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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 9

Aug. 04, 2023 - Aug. 11, 2023

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More TCI Cadet Corps Passing-out Ceremony Highlights

Recently, the Turks and Caicos Islands Cadet Corps staged its 2023 Summer Camp Passing-out Ceremony at the Louise Garland Thomas High School grounds on Providenciales. At the graduation ceremony, the cadets put their skills learned during the camp, on display, which included drills and march-past. NewslineTCI Page2 was on hand to capture the moment.



Planning Department Greenlights Hamilton University Construction

Signing of the Hamilton Education Foundation. From left - Legal Counsel for Invest Turks and Caicos, Ms. Judith Garland; Premier Hon. Washing Misick; Hon. Dr. Rufus W. Ewing, Director and Chairman of The Hamilton Education Foundation; Acting Governor Hon. Anya Williams; and Ms. Yvette Marcelin, Legal Counsel for The Hamilton Education Foundation.



The Physical Planning Board, at its 750th Ordinary Meeting, held on Wednesday, 26th July , granted conditional approval for the construction of the five story multimillion dollar Hamilton University School of Medicine in Grace Bay. The Hamilton University School of Medicine (HUSM) which is the vision of former Premier of Turks and Caicos Islands, Dr. Rufus Ewing and his wife Dr. Dawn Perry-Ewing will be completed by 2025. The University is slated to open in the fall of 2025.

On June 15, this year, the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands signed a development agreement with the Hamilton Education Foundation for the construction and operation of the Hamilton University School of Medicine and Hamilton University Medical Center.

The medical university aims to provide opportunities for higher education in the health sciences in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

At the signing of the development agreement Dr. Rufus Ewing said: “This University is meant to be what we refer to as an indigenous Turks and Caicos university, in the sense that we are home-grown and I am saying this because there are over 50 medical schools throughout the Caribbean that are considered as US offshore medical schools.

“These are US companies that come in these territories/coun-

tries and they establish medical schools solely for the purpose of training and leading their students with some of them not making such of an impact, but in Turks and Caicos Islands, this university is meant to be indigenous, home-grown, home-owned in majority and also to serve the health and academic needs of Turks and Caicos Islanders predominately and also the wider Caribbean and also globally.”

Ewing said that Hamilton University School of Medicine (HUSM) will have a four-year program that will allow students to graduate the Medical Doctor (MD) degree, awarded by Hamilton University of Medicine.

He added that there will be three semesters per academic year, taking in 75 students per semester.

“Unlike other universities elsewhere, our students will have early immersion to clinical sciences because we will be implementing what we call problem-based learning/case base learning. It’s been a long time coming. A lot of studies have been done and the difference between our school and others is that we intend to be accredited provisionally before we establish,” he said at the time.

July 28th, 2022, saw the momentous formalization of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Hamilton University School of Medicine (HUSM) and the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The organization’s key pillars also include a focus on global health initiatives to enable social transformation through research and the improvement of health equity and access to care. The structure will comprise a five-storey building, and the medical complex will encompass approximately 45,000 square feet, inclusive of a University Medical Clinic that will house specialist clinics serving both the educational needs of the students as well as the evolving health care needs of the local community.

The HUSM’s main campus will accommodate students for their first two years of pre-clinical training and students will thereafter complete their clinical years of training in teaching hospitals in the US, Canada, the UK and the Caribbean.

The university’s design will incorporate state-of-the-art learning technologies, an accredited curriculum and a practice-based approach to learning in order to provide students with the key foundational knowledge required for future success.

Construction is proposed to begin sometime this year.

The Hamilton Education Foundation is a for profit company incorporated in the Turks and Caicos Islands and the company which is establishing Hamilton University School of Medicine (HUSM) and the University Medical Center as an affiliated business of the university.

The Hamilton Education Foundation is currently owned by its founders, Honourable Dr. Rufus Ewing and Dr. Dawn Perry-Ewing.

Both the Premier Hon. Washington Misick and Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams have put their weight behind the school’s construction, telling the media at the signing of the development agreement that it was an institution that is needed in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Premier, in his remarks, expressed that the development of the Hamilton University School of Medicine and the University Medical Center will go a long way in achieving his government’s commitment to the diversification of the TCI economy through social and economic transformation, while also addressing the health challenges of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Acting Governor in her remarks stated that the university, through its health and research programs, will enhance Turks and Caicos visibility on the global stage and recognition as a major player in addressing the global health challenges.

