

**RITCHIE ATTENDS
GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL
COMMITTEE MEETING IN
DOHA**



NEWSLINE

Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



**Frontier Airlines Begins
Flights Between Provo,
Atlanta
PG8**



**Antwon Walkin
Makes History at
UK Diplomatic
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BEWARE OF 'INVEST TCI' FRAUDSTERS

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FROM THE NORTHPOLE

**Santa Brings Joy
to Hundreds on Grace Bay
Beach on Christmas Day**



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HER EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR 2025 CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

As we gather once again to celebrate Christmas, it is a time to reflect on the heart of what this season truly represents. Christmas is a time of light, even when the world feels uncertain. It is a season that calls us to pause, reflect and reconnect with the values that bind us as a community: compassion, family and care for our neighbours. This year has tested us in many ways. Our communities faced periods of heightened security challenge and loss, impacting communities across our Islands. Yet, through purposeful action and collective resolve, we have seen those numbers fall. This progress belongs to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment, Border Force, partner security agencies, and every resident who chose to stand for peace, responsibility and community safety. It reminds us that when we act together the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) spirit prevails. Throughout the year, our wider national security efforts focused not only on law enforcement but on strengthening border protection, intelligence sharing, regional co-operation and preparedness across all our security institutions. We also watched as global shocks threatened travel and confidence. But once again the resilience of our people shone through. Our hospitality workers, public officers and private-sector partners worked tirelessly to protect the reputation of these Islands we all cherish. Beyond our shores, we watched with heavy hearts as Hurricane Melissa devastated our neighbours in Jamaica. Although the storm did not strike our Islands directly, the emotional impact was felt deeply. Many of our own families, friends and colleagues were affected, and we were reminded how suddenly life can change. In moments like these we learn again what it means to be a Caribbean family, standing with one another, offering support, compassion and understanding. Our region is strongest when we lift each other up.

And so, as we celebrate Christmas, I return to the story of the nativity. Mary and Joseph travelled under difficult circumstances. They sought safety and shelter, and, in their vulnerability, they found protection, kindness and a place to rest. Their journey teaches us that humanity is at its greatest when we open our doors and show compassion. This Christmas let us carry that message into our own communities. Let us look out for our elderly, support families facing hardship and show generosity to those who are alone or in distress. Let us choose patience, kindness and understanding in every interaction. These simple acts of neighbourly care are the foundation of a strong and loving society. To everyone who is working this season, especially our emergency services, healthcare teams, law enforcement, fire, border operations and essential workers, thank you. Your dedication keeps our Islands safe and our communities connected. May this Christmas bring you warmth, joy and peace. May your homes be filled with laughter and love. And may we continue to look after one another. I wish each of you a blessed and peaceful Christmas.



Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam

PREMIER'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

My fellow Turks and Caicos Islanders, As we pause during this Christmas season, I want to take a moment to speak directly to you, your families, our communities, and all those who call these islands home. This past year has reminded us, once again, that our journey as a people is never without challenge. We have experienced moments of uncertainty and pressure, alongside moments of pride, progress, and achievement. We have navigated global economic shifts, rising costs, and difficult conversations, even as our country has continued to grow, attract investment, and create opportunity. Through it all, I want to sincerely thank you for your patience, your resilience, and understanding. The strength of the Turks and Caicos Islands has never been found only in our economy or our natural beauty, but in the character of our people: your hard work, your faith, your compassion, and your ability to stand together, even when we may not always agree. Christmas is a time that calls us to reflect, to forgive, and to extend goodwill to one another. It is a reminder that kindness costs nothing, unity strengthens us all, and hope must always guide our path forward. I encourage us, during this season, to look out for our neighbours, to reach out to those who may be struggling, and to place peace and understanding at the centre of our interactions. As Premier, I remain deeply committed to serving you with integrity, compassion, and responsibility, working every day to build a country that is fairer,

stronger, and more secure for this generation and the next. On behalf of my family and the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands, I wish you and your loved ones a Merry Christmas, a season filled with peace and joy, and a New Year blessed with health, opportunity, and renewed hope. May God bless you, and may God continue to bless the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Premier Hon. Washington Misick

Christmas Message From Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey

Good day, Turks and Caicos Islands, On this Christmas Day, let us take a moment to reflect on the values that unite us as a people. Hope, compassion, mutual respect, and shared responsibility for one another. On behalf of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, I extend warm Christmas greetings to you and your families. This season offers an opportunity to pause from the demands of daily life and to reconnect with what matters most: family, community, and the well-being of our nation. Christmas is traditionally a time associated with renewal and hope. It reminds us that even during periods of challenge or uncertainty, progress is possible when we act with empathy, patience, and understanding. Hope is sustained not only by optimism, but by the everyday actions of individuals and institutions working to-

gether for the common good. This season encourages us to look beyond ourselves; to check on a neighbour, to support those in need, and to contribute positively to the communities in which we live. These simple acts strengthen social cohesion and reinforce the shared values that underpin a safe and stable society. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force remains committed to serving the public with professionalism, integrity, and fairness. We will continue to work in partnership with government, community stakeholders, and the wider public to promote safety, trust, and confidence in public institutions. As we celebrate this season, may it bring calm to your homes, goodwill among our communities, and renewed hope for the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Let us remain responsible in our social activities and with our alcohol con-

sumption, be mindful of other road users, and be careful on our roads. Let us continue to be our brother's keeper, exercising vigilance and reporting anything or anyone suspicious. To safeguard both residents and visitors, Operation Shepherd was launched to ensure greater police visibility in our communities. In addition, the Highway Patrol Unit, which was recently launched, is quite visible. These coordinated efforts, combining covert and overt operations with active community engagement, are already yielding commendable successes. We remain committed to maintaining relentless pressure on criminal activity leaving offenders with no choice but to retreat, reform, or surrender. The positive strides we have made in reducing crime and reducing the fear of crime can only be strengthened if we all play our part. This is your opportunity to contribute to crime preven-

tion and to the restoration of peace and tranquility across our beautiful by nature, the Turks and Caicos Islands. I wish you a peaceful, safe, and joyous Christmas.

Fitz Bailey
Commissioner of Police



Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey



ISU Urges Balance Between Enforcement and Humanity in Addressing Informal Settlements

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

As government efforts continue to curb the expansion of unplanned and illegal settlements, the Informal Settlements Unit (ISU) says enforcement must be carefully balanced with compassion to avoid worsening homelessness on Providenciales.

That message was underscored by Strategic Lead of the ISU, Justice Carlos Simons, during the Annual ISU Media Meeting held last week at The Shore Club Resort on Providenciales. Simons stressed that while the Unit's mandate is to address illegal occupation of land, authorities must remain mindful of the human realities facing those living in informal settlements.

mal settlements.

"We have to be mindful that there are persons, families, children, sometimes elderly and other vulnerable people living in these structures," Simons told members of the media. "We have to be careful not to make the housing situation worse than it already is."

According to Simons, indiscriminate demolition of occupied structures could have serious social consequences, particularly in communities such as Providenciales where affordable housing options are limited. He noted that although residents of informal settlements

may be occupying land illegally, removing the structures they live in without suitable alternatives would leave many homeless and further strain the island's already pressured housing situation.

"To demolish the structures that they are living in would make them homeless," he said. "And that would just aggravate the housing situation in Providenciales. It would not be in the interest of the communities to begin making people homeless."

Simons emphasized that the ISU must also consider the concerns of organizations such as the Human Rights Commission and the Red Cross, both of which have an interest in ensuring that individuals living in informal settlements are treated humanely.

"We have to have a mind to that interest," he said, adding that enforcement cannot be divorced from humanitarian considerations.

Central to the ISU's approach is a Crown Lands policy that restricts the removal of structures that are already completed and occupied. Under this policy, once a structure is fulfilled and inhabited, it generally cannot be removed unless and until the government has considered the availability of alternative accommodation for those living there.

"This is a legal thing," Simons explained. "It cannot be removed unless the government has considered the ability for alternative accommodation."

He acknowledged, however, that the policy has contributed to the continued growth of informal settlements, as occupants are increasingly aware that once a structure is occupied, it is less likely to be demolished.

He clarified that the ISU is not supposed to remove people from occupied structures if they have no accommodation to go to, particularly in areas where vulnerable individuals, including children and the elder-

ly, are present. While children and vulnerable persons are often cited as examples, Simons stressed that the policy applies broadly.

"The policy is that where a structure is fulfilled and occupied, it will not be removed," he said. "That is the way the Crown Lands approach."

During enforcement exercises, the ISU works in collaboration with several agencies, including the Border Force. Simons said that when officers encounter individuals who have no legal status or "no stakes" in the country, those persons are handed over to Border Force for processing and possible repatriation.

Reflecting on past operations, Simons said he has personally witnessed numerous demolition exercises. He highlighted a recent clearance operation on privately owned land, where the ISU assisted in removing more than 100 illegal structures across two parcels.

"Some of them were quite substantial," he said.

He explained that private landowners are legally entitled to take a more aggressive approach because the law fully supports their right to remove illegal occupants and structures from their property.

"The only thing standing between the private landowner and the illegal occupant is the law, and the law is on the private landowner's side," Simons said. "Whether it's a hut or a palace, the private landowner is able to remove it."

In contrast, on Crown land, restrictions apply once structures are occupied. However, unoccupied or partially constructed structures, particularly those at or below ground level, are routinely removed by the ISU as part of ongoing enforcement efforts.

As the challenge of informal settlements continues to evolve, Simons said the ISU remains committed to enforcing the law while acknowledging the need for empathy and restraint.

Proprietors of Strata Plan #36

whose address is Penn's Road, Lower Bight; Providenciales, have openings for

Two Laborers

These positions are held by work permit holders.

Responsibilities:

Complete ground work as directed by the Property Manager, which may include picking up trash and maintaining landscaping and other ground areas

Must have the ability to lift heavy items weighing up to 150lbs

Must have the ability to maintain irrigation systems and provide proper upkeep of sidewalks, driveways, parking lots, fountains, and other ground features

Salary: \$9.75 per hour:

Belongers only are encouraged to apply with a clean police record and are requested to submit a CV by e-mail to:

Marsha Blanche

Email: marsha@misickstanbrook.tc

Tel.: 946-4732

Saunders Calls for Bold Overhaul of Financial Services Sector at TCI Finance AGM

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Hon. E. Jay Saunders, Minister of Innovation, Technology and Information and Co-Chair of TCI Finance Ltd, has issued a candid assessment of the Turks and Caicos Islands' financial services sector, warning that the country continues to lag significantly behind regional competitors such as Bermuda, the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands.

Delivering the keynote address at the 1st Annual General Meeting of TCI Finance Ltd recently, Saunders said the occasion was intended to serve as a "national checkpoint" rather than a ceremonial milestone, a moment to speak frankly about what is and is not working and to chart a more effective course forward.

"TCI Finance is not only an institution. It is a catalyst," Saunders told attendees, outlining the organisation's mandate to help build a modern, inclusive and resilient financial services sector that strengthens the domestic economy while earning international confidence.

