age' was one to remember—not by any notable breath-taking fashion moments, but by some questionable fashion choices.

One of those questionable fashion choices was Kim Kardashian wearing Marilyn Monroe's iconic 'Happy Birthday, Mr. President' dress. Aside from the general controversy of Kim saying how much she restricted her diet to fit into the dress in three weeks, the overarching issue is *why* she was able to wear the dress in the first place.

The dress, being the most expensive dress ever purchased at a whopping \$5million, is homed at Ripley's 'Museum'.

I must admit that when I first realised that she wore the red carpet and the controversy related, I didn't thought it was general Kardashian hate. Now, I think I

chased at a whopping

Marilyn's dress on n't get it—I just get it.

Marilyn was the only person to wear this dress only wore it once. Not another soul has worn wearing of a dress imparts one's essence onto strange as it may sound, that dress was a part of Marilyn's being. It contained particles of her skin her body oils, it no longer was just a dress it was a representation of the person who wore it, it was an intimate representation of Marilyn. By wearing this dress, Kim forced her essence on top of Marilyn's.

and she it. The it. As of Mar- and

It's not all her fault.

This is the most expensive dress of all time, is in an archived collection (goes against museum ethics). This is a one of its kind dress and while others wore dresses from the past but they lacked the social historical significance of this dress. Kim was essentially a model for this dress who is likely educated to its fragility and the entire significance of the dress. This is not to say that Kim is irresponsible because after all, she is an adult with the capability of researching for herself. Ripley not have put such a significantly fragile piece of history in the position to be damaged.

Clothing is hard to maintain, due to the nature of the product it is in an ever-diminishing cycle from the moment it is created and every act from that moment onwards worsens the state of an article of clothing. Everything from wearing, storing, folding, and moving actively destroys an item. By wearing that dress even for such a short period of time Kim partook in the destruction of a garment of heightened cultural significance. This action could lead to a negative precedent being set in which uneducated people will demand the usage of other garments of historical significance.



and uneducated of all Ripley's should

from the moment clothing to the item of clothing dress with more rich and

Go

LORMEKA WILLIAMS APPOINTED AS DEPUTY PERMANENT SECRETARY



The Office of Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Lormeka Williams to the post of Deputy Permanent Secretary within the Office of the Premier and Public Policy effective 7 August 2023.

Mrs Williams holds a Bachelor's Degree in Secondary Education with a concentration in Biology and General Studies from the College of the Bahamas (now University of the Bahamas) and began her career with the Turks and Caicos Islands Government (TCIG) in 2007 as a science teacher at Clement Howell High School. Mrs Williams used this avenue to display and pass on her passion for the wildlife and natural environment in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Using a variety of hands-on learning methods, her passion inspired students in the field of environmental studies, and this led to the development of a school-based Environmental Club and a special project with the Turks and Caicos Islands National Trust to create a plant nursery at the school.

In 2010, Mrs Williams joined the Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) as National Environmental Centre Curator. In this role, she was instrumental in revitalizing the Junior Park Warden Programme and new activities to help participating youth better ap-

preciate the Turks and Caicos Islands' natural environment. She also worked closely with international organizations such as Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Darwin Project and the United Kingdom Overseas Territories Conservation Forum on various conservation projects and initiatives.

Mrs Williams shares a love and passion for helping those most vulnerable in our communities. This love and passion led to a brief departure from public service in 2012 to take on a leadership role with the Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross as its Director. She assisted in the implementation of the Disaster Risk Reduction Programme, was influential in the formation of the youth arm, and led various groups of young persons on both local and regional youth camps and skill-building excursions to introduce young Turks and Caicos Islanders to new cultures and build core leadership values.

In 2016 Mrs Williams was awarded the prestigious Chevening Scholarship and attained a Master of Science Degree in Conservation Biology at the University of Kent in Canterbury, United Kingdom. Upon completion and return in 2017, Mrs Williams re-joined TCIG as the Deputy Director of DECR and was later promoted to Director in 2019. Throughout her tenure with DECR, she spearheaded numerous efforts,

including developing and implementing several successful internationally funded projects (including the Blue Belt Programme), revising the National Parks Ordinance, and implementing the new Beach and Coastal Vending Ordinance. Mrs Williams, in commenting on her appointment, stated:

"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" Matthew 6:33. I firmly believe I can do everything through Christ who strengthens me. I am humbled and thankful for this opportunity to serve my country in this new capacity. "I want to thank my husband, family, and friends for their unwavering support throughout my career. I also want to thank the Governor and Deputy Governor for their faith in my ability. I promise to contribute as best as I can to enhance our country's public services.

"My career, achievements and success are nothing short of a prayer and a seed of faith. When I returned home as a teacher in 2007, all I wanted to do was teach, but as I taught, I realized how much more I could do to help protect and preserve our beautiful, by nature, Turks and Caicos Islands. I took a leap of faith, and after a few positions, a private sector opportunity, and a Chevening Scholarship, I now sit at the executive level of public service.

"I'm just a little girl from Five Cays by way of Bottle Creek, North Caicos, who had a dream, and now, my goal, fueled by faith, is alive and well. I encourage all to do the same for themselves and know that nothing is impossible once God is at the helm."

Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service, Her Excellency Anya Williams, in extending congratulatory remarks to Mrs Williams, stated: "It is with great pleasure that I officially announce and congratulate Mrs Lormeka Williams on her appointment to the post of Deputy Permanent Secretary within the Office of the Premier and Public Policy.