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A-List Travel Icons Share in Grace Bay Resorts' 30th Anniversary Celebrations

By Vivian Tyson



Mark Durliat (right), CEO of Grace Bay Resorts; Nikheel Adani (second left), COO, and Scott Khyle (left) Vice President Sales and Marketing, share a photo op with the world-wide A-listers of the global travel industry, at the Rock House Resort on Provienciales.

The Grace Bay Resorts celebrated its 30th anniversary this year, and the celebration was punctuated by a star-studded list of world-wide travel icons, which shared in the celebration between July 24 and 27. The travel icons included Anne Scully of Embark Beyond; Martin Rapp, Senior Vice President & Director of Leisure Travel, Altour; Jim Strong, President of Strong Travel Services; Timothy Krenzien, President and Owner of Paul Klein Travel; Valerie Ann Wilson, Founder of Valerie Wilson Travel; Tony Shepherd, CEO and Partner of Four Hundred; Nancy Strong, CEO of Strong Travel Services; Priscilla Alexander, Founder of Protravel International. While in the TCI, the Travel Icons dabbled in island life. They visited local establishments, took part in boat trips, and of course engaged in several site inspections.

Scott Khyle, the Grace Bay Resorts' Vice President for Sales and Marketing, told the local media that over the years his company had cultivated a close bond with the international travel movers and shakers, and it was as a result of that bond that they were able to get the Travel Icons to grace the shores of the Turks and Caicos Islands to celebrate with Grace Bay Resorts.

Scully, whose firm is based in New York, is responsible for advisor growth and development. Her vast relationships with travel partners throughout the world have made her one of the most sought-after names in the travel industry. Industry players described her as having the ability to exceed the travel requests of the most discerning of clients.

She has been quoted in major travel publications and top magazines. Forbes Magazine has called her the travel advisor to the stars and one of the top advisors in the world. EMBARK Beyond is a Virtuoso agency.

Martin Rapp worked in publishing for more than 20 years, culminating in his appointment as the Publisher and Head of Retail Operations of The Museum of Modern Art, New York. He later founded the famous and innovative Traveler's Bookstore in Rockefeller Center where, in addition to guidebooks, pioneered selling works of fiction and non-fiction evoking locations around the world.

When the bookstore was sold, he became a travel agent specializing in upscale leisure travel first at Linden Travel and then in 1994, he joined the newly founded Altour where he created the Leisure Department. Today, this global company has over a billion dollars in revenues and employs over 900 people with 65% of its business from corporate bookings, groups and incentive travel and 35% from leisure. Jim Strong, whose company is based in Dallas, Texas, focused on luxury products around the world with tailor-made trips for specialized clients. His insight and opinions are sought after by many industry organizations. Strong is the second generation of Strong Travel, and the third generation has already joined the business.

He currently serves on advisory boards for Travel + Leisure, Four Seasons Hotels and Resorts, Accor Hotels, IHG Hotels & Resorts, Marriott Luxury Brands as well as being named to the Travel + Leisure A-list of top travel agents numerous times. He has authored two books on travel and produced an off-Broadway play, a comedy about travel advisors in 2014, all under the name "Craving for Travel."

Strong Travel maintains a large team of Certified Travel Advisors and works with universities to support the efforts to recruit new talent to the industry. Strong Travel is a Virtuoso agency.

Nancy Strong, one of the Founders of Strong Travel, has been in the travel industry for over 35 years. Recognized as an Icon in the industry by her colleagues, she started the agency at the age of 40 and has owned the agency for 49 years. Her son, Jim Strong, and grandson, James Strong, now run the operation—it is a three-generation business.

She has served on numerous esteemed boards, including Ritz Carlton, Travel + Leisure, Luxury Collection and Abercrombie & Kent. Notably, she has contributed her expertise and insights to the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA), furthering the advancement of the travel industry.

As a trailblazing figure in the travel industry, her dedication and expertise have earned her the title of Travel Agent of the Year, a testament to her unparalleled excellence in the field. Nancy's significant and lasting impact on the industry led to her receiving

the Lifetime Achievement Award, a well-deserved honor that acknowledges her profound influence and enduring legacy.

In addition to these remarkable accomplishments, Nancy was also honored with the Ruby of Siam Award from Virtuoso, highlighting her exceptional contributions to the luxury travel.