Falling Behind Regional Peers

Saunders noted that since 1976, successive governments have aspired to establish financial services as the second pillar of the economy alongside tourism. Despite those ambitions, he said the Turks and Caicos Islands remains largely viewed as a non-player globally, with some traditional areas of activity showing signs of contraction rather than growth.

He contrasted local performance with that of leading small jurisdictions, pointing out that the Cayman Islands government collected approximately CI\$379 million (US\$455 million) in financial services licence revenue in 2024. The British Virgin Islands' government share of financial services fees reaches into the hundreds of millions of US dollars, while Bermuda's companies fees generate tens of millions annually. By



Hon. E. Jay Saunders delivering the keynote speech at the 1st Annual General Meeting of the TCI Finance Ltd.

comparison, TCI's regulatory fee income remains in the low double-digit millions.

"I am not saying this to discourage us," Saunders said. "I am saying it to clarify the mission. The goal is not to polish what exists. The goal is to build what is missing."

Why Others Outperform

According to Saunders, the success of Bermuda, Cayman and the BVI lies in their development of repeatable products supported by efficient, trusted systems. Cayman has built a global franchise in funds and private wealth structures, Bermuda has specialised in insurance and reinsurance, and the BVI has created a high-volume, world-class corporate registry.

"These jurisdictions compete on trust, speed and certainty," he said, noting that such advantages are reinforced by clear rules, consistent supervision and strong ecosystems of legal, administra-

tive and compliance professionals.

Charting a New Path

Saunders said the global financial services landscape is shifting rapidly toward digitised compliance, real-time supervision, tokenisation of real-world assets, regulated digital assets and stronger governance and transparency standards.

Rather than attempting to replicate competitors wholesale, he argued that TCI should pursue a premium, well-governed and digitally excellent niche strategy.

He proposed two immediate and practical steps: transforming the Corporate Registry into a fully digital, fast and reliable growth engine similar to the BVI model, and adopting Cayman-style discipline by focusing on one or two modern niches, such as private wealth vehicles and properly regulated structures for fractionalised real estate and other real-world assets.

Local Engagement Key to Growth

Saunders also stressed that the sector's success depends on domestic understanding and participation, emphasising the importance of financial literacy and public trust.

"A developed financial services sector is one that is understood, trusted and used by its own people," he said, adding that collaboration among policymakers, regulators, institutions and innovators will be essential if the country is to achieve targeted growth of 25 to 30 per cent annually over the next five years.

He concluded by urging decisive execution, warning that global financial markets will continue to evolve regardless of TCI's pace of reform.

"The puck is moving, with or without us," Saunders said. "The story of the TCI financial services sector must become a story of arrival, not someday, but on a timetable."

Invest Turks and Caicos Warns Public of Online Impersonation and Cryptocurrency Scams

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Invest Turks and Caicos (Invest TCI) has issued a public warning about fraudulent social media accounts that are falsely representing the government investment agency, using its name, branding, images, and videos without authorization to deceive members of the public.

In a recent news release, Invest TCI confirmed that unknown individuals are misappropriating the agency's intellectual property to promote illegitimate investment schemes, including cryptocurrency-related offerings. The agency stressed that these activities are fraudulent and that it has no association with any such platforms or promoters.

Invest TCI emphasized that it does not endorse, promote, or facilitate cryptocurrency trading, online investment platforms, or any scheme that promises quick, guaranteed, or unusually high financial returns. It asserted that any individual or entity making such claims while purporting to act on behalf of Invest TCI is doing so unlawfully and with the intent to mislead.

The agency is urging residents, investors, and business stakeholders,

both locally and internationally, to remain vigilant, particularly when approached through unsolicited messages or online communications advertising investment opportunities linked to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

According to Invest TCI, the scams fall under a broader category known as impersonation fraud. This type of fraud occurs when criminals deliberately pose as a trusted organization or official to gain victims' confidence. Once trust is established, victims may be persuaded to share personal information, banking details, or transfer funds under false pretenses. In this case, fraudsters are exploiting the reputation and credibility of Invest TCI to create a false sense of legitimacy.

To help the public protect itself, the agency outlined several key warning signs associated with fraudulent Invest TCI accounts. These include unsolicited messages offering investment advice or opportunities, particularly those promising rapid or guaranteed financial gains; requests for personal, banking, or identification information via social media, messaging apps, or email; and accounts that use Invest TCI logos or media

but operate from unofficial profiles or redirect users to external websites.

Invest TCI also clarified that it operates only one official website, www.investturksandcaicos.tc, and does not conduct business through third-party or unfamiliar web platforms. Messages that pressure individuals to act immediately, maintain secrecy, or urgently transfer funds should be treated as clear red flags. The agency further underscored that it communicates exclusively through its verified website and official social media channels and will never request payments or sensitive financial information via social media or private messaging platforms. Invest TCI also confirmed that it is physically located only within the Turks and Caicos Islands and does not operate overseas offices.

Members of the public who encounter suspected impersonation or fraudulent activity are strongly encouraged to report it immediately. Reports can be made to local law enforcement authorities and directly to Invest TCI by emailing info@investturksandcaicos.tc or calling 649-338-4772.

Invest TCI stated that it continues to

work diligently to identify, report, and address impersonation threats and other forms of fraud as they arise. For accurate and verified information about the agency and its services, the public is advised to visit its official website at www.investturksandcaicos.tc



Angela Musgrove, CEO of Invest TCI

The Turks and Caicos Islands Wins Gold in 2025 Recommend Magazine Readers' Choice Awards

The Turks and Caicos Islands has once again won Gold in the Best Destination category of the 2025 Recommend Magazine Readers' Choice Awards in the Caribbean/Bahamas/Bermuda category.

The Turks and Caicos Islands have won Gold over the last four years. "Winning Gold once again in Recommend Magazine's Readers' Choice Awards is a tremendous honour for the Turks and Caicos Islands," said Mr. Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant of Experience Turks and Caicos.

He added: "To be recognised by travel advisors year after year speaks directly to the confidence they have in our destination, our tourism partners, and the quality of experiences we deliver. This continued recognition reflects our commitment to excellence, collaboration with the travel



trade, and ensuring that the Turks and Caicos Islands remains a top choice for travellers across the Caribbean, The Bahamas and Bermuda."

The Readers' Choice Awards have been given annually for the last 25 years to travel organisations that are anchored in excellence and have advanced the interests of the travel industry. Over 135,000 Recommend readers vote for their favourite destinations, hotels and resorts, tour operators, cruise lines, rail vacations, car rentals and airlines to determine the winners in each category. Recommend allows readers to choose who they want to name within each category.

Recommend Magazine is a travel trade publication that helps travel advisors sell travel by providing them with in-depth destination and product information.

A call for a return to nuance and universal accountability

By Francesca Tavares

To the commentariat and academic institutions of the West and the Caribbean, I address a pervasive moral failure: the epidemic of anti-Western sentiment. This routine commitment to the self-flagellation and ultimate dismantling of the very societal framework that permits this robust free debate must be critiqued. Our popular discourse, including its iterations across the Caribbean media landscape, has noticeably adopted a profoundly simplistic and toxic ideology, whereby the “Christian West” is systematically demonised and its foundational principles are dismissed as inherently corrupt.

A major vector for this intellectual malaise is the enduring, unquestioned influence of Edward Said’s Orientalism. This framework, as applied today, has devolved into a monochromatic blame model. It paints the West — its history, its institutions, and often implicitly, “whiteness” — as the singular or primary source of global evil, while simultaneously infantilising and excusing non-Western cultures of the East and Global South. This double standard is fundamentally corrosive; it strips individuals of agency, exempts non-Western regimes from accountability and universal human rights, and denies them the respect of being held to the same standards of progress and morality that we demand of London or New York.

Consider the complexity of slavery. As American writer, podcaster, and commentator Coleman Hughes has pointed out, the ideological echo chamber of current academic thought frequently refuses to accept historical nuance. For example, the chattel form of slavery, with its brutal racial and caste elements, in truth, was not invented in the transatlantic trade. Its origins, which included the systematic introduction of racial elements and deep anti-black

prejudice, lie in the Arab-Islamic slave trade, which predated European involvement and continued for over a millennium.

Western slavers certainly adopted these elements and scaled the atrocity using advanced technology, causing immense harm. Yet, also true, is the moral and spiritual reckoning, rooted in the Judeo-Christian framework that underpins several Western societies was so fierce that these societies were the first to abolish chattel slavery and contend for its global eradication, incurring massive financial cost, all while the practice continued largely undisturbed in many parts of the Islamic world and Africa.

This ideological adherence to an oppressor vs oppressed binary has a particularly debilitating effect on societies like Jamaica and the wider Caribbean. It cultivates a pervasive lack of personal and political accountability, replacing internal critique with external blame. By viewing all ancient and contemporary history solely through the lens of systemic racism, this analysis denies the reality of the vibrant, syncretic Creole identity of the Caribbean. As Hughes argues, it perpetuates false, rigid racial ideas — namely the imposed categories of “blackness” and “whiteness” — that originated during the era of slavery. This denial forces the perpetuation of trauma and leads to self-imposed segregation, hatred, and isolationism, preventing true reconciliation and shared nation-building.

Furthermore, this refusal of nuance acts as an intellectual vacuum, paving the way for exploitation. When systemic injustice and racism is mandated as the sole explanation for all local failures, it conveniently excuses poor governance, corruption, and irresponsible economic policies. Ultimately setting the stage for totalitarianism is the emergence of any charismatic leader who

speaks loudly enough to channel collective resentment and inflict great harm, as seen in the glorification of failed utopian ideals in Cuba, Venezuela, and other socialist systems globally.

The vulnerable prosperity previously enjoyed in several nations of the West is directly attributable, amongst other things, to the system of free-market capitalism and strong property rights. This system, while imperfect, has truthfully been the greatest wealth generator in human history. However, this success should be tempered by a powerful sense of private social responsibility. We must foster kind frameworks and opportunities that genuinely regard the poor and facilitate upliftment. This would also require an absolute rejection of a culture of dependency. Citizens must reject the lure of the State as patron or the local political ‘don’ — a mafioso-style relationship that trades agency for temporary handouts. True progress, in my view, is built on individual agency, not on institutionalised beggary.

We must also speak against the persistent demonisation of the United States. While imperfect and guilty of severe historical injustices, the USA remains the pre-eminent model of a free, democratic, and successful large-scale republic based on the rule of law and individual liberty. It is a nation to be critiqued, yes, but also one to be applauded and emulated in many areas.

Historically, empires, kingdoms, and conquest have been a core, albeit brutal, element of human history across all civilisations. The nation-state and the concept of inalienable rights are recent innovations. These hard-won freedoms — democracy, speech, and responsible capitalism — are incredibly fragile and will not succeed unless they are deeply valued and cherished, a lesson ignored by those committed to tearing down Western civilisa-

tion.