"Mrs Williams, a former Chevening Scholar with over 15 years of dedicated service to the Turks and Caicos Islands Government in the area of the environment, has proven herself to be a dedicated, consummate professional who I am confident will be an asset to the Office of the Premier and Public Policy and will do exceptionally well in this new executive role.

"Mrs Williams' appointment, like the recent senior-level appointments, are continued proof of the diverse talent within the Turks and Caicos Islands Government.

"Mrs Williams' functions will include assisting the Premier with critical initiatives, including the ongoing work of the National Delivery Unit, developing key strategies across government, and establishing a fully functional communications framework.

"We have complete faith in the ability of Mrs Williams, and my office stands ready to assist her in any way needed for her success."

Informal Settlement Unit Launches

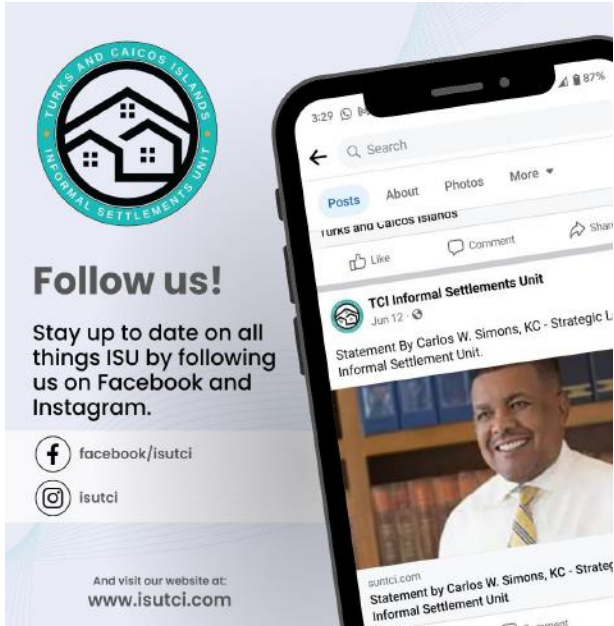
New Online Platforms



Governor Her Excellency
Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam



Premier Hon. Dr. Washington Misick



Head of the Informal Settlement Unit
Hon. Carlos Simons

The Informal Settlements Unit (ISU) has been officially launched in the Turks and Caicos Islands with a new website and social media pages that will be a central hub where the public can access informal settlement-related information, news, and resources. Led by Justice Carlos Simons, the ISU is a Turks and Caicos Islands government agency responsible for mitigating the proliferation of informal settlement activity in the Islands. Justice Simons explained, “The principal aim of the ISU is to build safer, more sustainable communities in the Turks and Caicos Islands and to improve the standard of living and quality of life of the affected occupants by undertaking this work. We are charged with the work of stopping this illegal practice and regularizing the long-established informal settlements to bring them into line with planning and other applicable laws.” He continued, “Our organization has identified a critical need for a central information portal to provide relevant information through an effective dissemination channel such as a website and social media pages for people to access.” The new platforms will provide an experience that aligns with modern practices, one that

features user-friendly applications, effective navigation, and easily recognizable links to help individuals access information and provide feedback. The sites will further provide relevant, timely posts with updates and real-time announcements related to the mission of the ISU. According to Justice Simons, this site will be a one-stop shop with a strong online presence,

thus providing a valuable tool to connect with residents while keeping all informed of the organization’s progress. It will also be a place for residents to go for unbiased, fact-based information and guidance for all issues relating to informal settlements. Whether it’s providing more information about the challenges the organization is experiencing or accessing legislation that speaks to informal settlements, crown land policies, or private landowners rights, it will all be available on the site.



Visit our new website



www.isutci.com

And be sure to follow us on social media



LATANYA LEWIS APPOINTED AS MIGRANT HEALTH MANAGER



Latanya Lewis

The Office of Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms. Latanya Lewis to the post of Migrant Health Manager within the Ministry of Health and Human Services.

Ms. Lewis holds a Bachelor of Business Management with a concentration in Human Resource Management from Edinburgh Napier University and an Associate Degree in Business Studies from the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College. Ms. Lewis also achieved a certificate in Administration Management from DODS Training and is currently pursuing a Master's in International Relations.

Ms. Lewis began her career with the Turks and Caicos Islands Public Service at Enid Capron Primary School in 2010 as an Early Childhood

educator. She devoted over seven years to the teaching profession and the youths of the Turks and Caicos Islands before departing to further her studies in the United Kingdom.

Upon completion of her studies, Ms. Lewis returned to the public service as an Administrative Officer with the Health Professions Authority where she played a significant role in the establishment and launching of that government body. She later transferred to the Migrant Health Department in the same capacity and recently acted as Migrant Health Manager until the confirmation of her appointment.

Ms. Lewis, in commenting on her appointment, stated:

"Over the years, I have gained tremendous skills and knowledge, but a few qualities remain constant; Empathy, which allows me to treat others with compassion; Integrity, which I confidently demonstrate in my personal and professional life; and Patriotism, which indefinitely places the interests of my country ahead of my own." My role as Migrant Health Manager and a civil servant is not taken lightly. I take great pride in serving the residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands and I will continue to do so through effective collaboration, leadership, and professionalism.

Thank you to my family, friends, colleagues, and clients for your unwavering support, and special

thanks to Her Excellency Anya Williams and the Turks and Caicos Government for the numerous opportunities afforded to me and my fellow man. I would like to encourage others to seize the opportunity, don't be afraid of changing the trajectory of your career and life."

Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service, Her Excellency Anya Williams, in extending congratulatory remarks to Ms. Lewis, stated:

"It is a pleasure to officially announce and to congratulate Ms. Latanya Lewis on her appointment to the post of Migrant Health Manager in the Ministry of Health and Human Services.

The Migrant Health Unit plays an important role in the vetting and approval process for migrant labor and work permit processing the Turks and Caicos Islands.

This unit has recently undergone a review which involved a change in staffing, the implementation of a new IT system and a streamlining of policies and procedures aimed at improving service delivery while at the same time continuing to ensure the delivery of its key objectives.

Ms. Lewis a former employee of the Migrant Health Unit, has demonstrated key skills that are an asset to the department.

We wish her well on her appointment as she as the new Migrant Health Manager where she will work to improve the overall service delivery of the MHU.

YELENA ROBERTS-PENN APPOINTED AS SENIOR FINANCE OFFICER



Yelena Roberts-Penn

The Office of the Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands is pleased to announce the appointment of Mrs Yelena Roberts-Penn to the post of Senior Finance Officer in the Financial Services and Supplies Management Department (commonly referred to as the Treasury)

within the Ministry of Finance, Investment, and Trade.

Mrs Roberts-Penn holds a Bachelor of Science in Business and Administration Management Technology from the New England Institute of Technology in Warwick, Rhode Island and a Human Resource Management and Development Diploma from the University of Manchester.

Mrs Roberts-Penn joined the public service in 2016 as an Administrative Officer in the Revenue Control Unit (formerly Inland Revenue Department) and was later promoted to the role of Tax Officer, a capacity she served until this most recent promotion. Before joining the service, Mrs Roberts-Penn worked as a Financial Administrator with TCI Red Cross, in clerical services at Scotiabank; and Guest relations at the Alexandra Resort.

In commenting on her appointment, Mrs Roberts-Penn stated: "Any time I have felt like giving in and throwing in the towel, I remember Philippians 4:13 NKJV – I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

Bishop Coleta Williams III has always said, "You don't only keep your eyes on what you are going through but, rather, keep your eyes on where you are going to".

I am incredibly humbled and appreciative of this opportunity. With opportunity comes significant responsibilities, and I am truly ready to take on this new challenge. I look forward to working with the team at FSSM and contributing all I can to serve the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Thank you to Mrs Hilda Caley for keeping me grounded and providing guidance and support. I will miss the team at IRD."

Her Excellency Anya Williams, Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service, congratulated Mrs Roberts-Penn and stated the following:

"I am pleased to officially announce and congratulate Mrs Yelena Roberts-Penn on her appointment as Senior Finance Officer in the Financial Services and Supplies Management Department (commonly referred to as the Treasury) within the Ministry of Finance, Investment, and Trade.

In her new role as Senior Finance Officer, Mrs Roberts Penn has been assigned to oversee and manage the sub-Treasury in Providenciales.

Mrs Roberts-Penn brings a wealth of experience from her previous role in the Revenue Control Unit. This will be an asset to her new task as she works to improve customer service and delivery in the Providenciales sub-Treasury."

NEWSLINE & Chill

Church Word Scramble

- OATRPS
- LIBEB
- EAODCN
- ICRVESE
- OSRSC
- CCFURIXI
- YHLO
- PTSMBIA
- CRNISTAIYHTI
- TOINAN

1. Pastor 2. Bible 3. Deacon 4. Service 5. Cross 6. Crucifix 7. Holy 8. Baptism 9. Christianity 10. Anoint

Brain Teaser

I have four wings, but cannot fly, I never laugh and never cry; On the same spot I'm always found, toiling away with little sound. What am I?

Except After C

- Across
1. Potter props
6. With 3 down, monster's mere
10. Speck
14. Ilak islander
15. Tiny battery type
16. Resistance units
17. Low budget high-rises?
20. "For Your Eyes Only" vocalist Sheena
21. Dermal hue
22. Exile isle
24. Teacher's org.
25. Golf clubs with military applications?
33. Loam breaker
34. _____ vous
35. Beat poet Jones
36. Supine pines?
38. San _____
40. Rackets
41. Type type
43. Ginger cookies
45. Brass class? (abbr.)
46. Lawyer with a long view?
49. Arafat's org.
50. Stuttgart singular
51. Lurched
56. Even (with)
60. A personal demon?
62. Property of "width" but not "area" or "volume"
63. Give _____ to
64. Lugged
65. A community might hold them, abbr.
66. Kitchen amts.

67. Yore blades

Down

1. Roe's rival
2. Others, to Octavius
3. See 6 across
4. Irrigated, perhaps
5. Rat
6. Home computer hookup
7. Bran bits
8. Vin vessel
9. Feeling enmity
10. Bonded bricks
11. River past Cincinnati
12. They chase counterfeiters
13. Latin being?

18. Reverse Geller's handiwork?

19. Buck on the diamond
23. Word with con or conceptual
25. Lug
26. Alley Oop's girl
27. Not phoney
28. Polish humanitarian Sendler
29. Undo
30. Heavenly hunter
31. Current moment
32. Bully's target, perhaps
37. Monthly allowances, perhaps
39. Choice

42. Sniggled

44. Spenserian stanzas
47. Milk carton label
48. Rhyme's counterpart
51. MBA holders, often
52. Isn't wrong?
53. Bassoon, e.g.
54. Vast amounts of time
55. Tiny amount
57. Folkie Seeger
58. Sheltered
59. Agrarian addresses
61. Dangerous amts.