Timothy Krenzien had traveled to at least 111 countries and through his travels, has cultivated personal relationships with hoteliers, guides, and travel operators all over the world. He was proudly appointed as a Virgin Galactic Accredited Space Agent, one of only 28 travel agents in the Americas accredited to sell space travel and is passionate about space travel on a professional and personal level. Paul Klein Travel is a Virtuoso agency.

With 39 years in the travel business, Valerie Ann Wilson is still as passionate about her work as the day she opened the doors to Valerie Wilson Travel in New York City in 1981. Under Valerie's leadership, along with her two daughters, Jennifer Wilson-Buttigieg and Kimberly Wilson Wetty (Co-Presidents), the company is one of the largest leisure travel brands and family run travel consulting firms in the United States. VWT has become a travel industry powerhouse and is listed annually among Travel Weekly's "Power List". In 2021, VWT was acquired by FROSCHE, which is now under the JPMorgan Chase umbrella.

Valerie has earned countless awards including "Lifetime Achievement" from Virtuoso and Travel Weekly, as well as Seabourn Cruise Line's Inaugural Warren Titus Award and the Mary Gostelow Award at ILTM Cannes 2019. In 2023, Valerie was named Godmother of Swan Hellenic's Diana. VWT is a Virtuoso agency.

Tony Shepherd oversees the operations of both Four Hundred, a private membership lifestyle management company, and Four Hundred by Design, a travel advisor platform launched by him in 2021. Four Hundred by Design connects travel advisors and independent contractors from agencies serving high net worth clients with more than 300 of the world's most exclusive accommodations and iconic properties.

Originally from Manchester, England, Tony has worked in several verticals within hospitality, travel and tourism including restaurants, private beach clubs, travel agencies and consortia. Prior to Four Hundred, Tony was a consultant for Virtuoso responsible for developing the travel agency program in Europe, Middle East and Africa, and COO of ProTravel, building the company to over 1,000 employees in 22 locations. Four Hundred is a member of Virtuoso.

Priscilla Alexander founded Protravel International in 1984 and quickly built it into a travel-agency juggernaut. By 2014, with \$900 million in annual sales, Protravel had become one of the largest international agencies in the US and England, with more than 800 employees, and was acquired by Internova.

Protravel was the first Premium Member of the American Society of Travel Agents (ASTA) as well as a member of ASTA's Corporate Advisory Council. Priscilla has served on nearly every advisory board established for the retail travel industry and is recognized year after year by Travel + Leisure magazine in its A-List issue. In 2008, Alexander was listed among Forbes "25 Most Influential Women in Travel."

She received a Travel Weekly Lifetime Achievement Award in 2009 and the Virtuoso Lifetime Achievement Award in 2014. Priscilla is described as an angel investor in travel businesses.

The trip also included Peter Greenberg, Travel Editor for CBS News and Peter Bates, President and Founder Strategic Vision.

Police On High Alert



File photo of the Police Tactical Unit going through their training.

Commissioner of Police Trevor Botting is informing the public that the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force have been put on high alert following the daring daylight gun-slaying of a man in the country's tourist belt – Grace Bay – and the trading of bullets between RTCIPF members and heavily armed men in the tough community of Dock Yard, on Wednesday, August 2.

The commissioner made the statement against the background of anticipated retaliations. Referring to the Grace Bay killing especially as highly concerning and shocking, Commissioner of Police is calling on the community to assist investigators in solving those crimes. He described the murder as a targeted assault, pointing out that the man deceased was linked to gang-related crimes, influenced by reprisals.

"The shooting dead of a man in Grace Bay on Wednesday 2nd August 2023 at 2 pm in the afternoon was shocking. This murder was targeted against the man who died and is, we believe, linked to gang-related serious crime, motivated by revenge and retribution," the commissioner said, pointing out that the killing was the country's 12th since the start of the year.

He pointed out that the majority of the murders have been linked to gang and serious crime activity.

"Our young men on the TCI are dying needlessly through senseless violence," the Commissioner lamented. "This matter is under active investigation, and I am asking you, our community, to tell us what you know about this and other serious crimes. You can do this in a number of ways and if you wish to stay anonymous, you can use Crimestoppers to tell us what you know. You don't need to leave your name and the information will be passed to us."

He pointed out that the exchange in gunfire between RTCIPF members and the heavily armed criminals in Dock Yard as equally brazen.

"Soon after the incident in Grace Bay yesterday, the RTCIPF received reports of a group of armed men in the Dock Yard area. When Police Officers attended the area, they were subject to sustained gunfire from a group of men who were armed with automatic weapons.