This analysis deficit extends tragically into international affairs. When the simplistic “oppressor vs oppressed” or “white vs person of colour” narrative is violently imposed on foreign conflicts — such as the complex, multi-layered history of the Middle East; the history of Japan, China, and Korea; or the recent Israel-Hamas war — it leads to profound misunderstanding of geopolitical realities, international law, and factual history. Ideological bludgeoning of this kind ignores the deep religious, historical, and nationalistic factors at play, reducing ancient, context-rich struggles into a cartoonish morality play. The only responsible way forward is to consistently appreciate history within its specific, nuanced context, free from the current decade’s ideological biases and popular media trends.

We must make the case for universal fair critique and improvement that does not excuse evil from humans because they are the “right colour”, come from the “right location”, or are comparatively “poor”. Fair accountability for all, responsible economic policies, and a neutral telling of history removed from current political and ideological biases is needed so that there can be true learning and development for a free, nuanced, and prosperous future.

NEWSLINE TCI
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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



The winners and nominees share lens with the leadership of the resort.



Mark Durliat (second right), CEO of Grace Bay Resorts; Monique Luis (second left), Senior Vice President of Development and Residential Services at Grace Bay Resorts; Frank Chantoiseau(fourth from left), General Manager of the Rock House Resort; and Celianese Forbes – Director of Human Resource at the Rocke House Resort, share on a photo moment with the winners of the Employee, Supervisor and Leader of the Year Awards.

ROCK HOUSE EMPLOYEE, SUPERVISOR AND LEADER OF YEAR AWARDS

Rockhouse Resort staged its Employee, Supervisor and Leader of the Quarter Awards on Wednesday, December 17, at the resort. Siobhan Faith Bowens from the Food and Beverage Department captured the Race for the Gold- TripAdvisor Mentions for the Year with 47 mentions over the period. The Front of House Award was won by Jodson Mondesir of Pool and Beach. The Back of House Award was snared by Fitzroy Richards of the Engineering Department. The Supervisor of the Year Award (being introduced for the first time) was won by Nuris Vargas of Housekeeping, while Laila Rigby of the Finance Department captured the Leader of the Year Award. With the exception of Bowens, all the winners got the chance between an all-expense paid trip to New York and spending money or \$15,000.



The staff were also wowed with entertainment



Laila Rigby (centre), of the Finance Department captured the Leader of the Year Award.



Mark Durliat, CEO of the Grace Bay Resorts, made a surprise appearance.



Jodson Mondesir (centre) of Pool and Beach was the Front of House winner.



Nuris Vargas (second left) of Housekeeping took home the Supervisor of the Year Award.

Frontier Airlines Launches New Nonstop Service Between Providenciales and Atlanta

Frontier Airlines has launched a new nonstop route connecting Providenciales International Airport (PLS) with Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL), expanding its Caribbean network and strengthening access to one of the world’s busiest aviation hubs.

The weekly service offers travelers a convenient and budget-friendly option between Turks and Caicos and Atlanta, reinforcing Frontier’s continued growth across the region.

“With the new year on the horizon, there’s plenty to be excited about, from the expansion of our route network to the rollout of new onboard experiences,” said Josh Flyr, vice president of network and operations design at Frontier Airlines. “We’re excited to provide even more affordable travel options to the beautiful Turks and Caicos as we continue to grow.”

Flight schedules and frequencies are subject to change. Travelers are encouraged to visit www.flyfrontier.com for the most up-to-date information.

The new route comes as Frontier advances its customer-focused transformation branded as The New Frontier. Recent enhancements include UpFront Plus seating, available in the first two rows of the aircraft, featuring additional leg and elbow room, a guaranteed empty middle seat, and a choice of window or aisle seating.



Frontier has also introduced unlimited companion travel for its most loyal customers, allowing flyers to select a different companion on each Frontier flight. Looking ahead to early 2026, the airline plans to debut First Class seating, promising enhanced comfort and space while maintaining Frontier’s low-cost model.

Further strengthening its value proposition, Frontier continues to evolve its FRONTIER Miles frequent flyer program. Members earn miles based on dollars spent, with a standard earning rate of 10 miles per dollar and elite multipliers reaching up to 20X. Elite status begins at 10,000 points

and includes benefits such as priority boarding, advance seat selection, and complimentary baggage, depending on tier. The program also offers family pooling of miles for Elite members, making it easier for families to earn and redeem rewards together. Membership in FRONTIER Miles is free.

Ombudsman’s Office Strengthens Capacity with Training on Complaints Commissioner’s Ordinance

The Office of the Complaints Commissioner (Ombudsman) recently hosted a focused training session for the new Commissioner and staff on the Complaints Commissioner’s Ordinance. The session formed a key part of the new Commissioner’s orientation and reinforced the Office’s commitment to fair, lawful and consistent handling of complaints.

With guidance and support from The Attorney General’s Chambers, participants reviewed the Ordinance section by section, clarifying the scope of the Commissioner’s powers, the procedures for handling complaints, and the standards that guide investigations and recommendations.

For newer staff, the training provided a strong foundation in the legal framework of the Office. For lon-

ger-serving officers, it served as a timely refresher and an opportunity to reflect on how the law is applied in practice.

“The Complaints Commissioner’s Ordinance is at the heart of what we do,” the Commissioner noted. “It is important that everyone in the Office understands not just what the law says, but how it should guide our day-to-day work with members of the public and with public authorities.”

This initiative forms part of a broader program to strengthen the capacity of the Office as a key good governance institution. In the coming months, similar awareness sessions are planned with selected ministries, departments, other public functionaries and the public in general, to

increase understanding of the role of the Ombudsman and the value of the Office as an independent mech-

anism for resolving complaints and improving public administration.



Left to right: Cherylann Jones recently appointed Complaints Commissioner (Ombudsman), Samadia Lightbourne Senior Investigative Officer, Raynae Myers (investigative Officer), and Jonetta Ramsahai, Senior Parliamentary Counsel, Attorney General’s Chambers.



WE ARE HIRING!

BIOSECURITY OFFICER

The Department of Agriculture invites applications from suitably qualified individuals for the post of **Biosecurity Officer**.

Location: Providenciales

Salary: \$46,000.00 per annum

The successful candidate will play a critical role in protecting the Turks and Caicos Islands from the introduction and spread of animal disease, plant pests, and invasive species of national concern.



The position also contributes to the Darwin+ Strategic Project: *'Enabling Effective Biosecurity for the Caribbean UK Overseas Territories'*, advancing regional collaboration to strengthen border security and invasive species management.

KEY DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

- Conduct inspections & enforce animal & plant health laws
- Train port, customs & government staff on biosecurity & invasive species management
- Improve biosecurity infrastructure and facilities at ports of entry
- Support regional collaboration & reporting under the Darwin+ Project
- Prepare & submit inspection & compliance reports

QUALIFICATIONS & EXPERIENCE

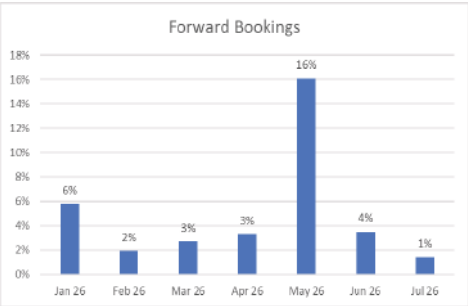
- Bachelor's degree in Agriculture, Environmental Science, or related field
- At least 3 years' experience in quarantine or related agriculture/environmental work
- Knowledge of biosecurity, invasive species, & port operations
- Strong communication, analytical & report-writing skills
- Proficient in MS Office
- Valid Driver's License (asset)

Applications should include a cover letter, resume, copies of qualifications, & two (2) reference letters to be submitted by 31 December, 2025 to:
agriculture@gov.tc

Bumper Winter Season Predicted

As the Turks and Caicos Islands welcomes visitors for the 2025/2026 winter season, forward bookings for the peak travel period from December to March are projected to surpass those of the same period last year. Experience Turks and Caicos is also forecasting steady month-on-month growth throughout the first half of 2026, with forward bookings already tracking ahead of 2025 levels.

“This is welcome news for our tourism sector, which experienced modest declines over the last two quarters,” said Mr. Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant of Experience Turks and Caicos. “One of the key drivers of this positive outlook is increased airlift, including a 19 percent increase in capacity from Canada for the winter season and a six percent increase from the United States.”

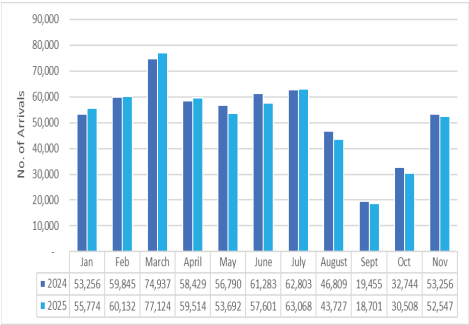


Mr. Pennicook also attributed the improved projections to targeted marketing and trade engagement efforts led by Experience Turks and Caicos, particularly ongoing training and education for travel advisors and tour operator call-centre agents across all key source markets.

“We have maintained a strong presence through product launches and travel

trade events such as Delta Vacations University, while significantly increasing the destination’s visibility through co-op advertising with major tour operators in our three primary markets,” he added. Public relations activity has also played a critical role, with several hosted media visits from journalists in the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom, and Latin America, alongside proactive pitching efforts that resulted in more than 100 placements in travel trade and consumer publications in 2025.

Analysis of current booking patterns also indicates a notable shift toward shorter booking windows. “One major U.S. tour operator reports that over the past several weeks, approximately 90 percent of bookings have been for travel within the next 60 days,” Mr. Pennicook noted. “Hoteliers are reporting similar trends, suggesting the potential for further growth as we move into 2026.”



Despite the positive outlook, October and November recorded declines in stayover arrivals. Preliminary data shows 30,508 air arrivals in October, representing a seven percent decrease compared to October 2024, largely due to reduced airlift from the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom as well as the

impact of Hurricane Melissa on travel to the region. November recorded 52,547 stayover arrivals by air, a marginal one percent decrease year-on-year.

As the Turks and Caicos Islands welcomes visitors back to its shores this winter season, Experience Turks and Caicos would like to reassure that the island remains safe and welcoming. Statistics from the Royal Turks and Caicos Police Force show that overall crime is down, with a 40 percent reduction in murders. Experience Turks and Caicos is working closely with the police force to ensure tourism areas are well monitored and patrolled to enhance visitor security.

The Turks and Caicos Islands consist of two island groups in the Lucayan Archipelago—the larger Caicos Islands and the smaller Turks Islands. Home to some of the world’s most pristine beaches, in-

cluding the award-winning Grace Bay Beach, the destination is renowned for its crystal-clear turquoise waters, luxury accommodation, and rich cultural heritage.

Each island and cay offer a unique experience:

- Providenciales boasts world-class resorts, fine dining, and high-end tourism offerings.
- Grand Turk serves as the vibrant hub for cruise tourism and historical exploration.
- The sister islands provide a gateway to nature, adventure, and authentic local culture.