Robert Stockton (© 2007)

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JOKE of the WEEK

Q: Why do ducks have feathers?

A: To cover their butt quacks!

SUDOKU

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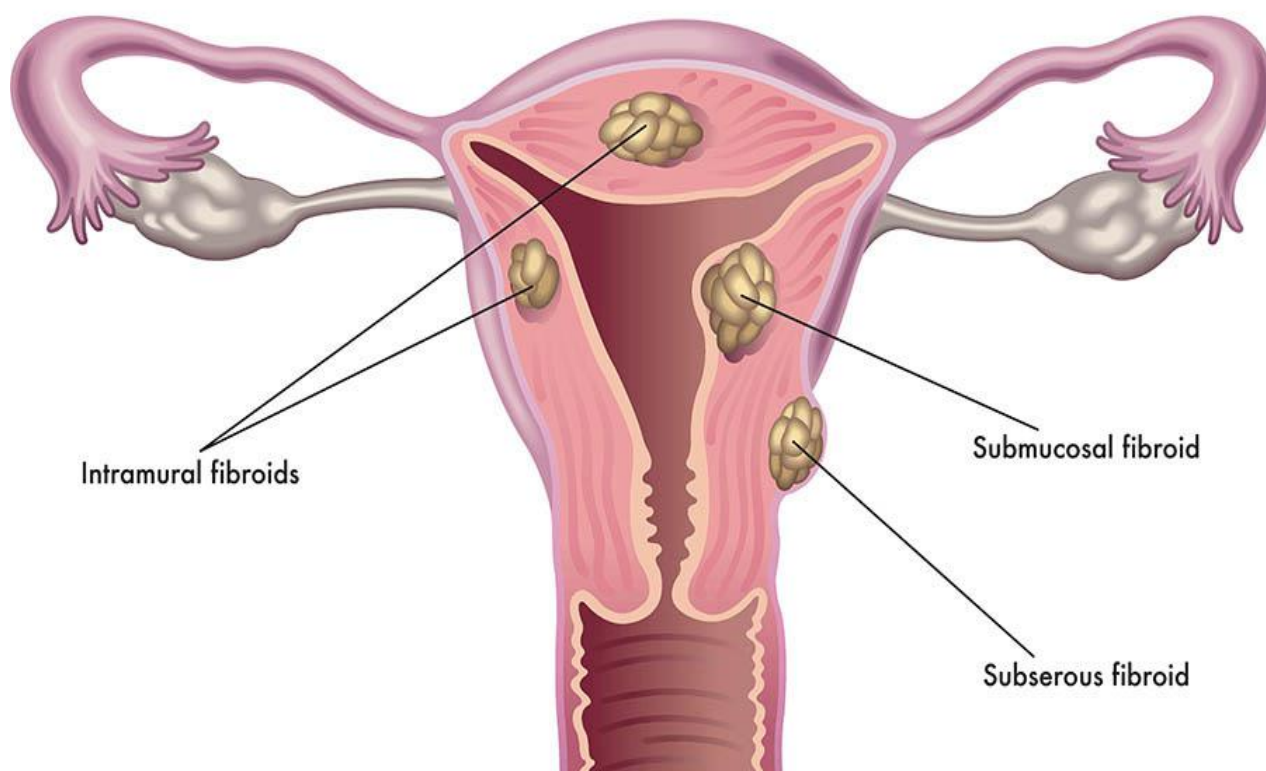
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- Barracuda
- Sargent Major
- Eagle Ray
- Blue Tang
- Snapper
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- Green Turtle
- Conch
- Octopus
- Pufferfish
- Flounder
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Advances in uterine fibroid treatment

Uterine Fibroids



UTERINE FIBROIDS are noncancerous tumours that grow in the uterus. They are really common in women who have a menstrual cycle, especially black women. Fibroids do not always cause problems, but they can trigger symptoms like pelvic pain and heavy bleeding.

If your fibroids do not affect the inside of your uterus, the doctor might want you to try a progestin-releasing intrauterine device (IUD). That is a type of birth control that lasts for up to five years. Progestin-only IUDs do not help you feel better by getting rid of fibroids. Instead, they may lighten or stop your period. This might ease symptoms caused by fibroids, including pain and heavy bleeding.

SHORT-TERM TREATMENT

These drugs block the hormone that triggers your menstrual cycle. As a result, your period stops and fibroids shrink. This is a short-term treatment, six months or less, sometimes used before surgery because smaller fibroids are easier to remove. GnRH agonists also block sex hormones like estrogen that can cause unwanted side effects. You may get menopause-like symptoms like bone loss, vaginal dryness, and hot flashes. These drugs do not shrink fibroids, but they may treat abnormal bleeding for up to two years. You may need to take other lab-made hormones at the same time to lessen side effects like hot flashes and bone loss. This is called add-back therapy. Scientists continue to study other ways to manage fibroid symptoms, such as selective progesterone receptor modulators. These drugs may ease heavy bleeding as well as other symptoms. Radiofrequency ablation (RFA) uses small needles to heat and destroy fibroids and

their blood vessels. The tissue may continue to die for up to a year after surgery. RFA is commonly done one of two ways. You may get a laparoscopy, that is when your doctor makes two small cuts in your belly and uses a special camera to find the fibroids. Another way is to go through your vagina and cervix. RFA is generally considered safe.