"In order to protect themselves, the Police officers also discharged their firearms. It is not known if any persons were injured as a result of the exchange although I can say that due to the protection afforded by the armoured vehicle, no police officers were injured in this cowardly attack on our Law Enforcement.

"Very soon after this event, the second RTCIPF armoured vehicle also deployed to Dock Yard and the armed gang members dispersed," the commissioner said.

He appealed to law-abiding citizens of Dock Yard to tell the police what they know about the men who are wreaking havoc across the island.

"I appeal to those law-abiding residents in Dock Yard to tell us where these individuals are living and who they are, you don't need to leave your name, just tell us what you know, and we will deal with the fear and harm they are creating within the community," the commissioner assured.

He continued: "The brazen manner in which armed men carried out the murder in Grace Bay and the attack on the Police Officers in Dock Yard is shocking and highly concerning.

"I also remain concerned that further shootings will be carried out between gangs of young men involved in organised gang activity, motivated by drugs, guns, and retaliation. For this reason, the RTCIPF is on high alert and is undertaking

robust operations in our communities, on our roads, and through intelligence-led targeted operations to locate and bring to justice those seeking to cause harm and fear across the TCI." He assured the Turks and Caicos Islands that the RTCIPF is devoted ridding the country of criminal elements, especially with the purchasing of vehicles dedicated to repel undesirables.

"The Force remains committed and resolute in keeping our communities safe. The Turks and Caicos Islands Government investment in policing have led to the purchase of two armoured vehicles to protect police officers from reckless and violent individuals as we chase them down, and chase them down, we will. We have more Tactical Officers than in 2022, specialists who are well-trained and equipped to tackle the threats we are facing.

"I remain grateful to the Hon Premier and his Government for their support of the work of policing across the TCI. In terms of the threats posed to police officers, let me be absolutely clear if any person poses a threat to the courageous men and women of the Force, their response will be uncompromising and robust. You need to know the reality, if you threaten a Police officer with a firearm, you must expect to be challenged and your threat will be met with potentially lethal force.

"In the days ahead, you will see more Police Officers on the streets, in your communities, and carrying out policing operations on the roads and in neighbourhoods. Please ensure that if you are around this operational policing, do not threaten officers and comply with any instructions given, this will help officers do their job.

"One other way that you can assist is to ensure that your vehicle is properly registered, displaying number plates, and that your window tints do not exceed the legal limits.

"Officers will be checking non-compliant vehicles and whilst you may end up with a fine, you must also expect to be challenged robustly when officers stop you. Criminals use cars that are heavily tinted and have no registration plates so if you don't want to be considered a potential threat, ensure your vehicle complies with the law.

"I have briefed The Governor and Premier, who actively engaged to ensure the required support is in place for our policing response. I have ensured that our Tourism Minister and partners are aware of the circumstances of the incident in Grace Bay.

"The Policing arrangements remain under constant review and if additional support or capacity is needed, then we will explore all options for bringing in additional resources.

"We realise that yesterday's incidents have caused fear within our communities and one man lost his life. In the coming days, there will be increased visibility of officers on our streets as we work hard to bring calm, security, and safety to the TCI and we are committed to dealing with the violent criminality that is blighting the Islands."

The realities of climate change

Global warming has resulted in the hottest July in recorded memory.

Earlier this week I was monitoring a Florida-based meteorologist and heard him declare, "...this is the hottest July in recorded memory". It would be hard to disagree with him.

Each year wildfires burn about 2 million acres of land in Canada. Already this year, 27 million acres have been burnt. All this while drought has affected 76 per cent of that country's farmland. The smoke from the fires sometimes makes visibility over hundreds of square miles in neighbouring United States virtually impossible.

In the United States, millions of citizens are affected by storms, flooding, wildfires, and droughts at the same time. Across the pond, in southern Europe, tourists are scampering back to the airport — some on foot — to avoid the heat and return home. At the time of writing, 19,000 tourists were leaving Greece and Italy is suffering badly.

Last week I was in Portland — the parish known for daily showers. I was shocked to learn that the river that feeds Somerset Falls has dried up. Several rivers, in fact. On my way back I noticed that the river running past Castleton Gardens is now just a trickle. In Stony Hill, the long, heavy showers are no more. But poincianas and poui trees bloom heavier and last longer. Jamaica Zoo in St Elizabeth is making special water arrangements to preserve its animals. Chicken farmers are losing hundreds of chickens daily as a result of the heat.