Recognised as the world’s best-kept secret, the Turks and Caicos Islands offer effortless luxury, with seamless connectivity via direct flights from major cities in the United States, Canada, and the United Kingdom.



Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant at Experience Turks and Caicos

Police Commissioner Share Xmas Spirit with Officers

On Christmas Morning, Commissioner Fitz Bailey visited police stations in Providenciales to share the Christmas spirit.

The Commissioner expressed his gratitude to the officers for their service and acknowledged their sacrifices, especially during the festive season.

Commissioner Bailey was joined by The Governor H.E Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam and Police Welfare Association Treasurer ag. Insp. Jepson Victor.

Commending the officers for their selfless dedication to duty, Commissioner Bailey presented them with a fruitcake as a token of appreciation.



Antwon Walkin Makes History at UK Diplomatic Conference

Antwon Walkin, a National Youth Parliamentarian from the Turks and Caicos Islands, has made history after earning top honours at a prestigious diplomatic conference in the United Kingdom.

During the event, Walkin was elected Chairman of the Ubuntu Group of Countries and later received the Most Outstanding Diplomat Award, distinguishing himself as one of the youngest, if not the youngest, trained diplomats in the Caribbean region.

The conference, hosted by Best Diplomats UK, focused on Diplomatic Training and United Nations Simulation and brought together emerging global leaders to debate Sustainable Development Goal 8 (SDG 8): Fair Labour Practices. In addition to his election as chairman, Walkin was also awarded certification for the successful completion of diplomatic training, recognizing his leadership, negotiation skills, and policy advocacy throughout the simulation.

In keeping with conference rules that prohibit participants from representing their home countries, Walkin represented Barbados. His leadership quickly stood out among delegates, leading to his selection as Chairman of the Ubuntu Group of

Countries, a coalition of Caribbean and African partner states.

Under his chairmanship, the delegation emphasized the importance of fair labour standards, accountability for multinational corporations that violate human rights through exploitative sweatshop practices, and acknowledgment of the role played by governments in factory-dominant countries that allow inhumane working conditions to persist.

One of the major outcomes of the conference was the passage of the Corporate Responsibility and Community Engagement Resolution, which was approved by a decisive two-thirds majority under Walkin's leadership.

His participation also marked a historic milestone, as he became the first Turks and Caicos Islander ever invited to the Best Diplomats UK seminar. Walkin's achievement underscores the growing influence of Turks and Caicos youth in international diplomacy and global policy discussions.

The accomplishment stands as a powerful testament to Caribbean youth leadership shaping global conversations on human rights, ethical corporate responsibility, and sustainable development.



Antwon Walkin, who was elected Chairman of the Ubuntu Group of Countries, displays his 'Most Outstanding Diplomat' Award.

International Ranking Platform Unveils Top 10 Private Schools in TCI

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Schoolbell.net, a global education discovery platform based in Singapore has published its list of the 10 Best Private Schools in the Turks and Caicos Islands for 2025.

Schoolbell.net its ranking of schools across the territory was based on contextual reputation scores that reflect online credibility, visibility, and trustworthiness.

The top 10 list of private schools in the Turks and Caicos Islands for 2025, according to Schoolbell.net, is led by The International School of the Turks and Caicos Islands with a contextual reputation score of 100.0 percent, followed by Precious Treasures International School 99.7 percent, Maranatha Academy 98.9 percent, Providenciales Primary &

Middle School 97.5 percent, Provo Christian School 95.7 percent, British West Indies Collegiate 93.3 percent, Holy Family Academy Catholic School 90.4 percent, Faith Preparatory School 87.0 percent, Community Christian Academy 83.0 percent, and Richmond Hill Preparatory School 75.0 percent.

According to Schoolbell.net, the annual ranking evaluates private schools in the Turks and Caicos Islands, independent institutions that offer diverse academic programmes for local families and expatriate communities, using a data-driven contextual reputation score.

Schoolbell.net describes itself as a global education rankings platform dedicated to providing data-driven insights into the world's leading schools and universities. By ana-

lysing and applying contextually relevant data sets, Schoolbell.net it helps make educational choices clear, fast, and simple.

The entity indicates that a higher score for the schools indicates stronger online credibility and greater recognition among families, educators, and the wider education community, helping parents make more informed enrolment decisions.

"Families exploring private education options in the Turks and Caicos Islands deserve clear, reliable insights," a spokesperson for Schoolbell.net. was quoted as saying. "Our 2025 rankings are designed to spotlight schools that consistently demonstrate strong reputations and educational value, making the school selection process more transparent and accessible."

Initially, the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College was among the list of rated private schools. But when contacted, Edgar Howell, Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, told Newsline TCI that the TCI Community College is a Statutory institution, and therefore, would not fall under the private schools' banner.

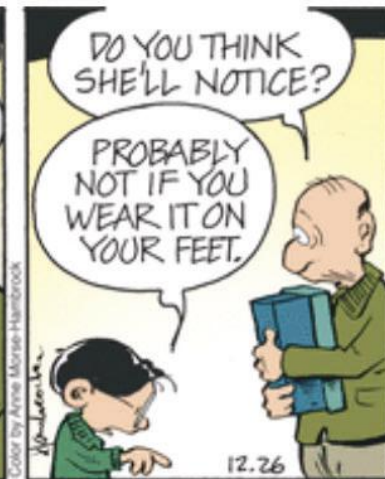
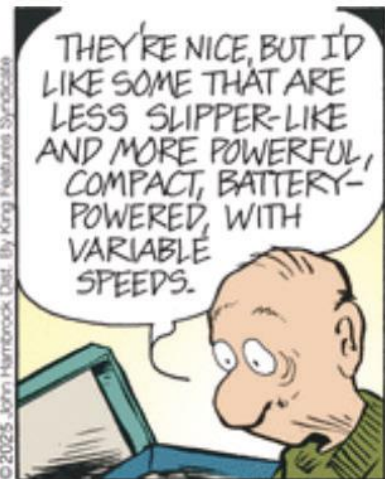
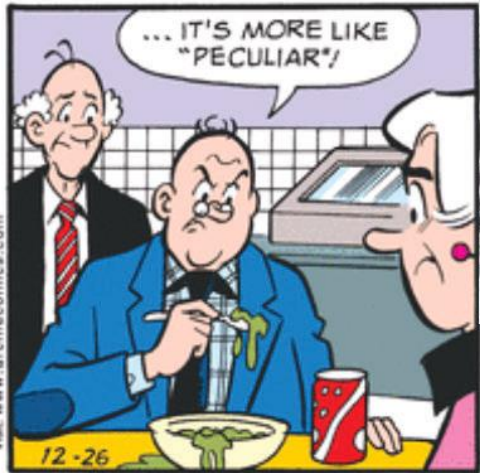
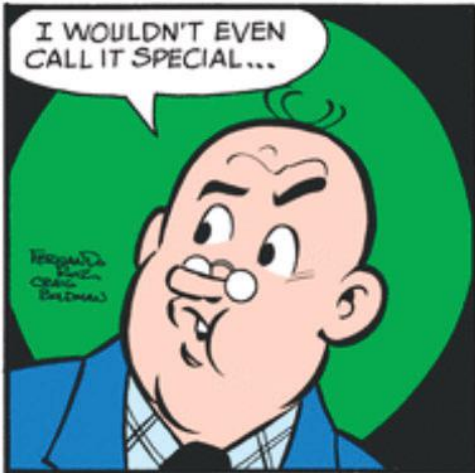
He pointed out however, that he is unaware of the method used by Schoolbell.net, and whether or not they spoke with any in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Newsline, then contacted Schoolbell.net for them to explained what appeared to be a discrepancy.

"The version of the press release that was sent previously was an un-reviewed draft distributed in error," they claimed.



NEWSLINE ^{TCI} COMICS



"I should've never accepted the role of Wilson."





WHITE GOLD

Image courtesy of: Times of the Islands

The Salt That Made the Turks and Caicos

For nearly three centuries, the flat salinas of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and South Caicos forged the foundation of what would become the modern Turks and Caicos Islands.

The salt trade was born more than 300 years ago, when Bermudian mariners recognized the potential of the islands' natural salt ponds and began the arduous work of harvesting what was then known as "white gold".

Salt was not a simple seasoning in the early modern Atlantic world. Before refrigeration, it was essential in preserving fish, meat, and other foods for long sea voyages and distant markets. Colonial populations depended on these salted staples for survival.

But the story of salt in the Turks and Caicos isn't only one of economic importance, it is also a story of the people whose labour and lives were bound up in the salinas. In the islands' earliest years of commercial salt production, enslaved Africans were brought by Bermudians to work the ponds under brutal conditions, standing in brine for hours beneath the blazing sun and facing long-term health consequences from exposure to salt and heat.

Emancipation in 1833 ended the worst abuses of slavery, but it did not immediately transform working or living conditions for many salt workers.

The salt-making process itself was simple in concept but physically demanding in execution. Sea water entered a series of shallow ponds called salinas, where it was concentrated by sun and wind.

After about ninety days, salt crystals would form and workers would rake them into piles, shovel them into wheelbarrows, and carry them to storage. From there, forty-pound sacks were filled and transported by donkey cart or small boats called lighters to waiting ships anchored offshore.

At its height, salt production in the Turks and Caicos was a vital part of the Atlantic economy. So important, in fact, that during the 18th century Britain's North American colonies imported hundreds of thousands of bushels of salt annually from the islands.

Yet this wealth rarely stayed in the hands of the labourers who made it. Large-scale changes in global salt production, competition from mechanized producers elsewhere, and the absence of deep-water ports eventually made traditional salt harvesting difficult to sustain. By the mid-1960s, commercial salt production in the islands had nearly ended, and the last operations closed entirely in the 1970s.

Today, the relics of this era, abandoned salinas, crumbling canals, and windmills silhouetted against the horizon, stand as quiet witnesses to a complex past. Some may see only ruins, but for many Turks Islanders, these landscapes speak to endurance. From the forced labour of the past emerged tight-knit communities whose descendants helped build the islands' modern identity. In the bright white of the salt crust and the strength of the people who worked it, that legacy shines still.

References:

Turks and Caicos National Museum (n.d.) Salt Industry. Av
Sadler, N. (2012) Turks Island Salt, NQ, v.105, n.01. Turks and Caicos National Museum
Dash, M. (2012) White Gold: How Salt Made and Unmade the Turks and Caicos Islands, Smithsonian Magazine, 14 December.
Shaking It Out (2022) Times of the Islands, 24 June.

Colville Garrick is the FLOW Provo IGA Shopping Spree Winner

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

What began as a phone call Colville Garrick nearly ignored turned into a memorable Christmas blessing, as the FLOW customer was announced the Providenciales winner of the telecommunications company's annual Christmas Shopping Spree.

Garrick told reporters that he initially believed the call from FLOW was a prank and was hesitant to stay on the line. His doubts were quickly put to rest when it was confirmed that his name had been selected from thousands of FLOW customers across the Turks and Caicos Islands for a 90 seconds shopping spree.