ENDOMETRIAL ABLATION TREATMENT

Endometrial ablation treatment might be used to control heavy bleeding when medication is not enough. The doctor won't make any cuts in your belly. Instead, they will get to your uterus through your vagina. The procedure thins the lining of your uterus with things like electricity, heat, or cold. You will go home the same day and should recover within a day or two. You may not be able to get pregnant or safely carry a baby after endometrial ablation.

Laparoscopic, or robotic myomectomy, removes fibroids but leaves your uterus. If you do not have very many, your doctor may only need to make small cuts in your belly (laparoscopy). Then they will use a special camera (laparoscope) to see inside your body. Once they find the fibroids, they will use small tools to cut them out. A robotic myomectomy is a type of laparoscopy, but your surgeon uses a special machine to get a zoomed-in view of your uterus.

Hysteroscopic myomectomy is another way to treat fibroids without making cuts in your belly. Your doctor can put a thin, hollow tube (hysteroscope) through your vagina into your uterus. Other tools slide through this tube. One is called a resectoscope and it can destroy fibroids by blasting them with laser beams. A hysteroscopy can shrink fibroids inside your uterus, but it cannot treat

the ones deep in the uterine walls.

Abdominal myomectomy lets you keep your uterus, but your doctor will need to remove fibroids through a big cut in your belly. This kind of surgery is more likely if your fibroids are really big, hard to get to, or you have lots of them. Go over the pros and cons of an abdominal myomectomy with your doctor. It may cause scarring that will hurt your chances of getting pregnant later.

THE BEST CHOICE

Most people with fibroids do not need to remove their uterus, but a hysterectomy is sometimes the best choice if you have large fibroids or serious bleeding that is hard to control with other treatments. This procedure is the only sure way to get rid of fibroids for good. While you will not be able to get pregnant afterwards, you may be able to keep your ovaries. Ask your doctor what is right for you.

Tell your doctor if you have heavy menstrual bleeding or vaginal bleeding outside of your period. Also, tell them if you have pelvic pain that does not go away, swelling or a feeling of fullness in your lower belly, the urge to pee a lot, or trouble pooping. Fibroids are usually harmless, but they can affect your health and quality of life. Your doctor can help you figure out what kind of treatment, if any, is best for you.

Scientists do not know how to stop fibroids from forming. However, there is ongoing research in this area. But certain healthy lifestyle choices may lower your odds of getting them. That includes eating less red meat and more fruits and vegetables. Ask your doctor to check how much vitamin D you have in your blood. People who do not have enough of this key nutrient seem to have a greater chance of fibroids.

SOURCE: **WebMd, Harvard Medical Review, World Health Organization**

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US COVID-19 hospitalizations on the rise again



A sign announcing a face mask requirement is displayed at a hospital in Buffalo Grove, Ill., Friday, Jan. 13, 2023. COVID-19 hospital admissions are inching upward in the United States since early July 2023. It's a small-scale echo of the three previous summers

Here we go again: COVID-19 hospital admissions have inched upward in the United States since early July in a small-scale echo of the three previous summers.

With an updated vaccine still months away, this summer bump in new hospitalizations might be concerning, but the number of patients is far lower than before. A look at what we know:

HOW BAD IS THE SPIKE?

For the week ending July 29, COVID-19 hospital admissions were at 9,056. That's an increase of about 12% from the previous week.

But it's a far cry from past peaks, like the 44,000 weekly hospital admissions in early January, the nearly 45,000 in late July 2022, or the 150,000 admissions during the omicron surge of January 2022.

"It is ticking up a little bit, but it's not something that we need to raise any alarm bells over," said Dr. David Dowdy, an infectious disease epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins

Bloomberg School of Public Health.

It's likely that infections are rising too, but the data is scant. Federal authorities ended the public health emergency in May, so the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and many states no longer track the number of positive test results.

WHAT ABOUT DEATHS?

Since early June, about 500 to 600 people have died each week. The number of deaths appears to be stable this summer, although past increases in deaths have lagged behind hospitalizations.

HOW ARE WE TRACKING THE VIRUS?

The amount of the COVID-19 virus in sewage water has been rising since late June across the nation. In the coming weeks, health officials say they'll keep a close eye on wastewater levels as people return from summer travel and students go back to school.

Higher levels of COVID-19 in wastewater concentrations

are being found in the Northeast and South, said Cristin Young, an epidemiologist at Biobot Analytics, the CDC's wastewater surveillance contractor.

"It's important to remember right now the concentrations are still fairly low," Young said, adding it's about 2.5 times lower than last summer.

And while one version of omicron — EG.5 — is appearing more frequently, no particular variant of the virus is dominant. The variant has been dubbed "eris" but it's an unofficial nickname and scientists aren't using it.

"There are a couple that we're watching, but we're not seeing anything like delta or omicron," Young said, referencing variants that fueled previous surges.

And mutations in the virus don't necessarily make it more dangerous.

"Just because we have a new subvariant doesn't mean that we are destined to have an increase in bad outcomes," Dowdy said.

WHEN IS THE NEW VACCINE COMING?

This fall, officials expect to see updated COVID-19 vaccines that contain one version of the omicron strain, called XBB.1.5. It's an important change from today's combination shots, which mix the original coronavirus strain with last year's most common omicron variants.

It's not clear exactly when people can start rolling up their sleeves for what officials hope is an annual fall COVID-19 shot. Pfizer, Moderna and smaller manufacturer Novavax all are brewing doses of the XBB update but the Food and Drug Administration will have to sign off on each, and the CDC must then issue recommendations for their use.