The river that feeds Somerset Falls has dried up online. This is climate change. Some call it global warming, others describe it as a global climate crisis. All these terms refer to the same thing. The fact is that the average temperature of the Earth's atmosphere is rising because of continued emissions of greenhouse gasses. They let sunlight pass through the atmosphere, but they prevent the heat that the sunlight brings from leaving the atmosphere. The main greenhouse gases are water vapour and carbon dioxide.

Some effects of greenhouse gases are the flooding of coastal cities, the desertification of fertile areas, the melting of glacial masses, the proliferation of devastating hurricanes, warmer and more acidic oceans, fish migration, animal extinction, biodiversity loss, water shortages, and displaced communities. Over 97 per cent of scientists agree that humans cause climate change.

The rate of carbon emissions are the highest they have been in 66 million years and the amount of warming in the coming decades is expected to be 250 times greater

than the average warming during the past century.

Years ago, when I first heard of climate change, I did not take it seriously. But we all should. The main threats resulting from climate change, which stems from the rising temperature of Earth's atmosphere, include rising sea levels, ecosystem collapse, and severe weather. Rising temperatures from human-caused greenhouse gas emissions affect planet-wide systems in various ways. For example, it warms the polar regions and the oceans. This melts the ice cover at the poles and causes the sea level to rise. Climate change affects ocean habitats by lowering oxygen and decreasing phytoplankton, which are the small plants that serve as the base of marine food chains. The process also kills coral reefs.

The warming of the atmosphere also changes weather patterns, causing more severe storms and droughts across many global regions. Higher temperatures are affecting the length of seasons and in some places are already crossing safe levels for ecosystems and humans. In Jamaica, pig farmers now spend much of their days hosing down their pigs as pigs have no sweat glands and will die quickly in this heat. Chickens are dying in large numbers. These conditions cause stress directly and indirectly to animals across the world. Many species are approaching or have reached the limit of where they can go to find hospitable climates. The real problem is how climate affects the ecosystem and food chain that animal has adapted to. In the US and Canada, moose are struggling due to an increase in ticks and parasites that are surviving the shorter, milder winters.

Salmon rely on cold, steady flowing rivers to spawn. As climate changes the temperature and flow of waterways, salmon populations have begun to dwindle, which affects many species that rely on salmon, like orcas and grizzly bears.

There are some natural places with enough diversity in altitude and geology such that, as the planet warms, they can be resilient strongholds for plant and animal species. These strongholds serve as breeding grounds and seed banks for many plants and animals that otherwise may be unable to find habitat due to climate change. But strongholds may not be an option for all species as some plants and animals are blocked from reaching strongholds by human development, like cities, highways, and farmland.

From straining agricultural systems to making regions less habitable, climate change is affecting people everywhere. We may be able to observe how weather patterns near us are shifting. In Alaska, entire coastal com-

munities are being moved because the sea level has risen to the point at which their original location is no longer habitable.

Climate change also exacerbates the threat of human conflict resulting from a scarcity of resources, like food and water, that have become less reliable as growing seasons change and seasons become less predictable. Around the globe, many of the poorest nations are being impacted first and most severely by climate change, even though they have contributed far less to the increase in carbon emissions that has caused the warming in the first place.

arming ocean temperatures are melting polar ice and shifting ocean currents and fish migration, leading to coral bleaching and die-offs. Because of the ocean's role in regulating Earth's climate by absorbing greenhouse gas emissions, they are taking a direct hit from climate change. All of this extra absorbed carbon dioxide is altering the chemistry of our oceans, making them more acidic. Ocean acidification is now the highest it has been in 300 million years.