"I thought it was a prank call," Garrick said. "I had to ask twice. But when I heard the voices in the background, I realized it was real. It feels good."

Last Thursday, December 18, 2025, Garrick sprinted through the aisles of Graceway IGA in Providenciales, filling his cart with more than \$2,000 worth of groceries as part of the promotion. He said he carefully planned ahead, even staking out the store the day before to decide what he would buy, although some items were unavailable on the shelves.

Despite that, Garrick described the experience as deeply satisfying. "I'm very, very satisfied," he said, adding that the fully stocked cupboard would go a long way for his family during the Christmas season.

FLOW Turks and Caicos Country Manager Joanne Missick explained that the shopping spree is an annual initiative designed to reward loyal customers. Providenciales followed a similar event held in Grand Turk the day before.

"This is our annual shopping spree," Missick said. "All customers have to do to qualify is pay their bill on time. There's



no purchase threshold, it's simply about rewarding loyalty."

She noted that the Grand Turk winner was Pansy Simmons, who was selected after the initial drawn customer could not be reached. Missick encouraged customers to answer their phones during the promotion period, noting that FLOW attempts to contact winners directly.

According to Missick, Graceway IGA has partnered with FLOW for seven or eight years on the initiative, with shopping sprees often starting early in the morning before stores officially open.

"At Christmas time, we always say Christmas is on us," she said. "There's nothing better than having your cupboards stocked, family over, and one less worry for the holidays. Our customers really love it."

The FLOW Christmas Shopping Spree continues to be one of the company's most anticipated customer appreciation initiatives, spreading holiday cheer across the islands one grocery cart at a time.



FEATURED CHURCH

Church of God of Prophecy, Blue Hills

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we shine the spotlight on the Church of God of Prophecy, located in Blue Hills, Providenciales. The church is led by pastor Andrew Stone. There are at least six opportunities for worship during the week. On Sunday at 9:30a.m. is Sunday School. On Sunday 11a.m. is Divine Sunday Morning Service. On Sunday at 7:30p.m. is Evening Service. On Tuesday at 7:30p.m. is Prayer Meeting. On Wednesday at 7:30pm is Bible Study, and on Friday at 7:30pm is Youth Ministry. For further about any of the worship opportunities, contact 1 649-941-3438.



Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International

Lee Street, South Caicos.
Telephone: 649-348-3581

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

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

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

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

Anglican Church Rectory 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

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

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

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Beaches Turks and Caicos, Sandals Foundation Bring Christmas Cheer to Nearly 2,000 Children

Hundreds of children from across Providenciales gathered at the Bight basketball court for an annual Christmas Treat made possible through a partnership between the Beaches Turks and Caicos, the Sandals Foundation, community partners, and the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force.

According to Orville Morgan, Public Relations Manager at Beaches Turks and Caicos, the initiative continues a long-standing tradition of giving back during the holiday season, with

children not only from the Bight but from surrounding communities taking part.

"This is the time of year when we get the opportunity to say thank you to our communities," Morgan said. "We get to celebrate with them, have fun with them, and ensure that every child leaves with a smile."

The festive event, visited by Member of Parliament for the Bight Hon. Audric Skipings, former member of parliament for the area Matthey 'Jay' Stubbs, and Commissioner of Police

Fitz Bailey, featured Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, and cheerful elves distributing wrapped gifts to children of all ages. The toys were sourced through generous donations from international donors, with careful preparation ensuring each child received a special surprise.

Beyond gifts, the celebration offered food, music, and live entertainment, creating a full community experience that many children eagerly anticipate each year.

"The children have been looking for-

ward to this for a long time," Morgan noted. "You can see how much they love it. The toys, the atmosphere, everything, it's all about joy."

Approximately 2,000 children were catered to during the Christmas Treat. Morgan also revealed that the initiative will continue into the new year, with plans to support primary schools when classes resume in January.

"We currently have over 4,000 toys," he said. "They will be distributed today and again in January when schools reopen."





WHY YOU WAKE UP AT 3AM

What this common sleep pattern really means

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach - Turks and Caicos

Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos Waking up around 3AM is one of the most common sleep complaints. While it can feel frustrating, it is rarely random. Often, it signals an underlying imbalance rather than a failing on your part. Understanding the cause helps you address it gently and restore deeper rest.

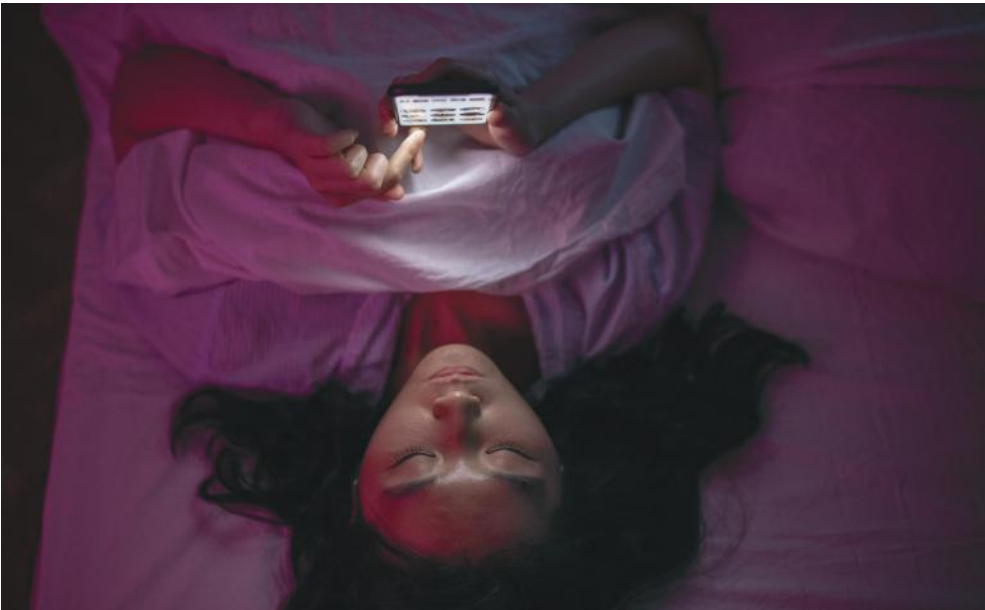
The most frequent reason is a blood sugar drop. If your dinner is too light, lacks protein, or is high in refined carbs, your glucose can dip in the night. This triggers a cortisol spike, which wakes you up. Stress or overactive thoughts can also activate your nervous system at this hour.

The liver, which is particularly active between roughly 1–3AM according to traditional medicine, relies on proper nourishment to support detoxification and hormone balance.

Poor sleep habits can compound the problem. Bright screens late at night, heavy meals close to bedtime, inconsistent sleep schedules, or even dehydration can disrupt your body's natural rhythms. Environmental factors like noise, temperature, or light exposure can also play a role.

Ways to Support Smoother Sleep:

- Eat a balanced dinner with protein, complex carbs, and healthy fats to stabilise overnight glucose.
- Include a small bedtime snack if



needed, such as yogurt, a banana with almond butter, or a handful of nuts.

- Hydrate throughout the day but taper fluids 1–2 hours before bed to avoid unnecessary awakenings.
- Develop a gentle wind-down routine: infrared red lights or dim

lights, light stretching, or calming rituals like journaling or breathwork.

- Keep a consistent sleep schedule, aiming for regular bed and wake times even on weekends. Remember, waking up at night is not a failure. It is your body signal-

ling that it needs steadier support, whether through nourishment, relaxation, or gentle routine adjustments.

Night Wakings Have a Root
Sleep is a mirror of your overall body balance. When you nourish consistently, reduce stress, and support your nervous system, nights become calmer and more restorative. Small, consistent habits over time make the biggest difference.

For more guidance on sleep, nervous system support, and gentle routines, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

Monica Uttamchandani is a certified Holistic Health Coach based in the Turks and Caicos Islands, supporting men and women in creating grounded, nourishing lives, one breath at a time. She also consults in person at The Elephant Rooms in Salt Mills, Providenciales.



Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty Makes a Lasting Impression at Miami Art Basel 2025

Turks & Caicos Sotheby's International Realty (TCSIR) made a notable appearance at Miami Art Basel 2025, reinforcing its presence on the global luxury stage at one of the world's most influential art and cultural events.

The firm was represented by three members of the TCSIR team, who engaged with international collectors, art patrons, and industry leaders throughout the week.

As part of the event, TCSIR showcased two exceptional devel-

opments from its portfolio—The Strand Turks & Caicos and M-House by Beach Enclave—both featured within the Private Collectors Lounge, an exclusive setting reserved for discerning attendees. Their inclusion offered unparalleled exposure to a highly curated international audience and underscored the firm's ability to seamlessly connect luxury real estate with art, design, and global lifestyle. TCSIR's presence at Art Basel further highlighted the firm's growing

influence beyond the Caribbean, positioning the Turks & Caicos Islands as a destination of choice for sophisticated buyers seeking world-class properties and culturally rich experiences.

The firm extends its sincere appreciation to ONE Sotheby's International Realty, its Miami affiliate, for the warm welcome and exceptional hospitality throughout the event and look forward with anticipation to returning to Miami Art Basel in 2026.



Micheal Fenimore (right) and visual artist Bradley Theodore at the Miami Art Basel 2025.



SANTA TOUCHES DOWN ON GRACE BAY BEACH

Hundreds of persons, including scores of children, both locals and visitors flocked the world-famous Grace Bay Beach in Providenciales to witness the arrival of Santa and his helpers on Christmas Day December 25. Santa alighted from the boat to a lively Junkanoo Band, and a cheering crowd. On arrival he doled out treats to the children and later allowed them to take photographs with him. The following are photo highlights of event.





Some members of the local media fraternity who were present to share in the experience



Members of the Beaches Turks and Caicos resort's entertainment team were on hand to provide scintillating performances at the event

TCI Corporate Community/Beaches Resort to Raise Funds for Jamaica's Melissa Relief

Corporate partners in and around Providenciales recently joined Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort raising over US \$54,000 to support Jamaica's Hurricane Melissa Relief effort.

The fundraising dinner, aptly titled, 'One Caribbean, One Family, One Love' saw over eighteen companies gather on Friday, December 12 to support the recovery of families and the rebuilding of communities affected by the category 5 storm.

"When our Caribbean family calls, we will respond with love," said Deryk Meany, General Manager of the Beaches Turks and Caicos resort. "Today it is Jamaica that is affected, but tomorrow, it could be the Turks and Caicos or another neighbouring island. We are committed to serving our brothers and sisters and are deeply grateful to everyone who have donated to the cause."