Dr. Mandy Cohen, the new CDC director, said she expects people will get their COVID-19 shots where they get their flu shots — at pharmacies and at work — rather than at dedicated locations that were set up early in the pandemic as part of the emergency response.

"This is going to be our first fall and winter season coming out of the public health emergency, and I think we are all recognizing that we are living with COVID, flu, and RSV," Cohen told The Associated Press last week. "But the good news is we have more tools than ever before."

China's July exports tumble by double digits, adding to pressure to shore up flagging economy

BEIJING (AP) — China's exports plunged by 14.5% in July compared with a year earlier, adding to pressure on the ruling Communist Party to reverse an economic slump.

Imports tumbled 12.4%, customs data showed Tuesday, in a blow to global exporters that look to China as one of the biggest markets for industrial materials, food and consumer goods.

Exports fell to \$281.8 billion as the decline accelerated from June's 12.4% fall. Imports sank to \$201.2 billion, widening from the previous month's 6.8% contraction.

The country's global trade surplus narrowed by 20.4% from a record high a year ago to \$80.6 billion.

Chinese leaders are trying to shore up business and consumer activity after a rebound following the end of virus controls in December fizzled out earlier than expected.

Economic growth sank to 0.8% in the three months ending in June compared with the previous quarter, down from the January-March period's 2.2%. That is the equivalent of 3.2% annual growth, which would be among China's weakest in three decades.

Demand for Chinese exports cooled after the Fed-

eral Reserve and central banks in Europe and Asia started raising interest rates last year to cool inflation that was at multi-decade highs.

The export contraction was the biggest since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, according to Capital Economics. It said the decline was due mostly to lower prices, while volumes of goods were above pre-pandemic levels.

"We expect exports to decline further over the coming months before bottoming out toward the end of the year," said Capital Economics in a report. "The near-term outlook for consumer spending in developed economies remains challenging."

The ruling party has promised measures to support entrepreneurs and to encourage home purchases and consumer spending but hasn't announced large-scale stimulus spending or tax cuts. Forecasters expect those steps to revive demand for imports but say that will be gradual.

"Domestic demand continues to deteriorate," said David Chao of Invesco in a report. "Policymakers have pledged further policy support, which could buoy household spending and lead to an improvement in import growth for the coming few months."

Exports to the United States fell 23% from a year

earlier to \$42.3 billion while imports of American goods retreated 11.1% to \$12 billion. China's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States narrowed by 27% to a still-robust \$30.3 billion.

China's imports from Russia, mostly oil and gas, narrowed by just under 0.1% from a year ago to \$9.2 billion. Chinese purchases of Russian energy have swelled, helping to offset revenue lost to Western sanctions imposed to punish the Kremlin for its invasion of Ukraine.

China, which is friendly with Moscow but says it is neutral in the war, can buy Russian oil and gas without triggering Western sanctions. The United States and French officials cite evidence China is delivering goods with possible military uses to Russia but haven't said whether that might trigger penalties against Chinese companies.

Exports to the 27-nation European Union slumped 39.5% from a year earlier to \$42.4 billion while imports of European goods were off 44.1% at \$23.3 billion. China's trade surplus with the EU contracted by 32.7% to \$19.1 billion.

For the first seven months of the year, Chinese exports were off 5% from the same period in 2022 at just over \$1.9 trillion. Imports were down 7.6% at \$1.4 trillion.

Jamaica Eliminate Brazil at Women's World Cup, Advances To Round Of 16



Jamaica advanced to the knockout round for the first time following a 0-0 draw Wednesday that ended Brazil's run in the group stage for the first time since 1995 at the Women's World Cup. The scoreless game in Melbourne also ended Brazilian great Marta's World Cup career. She holds the all-time scoring record with 17 goals at the World Cup but couldn't add to her tally in her sixth trip to the global tournament. After conceding 12 goals in its Women's World Cup debut in 1999, Jamaica shut out France, Panama and Brazil in consecutive games to finish second in Group F behind the French. In addition to being ranked well below both Bra-

zil and France, Jamaica progressed despite the financial struggles it faced before the tournament. These difficulties resulted in Jamaica receiving support from fans through crowdfunding due to inadequate support from its federation. Nearly \$100,000 was raised for the team through two fundraisers. After opening the tournament with a 4-0 victory over Panama, Brazil failed to get the victory it needed to extend Marta's World Cup campaign. With Marta starting the match for the first time in the group stage, Brazil maintained possession for most of the first half but struggled to test

Jamaica goalkeeper Rebecca Spencer. The second half saw Brazil lift the tempo as the team chased the goal needed to advance. Brazil recorded six shots on target but struggled to threaten Jamaica's goal as Jamaica's organized defense stifled the team throughout the game. Marta was replaced after 80 minutes with the game still in the balance.

A free kick from Andressa and a header from Debinha in stoppage time represented Brazil's closest chance of scoring the winning goal. It was close, but close enough. With the draw, the Reggae Girlz advance to the Round of 16 in their second Women's World Cup. The team made its debut in 2019 but lost all three group-stage matches, including a 3-0 loss to Brazil. This time, Jamaica finishes unbeaten in Group F. Brazil's loss means it is eliminated from the Women's World Cup in the group stage for the first time since 1995. With the exit from the tournament, Marta has played her final World Cup match after announcing her plan to retire prior to the tournament. She bids farewell to the game's biggest stage as the World Cup's all-time leading scorer with 17 goals. "It's the best feeling I've ever had in my life. To be able to do this is unbelievable to just watch it, while I'm alive. I thank the girls for doing this for the country. The country should be proud." — Lorne Donaldson, Jamaica coach. "For me, that is the end, but it's just the beginning for the others." — Marta, Brazil's veteran forward. Jamaica advances to play the winner of Group H next week in Adelaide, South Australia. Brazil's tournament comes to a disappointing end.