Since the passage of Hurricane Melissa in Jamaica on October 28, the Sandals Foundation has been working around the clock with local agencies and international partners to provide shelter essentials, food, and clean water, restore schools, and provide medical support to hospitals. Funds raised at the recent benefit dinner will help bolster the next phase of the philanthropic organisation's support to rebuild schools and livelihoods in affected communities. "As we continue to provide essential first-relief support, we have already begun our long-term recovery response," says Patrice Gilpin, Public Relations Manager at Sandals Foundation. "Many schools, which are the cornerstone of stability, learning, and emotional support for our young ones, require urgent attention. This donation will go a far way



Beaches Turks and Caicos resort General Manager Deryk Meany (5th left) poses for the cameras with representatives of the Graceway Communities as he personally thanked those who were in attendance



Sandals Foundation Public Relations Manager Patrice Gilpin (centre) accepts the cheque from Beaches Turks and Caicos resort General Manager Deryk Meany (left) and Managing Director of the Northern Caribbean and Curacao James McAnally

in restoring a sense of normalcy in the lives of our youngest and most vulnerable."

The One Caribbean, One Family, One Love fundraising dinner featured, amongst other things a silent auction of Sandals and Beaches Resort stays, airline tickets, spa services, catamaran cruise, and private chef dinner. The night's four course meal was also spearheaded by the TCI's 2025 Taste of the Caribbean silver medalist culinary team- all of whom volunteered for the event. Managing Director of the Northern Caribbean and Curaçao, James McAnally expressed delight at the outcome noting, "The success of this event is indicative of the power of partnerships to effect real change. We are grateful to the TCI business community, resort guests and our resort team for coming together and making this moment count."

Voices from the Streets Part 62...

The Value of Finding Solutions

By Nixon Dickenson

In this week’s Voices from the Streets, I am excited to share the perspective of Makhi Butterfield, a young man with a bright future. At just 20 years old, Makhi works as a security guard at JAGS McCartney International Airport. However, his eyes are set on the skies, he aspires to become a pilot and understands that “the journey of a thousand miles begins with the first step.” During our conversation, Makhi shared his favourite quote by the legendary John Lennon: “There are no problems, only solutions.” This struck me deeply because, too often, we focus on the problems we face as a nation, as a community, and individually, while spending very little time valuing solutions. Makhi believes that when we remain open-minded, present, and embrace new experiences, opportunities, and relationships, we take the proper steps toward building a safer country. He reminded us that everyone has a role to play. Makhi spoke candidly about losing many friends to gun violence and his determination not to become a statistic.

His message is clear: celebrate life and appreciate small, humble beginnings. He does this by embracing experiences, fostering personal growth, building strong relationships, and showing gratitude daily. Living authentically and making the most of his potential keeps him grounded, and he encourages other young people to do the same. One of Makhi’s most powerful insights is that accountability is the first step in addressing crime in our country. Young people must take responsibility for their actions, decisions, and consequences rather than making excuses or blaming others. Even under pressure, we must make choices that benefit not only ourselves but future generations. He also stressed that when young people are willing to be accountable, society must be willing to forgive. Forgiveness does not erase consequences, but it helps heal wounds and build stronger communities. Makhi is also a strong advocate for gun amnesty programs that reward young people for turning in weapons without fear of prosecution. He believes this could be a practical way to stem the rising tide of gun violence sweeping our nation. Makhi credits his family, especially his

mother, for shaping the man he is becoming. He spoke of her countless sacrifices and vowed to pay it forward when he earns his pilot’s certification. His philosophy is simple yet profound: “A book should never be judged by its colour but by its character and its value.” He hopes to keep pushing and working hard until his dream takes flight. **Call to Action** Makhi’s story reminds us that every dream begins with discipline and purpose. As a security officer, he protects lives today while preparing to soar tomorrow. Let’s honour his example by doing our part:

- Support programs that create pathways for young people to achieve their goals—whether in aviation, security, or other fields.
- Mentor and encourage those who are working hard to rise above challenges.
- Join the fight against gun violence by promoting accountability and forgiveness, and by supporting initiatives like gun amnesty programs.

If Makhi can stand guard at our airport while dreaming of piloting planes, then surely, we can stand guard over our

communities and help our youth take flight. The future of Turks and Caicos depends on the steps we take today. I want to offer a heartfelt thank you to Makhi Butterfield for sharing his vision, his courage, and his wisdom. Your story inspires us all to dream big, live authentically, and take the first step toward a brighter future.



Writer Nixon Dickenson (right) and Makhi Butterfield share a photo moment

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Redefining skin health for the Caribbean

For Dr Keren-Marie St Clair, skin health is more than aesthetics, it is deeply connected to confidence, mental well-being, and quality of life. As the founder of The Skin Lab Jamaica and creator of The Skin Lab, a medical-grade skincare line designed specifically for Caribbean skin, her work represents a shift towards evidence-based, regionally relevant dermatologic care. Dr St Clair’s journey into skin health began with her own experience. “My interest in skin health began with my own struggles with acne as a teenager and young adult,” she said. As she progressed through medical training, she became increasingly aware of how profoundly skin conditions affect patients, not just physically, but emotionally. “I realised how deeply skin conditions can affect confidence, mental health, and overall quality of life,” Dr St Clair said. That realisation became the foundation for The Skin Lab Jamaica, a practice rooted in education, medical expertise, and long-term skin health management. Born in Trinidad and Tobago and now practising in Jamaica, Dr St Clair says working across the Caribbean has sharpened her understanding of regional skin needs. “While our islands differ culturally, our skin challenges are very similar. It reinforced the need for region-specific approaches rather than one-size-fits-all solutions,” Dr Clair said. This cross-island experience highlighted the shortcomings of relying on imported skincare solutions that do not account for Caribbean climate, skin tones, genetics, or access to care. Rather than one defining moment, Dr St. Clair describes a gradual realisation shaped by international training and clinical practice.



“Advanced skincare was never one-size-fits-all. There was not enough emphasis on education, proper aftercare, sun protection, or long-term maintenance,” she said, recalling her early training in Florida. She observed that while other regions emphasised personalised, medically guided care, skincare in the Caribbean was often fragmented. She also noted the confusion among patients about when to seek spa services versus medical care. “That is when I realised the Caribbean needed a more holistic and medically guided approach to skin health,” she said. This insight led her to pursue extensive local and international training and to implement global standards adapted to Caribbean realities. Dr St Clair is particularly concerned about misinformation circulating on social media.

“Unverified advice from influencers promoting unsafe products or procedures concerns me the most. These were neither evidence-based nor medically supervised,” she said. She has treated patients suffering from burns, scarring, and long-term damage caused by trends lacking medical oversight. The most common concerns are acne, acne scarring, hyperpigmentation, melasma, and premature ageing related to sun exposure. Many patients also have overlapping conditions, such as eczema, which complicates treatment when not properly diagnosed. “Our tropical climate increases sun exposure, heat, and humidity, which exacerbate pigmentation disorders and inflammatory skin conditions. Genetics influence how our skin reacts to injury and inflammation, while lifestyle factors such as diet, stress,

and inconsistent skin routines also play a significant role,” Dr St Clair said. Through The Skin Lab Jamaica and The Skin Lab skincare line, Dr St Clair continues to advocate for a model that blends science, education, and cultural understanding. Her mission is clear - to empower Caribbean patients with accurate information, personalized care, and solutions designed specifically for their skin. “Skin health is not about trends. It is about understanding your skin, protecting it, and caring for it properly for life,” Dr St Clair said. A major part of Dr St Clair’s work involves correcting misconceptions that can do more harm than good. Among the most common myths: · Oily skin doesn’t need moisturiser · Skipping moisturiser can increase oil production and worsen acne. · Black people do not need sunscreen While darker skin has more natural protection, it is still vulnerable to sun damage, hyperpigmentation, premature ageing, and skin cancer, especially in the Caribbean’s intense UV climate. · Spa treatments and medical clinics offer the same care There is a critical difference between cosmetic services and medically guided skincare. · Natural remedies are always safer Ingredients like lemon, baking soda, toothpaste, and raw oils often damage the skin barrier and worsen pigmentation. · One product works for everyone Skin care must account for ethnicity, climate, lifestyle, and skin type. · Facials alone fix skin problems Without proper home care, sun protection, and sometimes medical treatment, facials are not enough.

Maximize Your Upper Body Workout With These 6 Rear Delt Exercises

Your shoulders are composed of three primary muscle groups: the anterior, lateral, and posterior deltoids.1 The rear delts are a key muscle group responsible for shoulder joint stability and balance. Strengthening them can enhance your upper body strength, improve your posture, and reduce your risk of shoulder injury.2 To target and strengthen your rear delts effectively, use a combination of resistance bands, cable machines, and dumbbells. Plus, make sure to use weights that are appropriate for your current level of strength. **1. Cable Face Pull** Cable face pulls are a staple exercise to work the rear delts. The cable machine helps keep the muscles in constant tension. 1.Adjust the cable pulley so it’s at face level, and stand with your feet shoulder-width apart. 2.Grab the rope with palms facing downwards and step back a few feet to create tension in the cable. 3.Engage your core, keep your knees slightly bent, and your posture tall. 4.Pull the cable towards your face with your elbows high and aligned with your ears, forming a 90-degree angle. 5.Squeeze your shoulder blades together,

then slowly extend your arms back to the starting position. **2. Band Pull-Aparts** Band pull-aparts are a safe and effective way to target the rear delts using a resistance band. Choose a resistance that allows you to keep your elbows straight throughout the movement. 1.Stand with a resistance band in front of you and grab the ends. 2.Pull the band apart as you also pull toward your chest with straight arms, making sure to pinch your shoulder blades together. 3.Once the band reaches your chest, slowly reverse the direction, keeping your elbows straight. **3. Dumbbell Rear Delt Flys** Flyes are an excellent way to target the rear delts. You don’t need to go too heavy on these; focus on the contraction rather than the weight. 1.Grab two lighter dumbbells and hinge from your hips so your torso comes parallel to the floor. 2.With the weights positioned in front of you together, bring your arms out to the side towards the ceiling. 3.Make sure to pinch your shoulder blades

together as you bring the weights up. 4.Keeping a firm grip on the dumbbells, and reverse the direction. **4. Reverse Pec Deck Flys** This is another fly variation for your rear delts, but this time, you can use the reverse pec deck machine, which is commonly found at most gyms. 1.Sit facing forward and set the arms of the machine close together to begin the set. 2.Keep a firm grip on the handles and push the machine arms out to the side. 3.Squeeze your shoulder blades together as your arms progress to a T-shape. 4.Come back to the starting position and repeat. **5. Single Arm Dumbbell Row** The dumbbell row targets your rear delts and also works your main back muscles. 1.Place one knee and the corresponding hand on the bench for support, keeping your back flat and core engaged. 2.Grab a dumbbell with the opposite hand while keeping your back straight and shoulders level. 3.Row the dumbbell up towards your chest, squeezing your shoulder blades together. 4.Lower the dumbbell slowly and repeat for the desired number of repetitions.

6. Wide Grip Lat Pull-Down The lat pull-down, done with a wide grip, ensures that the tension is felt in your rear delts and not as much in your lats. You can find the lat pull-down machine at most gyms. 1.Sit facing forward and grab the bar far toward the ends so your grip is wide. 2.Look up slightly and pull your shoulder blades down and back as you pull the weight down in front of your face, towards your chest. 3.Pause briefly at the bottom position to feel your back muscles and rear delts contract. 4.Slowly extend your elbows back to the starting position and repeat. Why You Should Target Your Rear Delts Targeting your rear delts is essential for balanced shoulder development and overall shoulder health. Strong rear delts have a primary role in your shoulder stability, helping reduce the risk of shoulder injuries, like injuries to your rotator cuffs. Strong rear delts also come into play during activities that involve pulling and overhead motions. They are essential for good posture, and strengthening them helps reduce forward-rounded shoulders.

Vybz Kartel makes Billboard's Rhythmic Airplay Top 5

King of the dancehall Vybz Kartel made the Top 5 for the first time in his career on Billboard's Rhythmic Airplay chart.

He is featured on Travis Scott's PBT, which glides from #7 to #5. The song also features singer Tyla.

PBT gives Vybz Kartel his fifth entry on a Billboard song chart. His previous song entries were Pon De Floor with Major Lazer, which peaked at #41 on Billboard's Dance Digital Song Sales chart in 2010; Ramping Shop with Spice, which topped out at #76 on Billboard's Hot R&B/Hip Hop Songs chart; and Fever, a certified-gold hit that stalled at #36 on Billboard's R&B/Hip Hop Airplay and #23 on Rap Airplay charts.

Vybz Kartel is also featured on the collaborative charting single You Remind Me by DJ Khaled and featuring Buju Banton, Bounty Killer, RorystoneLove, and Kaylan, which reached #25 on the Rhythmic Airplay chart two months ago.

TBA is featured on the 17-track Jackboys 2 compilation album, which was released on July 13 via Cactus Jack Records and Epic Records. Other artistes featured on the compilation include Future, Playboi Carti, NBA Young Boy, Glo Rilla, 21 Savage, and Bun B.

Moving now to the Billboard Reggae Albums chart, Bob Marley and



Vybz Kartel during one of his performances

the Wailers log 309 non-consecutive weeks at #1 with Legend.

Meanwhile, Best of Shaggy: the Boombastic Collection by Shaggy remains at #2, Dutty Classics Col-

lection by Sean Paul re-enters at #3 while his Dutty Rock set is #4.

World on Fire by Stick Figure inches up to #5, while Greatest Hits by UB40 creeps up to #6.

Stick Figure has the next three spots, Set in Stone at #7, Wisdom at #8, and Free Flow Sessions at #9. Exodus by Bob Marley & The Wailers re-enters at #10.

Over on the Rebel Vibe Top Ten Canadian Reggae chart, Neto Yuth and Anthony B take over the #1 spot with So Long. Feels Like Home by JUNO-nominated Celena is #2, Wheel and Come Again by SkyStar holds at #3, Loving You Forever by Tesharah remains at #4, and Show Us the Way by Eddie Bullen featuring Kandice K.A.S.H., Tasha T and Mel Dube rises to #5.

Where Do I Fit In by Kashief Lindo rises to #1 on the South Florida Reggae chart, while Trench Town Legend by Alborosie steps up from #13 to #12.

Your Grace and Mercy by George Nooks moves up from #20 to #18, while Mental Health Awareness by Hopeton Lindo and Anthony Malvo debuts at #23.

For a second week Richie Stephens is on top of the New York Reggae chart with Special Lady, while We Need Love by Johnny Osbourne and Tarrus Riley is #8.

All Over the World by Lila Ike and Protoje rises from #12 to #10, while Distant Lover by Kehv is #16. Feel Good by Royal Sounds is the sole new entry at #28.



American tennis legend Venus Williams has officially ties the knot with Andrea Predi

Venus Williams ties the knot with Andrea Predi

American tennis icon Venus Williams officially tied the knot with longtime boyfriend Andrea Predi at a wedding ceremony in Florida over the weekend.

According to Vogue, the couple celebrated their union with two separate weddings. The first was held on September 18 in Ischia, Italy.

"We had this dream to have our wedding in Italy," Venus told Vogue. "But we didn't have enough time to complete the pa-

perwork. Because I'm a foreigner, it can take about eight months, so we decided to have a second wedding."

The second ceremony reportedly took place in Palm Beach, Florida, and featured a week of festivities leading up to the main event.

"We love welcoming people into our home every single day, and everyone was eager to have fun with us," Venus said.

The couple got engaged on January 31, 2025.

CHANUKAH IN TURKS AND CAICOS

Chanukah marks an event that occurred over 2,100 years ago, when a small but determined group of Jews known as the Maccabees triumphed over the mighty Greek empire, which sought to suppress their faith and culture.

The victory was not only a miraculous military achievement but a spiritual one, marking the rededication of the Holy Temple in Jerusalem after it had been desecrated. Wanting to light the temple's Menorah—a seven-branched candelabra—they discovered that all the sacred oil had been contaminated. Miraculously, they found one small jug of pure oil, barely enough to last a single day. Yet, the Menorah burned for eight days.

Here in Turks and Caicos, as in countless communities around the world, the holiday is marked with the lighting of the Hanukkah menorah, an eight-branched candelabra with an additional “helper” candle called the shamash. A blessing is recited while adding another candle each night, so that by the eighth night all eight candles are burning bright. This simple act serves as a reminder of the triumph of freedom over oppression, of light over darkness and of good over evil.

However, the message of Hanukkah extends far beyond the history and rituals. It reminds us that even a small amount of light can dispel a tremendous amount of darkness.

Darkness comes in many forms, whether it is conflict, injustice, or even the quieter struggles we keep to ourselves. Rather than responding to darkness with more darkness, the prescription is to light a flame, let its glow radiate outwards.

In Jewish tradition, this light begins at home. The menorah is placed in a window or another visible spot to share its glow with the world. But the light is not meant to stop there. It is a call to action for each of us to bring light into our own lives and the lives of the people around us, speaking to the shared human responsibility to illuminate our world with goodness and kindness.

Just as the flames of the menorah light up the space around them, so too acts of goodness and kindness spread outward, touching lives in ways we may never fully see. It is this that forms the very bedrock of community, which we cherish so deeply here in Turks and Caicos Island. Whether through supporting neighbors in need, engaging in local causes, or simply sharing moments of joy and connection, each of us has the power to light up our corner of the world.

So let's think about how you can bring



a little more light into the world. In a time when darkness often feels all too present, creating a little light around you can make all the difference.

Chanukah in Turks & Caicos: A Festival of Light

Turks & Caicos celebrated Chanukah with menorah lightings across the islands, bringing joy to locals, tourists, and second homeowners.

The highlight was the seventh annual menorah lighting on Grace Bay Beach at the Ritz Carlton where over

300 attendees enjoyed doughnuts, latkes, dreidels, and activities. With the Honourable Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam and Honourable Deputy Premier Jamell Robinson, in attendance

With nightly lightings at various hotels, the holiday united the community in spreading the warmth and spirit of Chanukah across the islands.

Despite what happened the first night of Chanukah in Bondi Beach, Australia we are taught the only way to get

rid of darkness is to add light and not be desponded to not be afraid or retreat but to have our light shine even brighter

Thank you to our sponsors for helping us make a wonderful Chanukah on the island:

- Insurance center and Celerant
- And to all the resorts and villas which hosted.

- **Contributed by Rabbi Shmulik Berkowitz**



SALVATION ARMY’S KIDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

The Salvation Army on Thursday, December 18, held its Kids Christmas Party at the Brighter Futures Center in Providenciales. The dozens of children who flocked the venue were treated to a variety of meals, presents and game activities. There were more than 200 gifts that were prepared for the children. The following are photo highlights of the event.





Visit Of Education Quality Assurance Officers To Jamaica

The Quality Assurance Unit (QAU) in the Ministry of Education is advancing its efforts to implement the school inspection programme in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The QAU aims to contribute to the overall development and maintenance of standards in education and foster an environment conducive to quality teaching, effective learning, and overall academic excellence within our schools.

In May of this year, eight Quality Assurance Officers were certified upon completion of an extensive 70-hour training session on the Principles and Practices of School Inspection. This training was facilitated by Dr Maureen Clarke-Dwyer, Chief School Inspector, and Dr Karah Whitter, Senior Inspector – Quality Assurance, of the National Education Inspectorate (NEI) in Jamaica.

The training session encompassed evaluating leadership practices, conducting classroom and general observation dynamics, interpreting data, and participating in a mock inspection in one of the schools.

To continue strengthening their capacity and to ensure that our Quality Assurance Officers are fully prepared for this integral role, the QAU and the NEI collaborated to facilitate an immersion of two Officers in the school inspection process in Jamaica. Mrs Lashaunda Skippings and Mrs Sophia Thomas travelled to Jamaica on Saturday, 7th December 2025, to participate in a three-day immersion exercise with the NEI from 8th to 10th December 2025.

Mrs Kadean Cunningham, Quality Assurance Manager, reflecting on this immersion programme, posited that “this exercise is a vital element of training for our Officers in strengthening their confidence in the school inspection process.

It will also allow them to see firsthand how the inspection framework is applied in real time, bridging the gap between their theoretical learning during the training exercise

and the practical implementation of seeing how evidence is gathered, how professional judgement is exercised, and how the inspectors navigate the complexities of school environments.”

Commenting on the significance of the visit by our Officers, Dr Clarke-Dwyer said:

“Team NEI welcomes our colleagues from the Turks and Caicos Islands. This initiative marks a significant step in regional collaboration, capacity building, and the sharing of best practices in educational oversight and quality assurance.

“The primary objective of this visit is to fully immerse the Officers in Jamaica’s real-life education inspection processes. I am confident that this exchange will foster stronger ties between our territories and contribute to the professional development of the education quality assurance officers. We look forward to productive engagements and mutual learning during their time here in Jamaica.”

The Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, in her comments highlighted that “We are appreciative of the NEI partnering with us to build the capacity of our Officers by exposing them to a full understanding of the rudiments of school inspection. We look forward to continued collaboration with team NEI as we develop the school inspection programme here in the Turks and Caicos Islands.”

Day 1 – Pre-Inspection Session – Exposure to back-office operations. Interaction with team NEI, which comprises researchers, logisticians, liaison officers, and data analytics experts, gaining invaluable insights into the roles and collaborative efforts required for successful school evaluations.

Day 2 – Inspection – The Officers will proceed to the field to join the inspection team at a school. They will participate as members of the inspection panel, observing and contributing to the evaluation of teaching,

learning environments, and school leadership. This practical experience will deepen their understanding of the standards and expectations in the Jamaican context whilst fostering skills and insights that can be ap-

plied to their roles in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Day 3 – Wrap-Up Session – Reflection on their experience in the inspection and insights gained from the process.