Good riddance to eight-lane tracks



THE EIGHT-LANE running track is on its way out. That's the consequence of a new ruling by World Athletics. That ruling ensures that for races run in lanes, there will be nine semi-finalists and finalists. The decision by World Athletics evens out the route to the final.

For decades, the athlete could advance by winning or placing second in their heat or semi or by being one of the 'fastest losers'. This applies to races longer than 800 metres, too, but those events already

advance 12 runners or more to their finals. On the whole, the new provision is great. Fluctuating wind often makes a mockery of qualifying in sprint events. For example, at the recent National Senior and Junior Athletics Championships (Trials), three of the five qualifying heats in the 100-metre men's preliminaries faced headwinds of -4.1 metres per second or more. Five of the seven places in the next round went to men who raced in the other two prelims where the wind was far less severe at 0.7 and -1.9, respectively. In the women's 100 metres semi-finals, the first section faced a -3.9-metre-per-second headwind. Remona Burchell, the 2018 World Indoor 60 metres finalist and 2022 World Under-20 100 metres runner-up Serena Cole both clocked 11.44 seconds to take fourth and fifth place, respectively. In still air, they would have got times of 11.09 seconds each. There's no consolation for Burchell and Cole. The 'fast losers' came from the second semi at 11.32 and 11.39, where the wind was far more gentle at -0.9. The new rule dumps all that in history's garbage bin. Instead of first and second place in each of the three semi-finals moving into the final, with two more ad-

vancing on the strength of their times, the top three will advance, regardless of their times and the prevailing wind. We will see the new system in action in Budapest, where the World Championships will be contested on, you guessed it, a nine-lane track. It's an act of simplicity ... unless you've laid a new eight-lane track at the National Stadium as recently as 2021, as Jamaica did. It's a teachable moment for countries who plan to stage major World Athletics events. Simply put, one of the new requirements is a nine-lane track. We're lucky. Our venerable National Stadium has an old velodrome that could be removed to make space for that ninth lane. I don't know if that would affect events like the Grand Gala but the extra lane would definitely fit. We've had to wait an age for the Stadium to be brought in line with the dictates of modern sport. Now we have to tinker with the design to accommodate 'the Budapest rule' that will put nine athletes in every semi-final and final that starts in lanes. Hubert Lawrence has been making notes at track side since 1980.

Athlete Development Fund Launched



Jarett Forbes, Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission



Minister of Education, Youth and Sports Hon. Rachel Taylor

In an effort to harness the vast athletic talent pool in the Turks and Caicos Islands and to prepare the country's athletes to give a better account of themselves in external competitions, the Washington Missick administration, through the Ministry of Sports, has launched the Athlete Development Fund (ADF).

The Athlete Development Fund was officially launched by Minister of Education, Youth and Sport Hon. Rachele Taylor, on Wednesday, August 9, at the Gustavus Lightbourne Complex in Providenciales.

According to Taylor, the ADF has been fashioned to augment the development of Turks and Caicos Islands athletes to their full potential. She said funding would be provided to eligible organisations for programming that supports long-term athlete development with a special emphasis on High performance development, adding that the ADF would also be used to strengthen the country's Athlete Assistance Programme.

The objectives of the ADF, according to the min-

ister, is to:

- increase opportunities to participate in quality sport activities for all Turks and Caicos Islands, including under-represented groups;
- increase the capacity of the Turks and Caicos Islands sport system to systematically achieve world-class results at the highest international competitions;
- contribute to the provision of technical sport leadership within the Turks and Caicos Islands sports system; and
- advance Turks and Caicos Islands' interests, values and ethics in sports at home and abroad.

The Athletes Development Fund is also designed to offer funding to support the delivery of sports programmes affiliated with the long-term athlete development, such as sports training camps, sports leagues and/ or tournaments, education of coaches and officials, rental/purchase of sport equipment and rental of sports facilities.

According to the Sports Commission, organizations that would be qualified are those registered with the Commission and are in good standing with the Turks and Caicos Island Government (TCIG), and whose function or mandate is sport development. Those organizations include sports clubs and sports associations.

Funding to support the delivery of high-performance programmes will also be available such as sports performance centre programming and services including sport science services, training which include travel, meals, accommodation, facility rental, and competition fees.

Athletes eligible to apply are those considered high-potential athletes who may enter the podium pathway, on the recommendation from that national sports governing body.

Athletes wishing to apply for this support should submit an application, which should include a cover letter accompanied by a recommendation letter from the relevant national sport governing body.

All applications should be addressed to the Athlete Development Fund, Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex, Down Town Providenciales. The Sports Commission said applications can be submitted in person or by email to info@tciathletedevelopmentfund.com.

In the meantime, the Sports Commission pointed out that the Athlete Development Fund Committee will determine and prioritize investment strategies for sports associations, clubs and athletes in an effort to enhance sport development within the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The government are also looking to Members of the public, including the business community to assist with strengthening the fund through their contributions. Those wishing to contribute are reminded to contact the Sports Commission at info.sportscommission@gov.tc.

TCIFA Looking for Volunteers For Upcoming International Games



The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association is seeking volunteers for a series of upcoming events.