FIFA Plenary Session & Meetings



**RITCHIE ATTENDS GRASSROOTS FOOTBALL
COMMITTEE MEETING IN DOHA**

TCIFA President Sonia Fulford led TCI Delegation

See Story on Page 32

Jamaica's 'HellRazor' grabs Canadian, WBL titles

Jamaican Super welterweight boxer Joshua 'HellRazor' Frazer defeated Mponda Kalunga for the Canadian and WBL International titles at the Queen's Manor Event Centre in Brampton, Ontario, with Kalunga being forced to end the fight prematurely after picking up an arm injury in the second round.

Frazer felt out Kalunga in the first round, before turning up the pressure on the 'Egyptian Prince' in the second, from which he picked up the injury and was forced to retire early, giving Frazer a TKO and the two titles.

Frazer's coach and father, Dewith Frazer, says the victory and the titles will now force other top fighters to face him in the ring, after most avoided him for years despite his number-two ranking.

"What this represents, is that the international community will see his name more often. He will also have opportunities because of these belts.

"Some champions will now look at him as somebody to fight because he has something they might want," the elder Frazer articulated.

He pointed out that now all of the top fighters who stayed away from challenging him, will have to reconsider that stance after he took the two belts.

"It will give him more international recognition and his ranking will go up. A lot of these guys didn't want to fight him. But now he will have more opportunities, and for everyone to see him more internationally as well," he stated.

Despite the fact that Kalunga retired hurt, Dewith noted that from the opening round they realised it would be a cakewalk for Joshua, who toyed with his opponent over the first round, before taking him to task in round two.

"This guy he beat, it's only the second time he (Kalunga) has been stopped. In his last bout he fought a middle-

weight, who is highly ranked, and he went the distance. So this really says a lot because Joshua stopped him in a very short period.

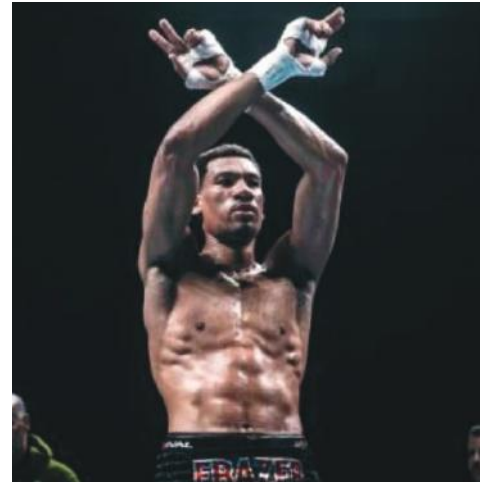
"But it was expected. Regardless of if it was the second or the fifth. From the fight started we realised that it was only a matter of time.

"He didn't know how to deal with Joshua's height. He didn't know how to deal with him being a southpaw. Everything was a challenge for him. So I think he realised there's no need to pursue any longer because he had no answers for what Joshua was giving him."

According to Frazer, there is no rush regarding what is next, saying the team will assess the options on the table when they come, and make the best decision for Joshua's future. In the reckoning, the coach says, is the possibility of fighting in Jamaica.

"We hope very soon Joshua will make an appearance in Jamaica. Ultimately, that's one of the things

we want to do. He himself wants to show Jamaica his skills and thank them for the support they have given him. Also, he wants to show the community the possibilities that exist for them. So it's something we want to entertain and we want to start working on also."



Joshua 'HellRazor' Frazer celebrates after one of his fights

West Indies captain says he 'let the team down' in New Zealand Tests

West Indies Test Captain Roston Chase said Monday he felt he had let his team down with his performances in their 2-0 series loss to New Zealand.

New Zealand wrapped up the series victory with a 323-run win on the final day of the third Test at Mount Maunganui, after an earlier draw in Christchurch and a win in Wellington.

Chase took over the captaincy in March, his team registering seven losses and a draw in his eight matches in charge.

He was a dejected figure at Bay Oval at the end of the fifth day, looking down on the field as the Black Caps players celebrated their victory with their families.

His pain was as much about the team failing to get a win in New Zealand as it was his own role in it.

"I had a tough series, very below par for my standards, and I didn't really lead from the front on the field," Chase said

"Leading in terms of words, and encouraging and inspiring the team, that was all good and well. But in terms of going out there, and producing for the team, and letting the team have someone to look up to as a leader, I thought that I let myself down and the team down as well."



West Indies batsman Brandon King pulls the ball during day five of the third international Test cricket match against New Zealand at Bay Oval. West Indies batsman Brandon King pulls during day five of the international Test cricket match against New Zealand at Bay Oval.

Chase scored just 42 runs across six innings in the series, an average of seven. It was the second-lowest output in Test history for a captain dismissed six times in a series.

With the ball, the off-spinner took three wickets at an average of 119,

although only the Bay Oval wicket offered any assistance to spinners.

Chase said he wants to be a captain who affects performance on and off the field, but that did not happen.

"I want to go out there and show them that I'm not just talking it, I'm

doing it as well and I'm giving my all for the team," Chase said.

"So, yeah, I was a bit disappointed with my efforts.

"I thought I got some good balls in the series but it's Test cricket — I still thought that I could have given more."

Chase said he is working hard to correct some of his batting deficiencies shown up in New Zealand.

That's an issue that the wider squad will have to consider, too, given their issues in scoring competitive totals in the first innings of matches.

But there were positives.

"I thought the bowlers gave a good effort and they never stopped trying," Chase said.

"Before the series started, the goal for the batters was to at least get one hundred in every game, and we got three hundreds over the three-game period so we were very happy with that.

"It's something that we've not been able to do in the recent past, getting hundreds."

Now it's about putting it all together for the West Indies.

Star all-rounder Justin Greaves, who made a double hundred to save the first Test in Christchurch, said Friday he believes the glory days can return to the West Indies.

Salt Rakers Aquatic Club Announces 2026 Open Water Swimming Competition

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club is calling on swimmers, sports enthusiasts, and supporters to mark their calendars early for one of next year’s major sporting events: the Salt Rakers Open Water Swimming Competition, set for March 28, 2026 in Grace Bay, Providenciales.

Hosted at Rickie’s Flamingo Café on Grace Bay Beach, the event aims to bring together athletes of all levels in a vibrant outdoor setting. With the theme “From Shore to Glory, One Stroke, One Ocean, One Challenge!”, the competition highlights the endurance, technique, and spirit of open-water swimming, while celebrating the natural beau-



ty of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Participants can register for multiple distance-based challenges, including:

- 2K Swim
- 1K Swim
- 500M Swim
- 100M Swim

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club

says the event is not just about competition, but about building community, promoting health and fitness, and increasing interest in aquatic sports across the islands. Swimmers, families, and supporters are encouraged to plan ahead and make the event part of their 2026 sporting calendar.

For more information or to register, the public may contact the organizers at (649) 241-1272.

With clear waters, a world-class beach setting, and a growing culture of competitive swimming in the TCI, the Salt Rakers Open Water Swimming Competition promises a thrilling start to the 2026 sporting season.

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Please apply no later than Friday, January 1st, 2026, to:
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TCI Sports Commission Honors Outstanding Staff Members

The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission earlier this month recognized outstanding staff performance and service during its 2025 Staff Appreciation ceremony, celebrating a year of achievement across the organization.

The event acknowledged individual excellence, long-standing service, and departmental leadership that contributed to the Commission's operational strength and continued support of sport development throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Jennifer Higgs, Office Secretary, received the Long Service Award in recognition of 15 years of dedicated service to the Commission.

Four staff members were honoured as Employees of the Quarter for 2025. William Basilio, Maintenance Manager, was recognized for the first quarter, followed by Machel Turner, Sport Programme Officer, for the second quarter. Kansha Linton, Finance Manager, earned third-quarter honours, while Calvina Andrews, Executive Assistant, was recognized for the fourth quarter.

Linton was also named Employee of the Year, capping a standout year of performance within the organization. The Finance Department received Department of the Year honours for its overall contribution and effectiveness.

A Board Recognition Award was presented to Ms. Joddy Harvey, Compliance and Support Manager, citing exceptional leadership and significant organizational impact.

Several team members received CEO Values-Based Commendations, highlighting performance aligned with the Commission's core principles. Angelo Garland, Head of Sports Performance, was recognized for In-



tegrity and Respect; Kansha Linton for Excellence and Professionalism; Joddy Harvey for Leadership and Accountability; Delano Williams, Sports Performance Coach, for Teamwork; and Roshano Cox, Sports Development Officer, for Good Citizenship. Additional Special CEO Highlights were awarded to Cheryl Obiakpani, Sport Programme and Events Manager, for Innovation and Transformation, and Calvina Andrews for Crisis Management and Organizational Stability. The Finance Department, led by CFO Jonathan Ramraj, was further recognized for Financial Governance and Audit Excellence.

The Sports Commission praised its staff for their dedication and professionalism, noting their continued impact on athletes, programmes, and communities nationwide, as the organization looks ahead to an even stronger 2026.





Sonia Fulford (third from left), and other female football movers and shakers, share lens with FIFA President Gianni Infantino.

Ritchie Attends FIFA Grassroots Football Committee Meeting in Doha

TCIFA Technical Director Dane Ritchie recently marked a major milestone in his international football administration career after attending his first meeting of the FIFA Grassroots and Amateur Football Committee in Doha, Qatar.

The meeting formed part of a wider series of high-level FIFA engagements that brought together more than 500 committee members from across the globe to discuss the development, governance, and future direction of the sport.

The Doha meetings coincided with the FIFA Council meeting, the FIFA Intercontinental Cup, and The Best FIFA Football Awards, creating a significant convergence of football leadership and decision-making. Central to the discussions were strategic priorities for the 2025–2029 cycle, with a strong focus on strengthening grassroots football, advancing women’s football initiatives, and assessing the future structure of club football worldwide.

The FIFA Grassroots and Amateur Football Committee plays a vital role in shaping policies that encourage participation at the entry and community levels of the game. Its work supports sustainable development pathways, ensuring that young players are introduced to football in inclusive, structured, and enjoyable environments.

Ritchie’s participation allowed the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) to contribute to global dialogue while gaining valuable insights that can be applied to local youth and community football programmes.

Also representing the TCIFA was President Sonia Fulford, who attended her first meeting of the FIFA Football Social Responsibility Committee. As the FIFA Council delegate appointed to this committee, Fulford worked alongside Chairperson Zaw Zaw of Myanmar and Deputy Chairperson Javier Zanetti of Argentina. The committee focuses on ensuring football serves as a positive force in society by promoting inclusion, education, equality, and social development through the sport.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino commended the Qatar Football Association for its exemplary hosting of the meetings, noting Doha’s continued ability to stage world-class football events and provide a platform for meaningful global collaboration.

The involvement of both Ritchie and Fulford in these influential FIFA committees represents a significant step forward for the TCIFA. Their participation underscores the association’s growing role within international football governance and aligns the Turks and Caicos Islands more closely

with FIFA’s global objectives. Importantly, it also ensures that the perspectives and developmental needs

of smaller member associations are represented as football continues to evolve worldwide.



Technical Director for the TCIFA Dane Ritchie and TCIFA President and FIFA Council Member are photographed at one of the FIFA events.