According to the FA, volunteers are needed to fill the positions of Security Officers, VIP Attendants, Ticket Collectors, Media Officers, and Liaison Officers. The volunteers are needed in time for the Concacaf Nations League, and Road to Concacaf W World Cup. The events will run from Tuesday, September 13 to December 4.

The first Concacaf Nations League game, which features the TCI going up against

Dominica, will be played on Tuesday, September 12, then on Monday, September 25, will be the Road to Concacaf W World Cup featuring TCI battling Aruba.

The Concacaf Nations League will continue on Monday, October 16, with TCI going up against BVI. On October 26, TCI will host Belize in the Concacaf W World Cup, then on December 4, TCI will host Bonaire in the Concacaf W Gold CUP.

Those interested should contact the TCIFA at cewingtcifa@gmail.com or call 1-649-941-5532.

TCIFA TD, Talent Development Coach Attend Concacaf Youth Summit



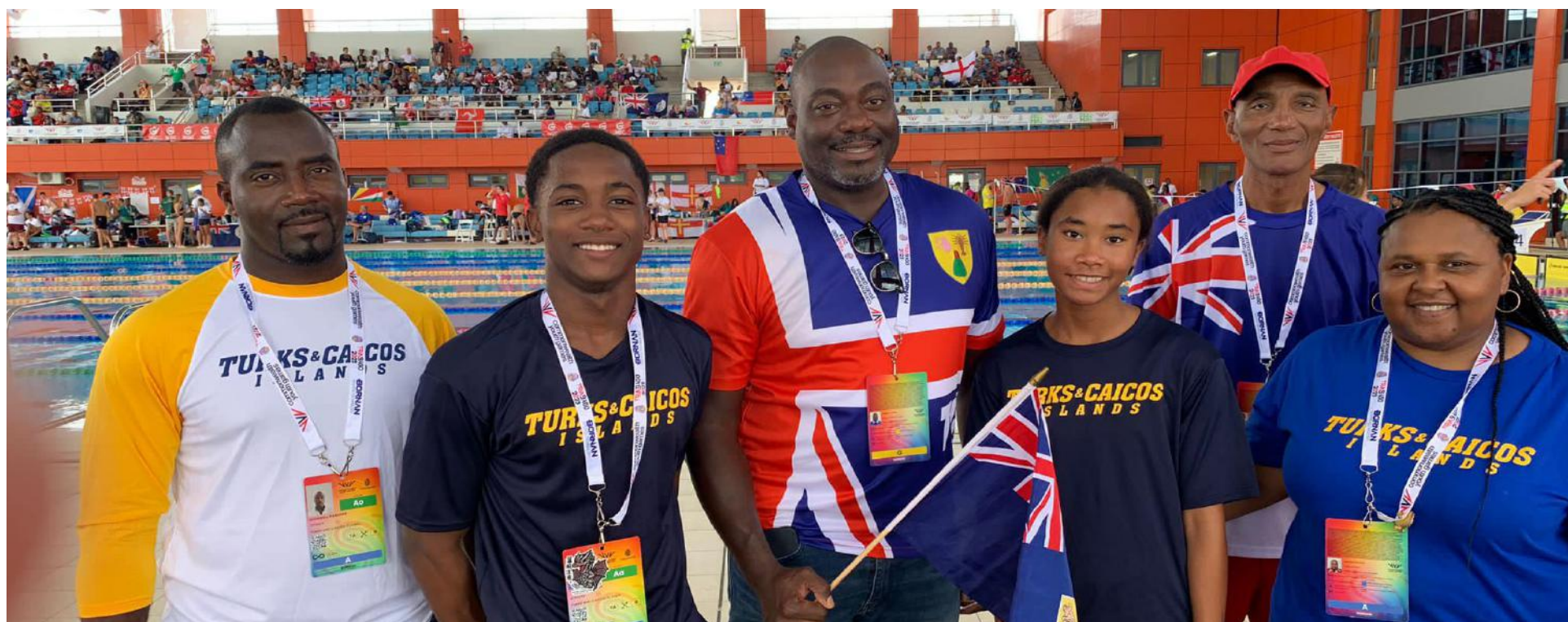
In Photo Dane Ritchie (right), technical Director for the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association and Damion Singh (right), Talent Development Coach pose for a photo with a Concacaf official.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association's (TCIFA) Technical Director Dane Ritchie and his Talent Development Coach, Damion Singh, on August 9, attended the 2023 Concacaf Youth Football Summit in the Dominican Republic.

In attendance, various Member Associations within the Concacaf region were presented with practices from Concacaf, other Member Associations and Professional Clubs with the aim of developing youth football. The presentation was lead by Andre Waugh, Concacaf Caribbean Development Manager and Victor Estrada, Senior Development Manager for Central America.

"The TCIFA is motivated by the growth of our Technical Centre, Knowledge and athletic progression of our athletes. This summit has of give us newer insights into tools we could possibly implement to increase the competitiveness of our member association by way of presenting information on Football Development and Technical Strategies. "We are excited to be apart of the initiative to learn and grow within our organization to increase our competitiveness," release from the TCIFA said.

TCI Swim Federation Takes Part In VII Commonwealth Youth Games



The Turks and Caicos Islands Swim Federation brought a small team of the country's budding athletes to the VII Commonwealth Youth Games being staged in Trinidad and Tobago from August to 11. In photo, two of the athletes and their coaches engage in a photo op before competition.



GREAT FUTURE FOR ATHLETES

TCIF Launches Athletes Development Fund