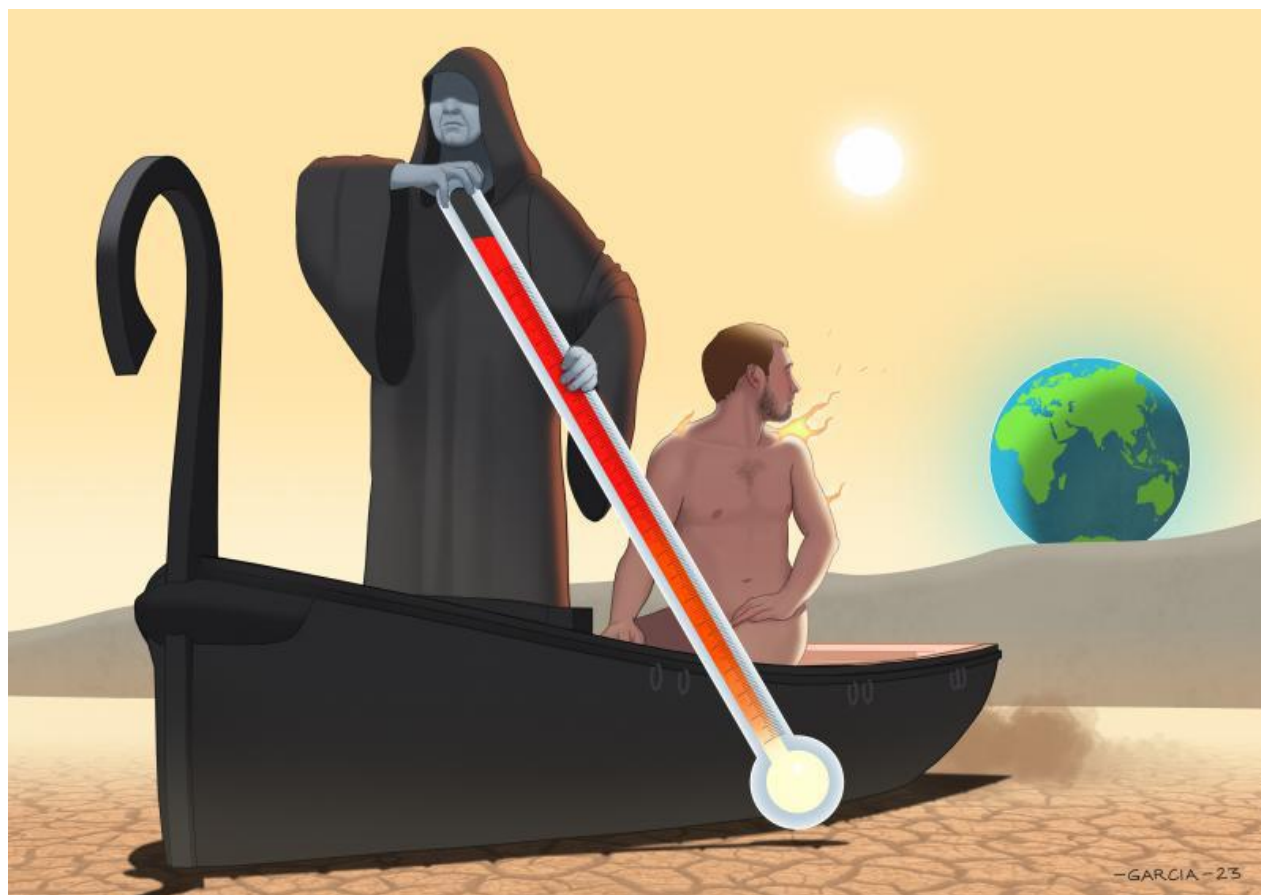
The disrupted weather patterns, which have led to more droughts and floods, also result in rising populations of insect pests that eat a higher share of crop yields.

It cannot be ignored that agricultural lands are among the Earth's largest natural reservoirs of carbon, and when farmers use soil health practices, like cover crops, reduced tillage, and crop rotation, they can draw even more carbon out of the atmosphere.

In order to avoid the worst impacts of climate change, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) says we must reduce carbon emissions to the point at which we hold global warming to no more than 1.5°C. To do that we must, as a planet, commit ourselves to reaching net zero carbon emissions by 2050. This will be very difficult and will require a range of solutions applied together. We will need to transition all sectors of our economy away from fossil fuels that emit carbons, increase our use of clean energy sources, like wind and solar, harness the power of nature to capture carbon, and deploy technologies that capture and store carbon.

Scientists claim that proper land management of forests and farmlands, also called natural climate solutions, can provide up to one-third of the emissions necessary to reach the Paris Climate Agreement goal.

Glenn Tucker is an educator and a sociologist. He is also a former president of the Mico Historical Society. Send comments to the Jamaica Observer or glenn.tucker2011@gmail.com.



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

TCI Well Represented in WTA Caribbean, Americas Gala Awards

By Vivian Tyson



The TCI is the perennial winner of not only the Best Beach in the Region but also the best Beach in the World.

The World Travel Awards Caribbean and Americas Gala Ceremony 2023 is scheduled for Sandals Grande St. Lucian, Saint Lucia on Saturday 26 August, and the Turks and Caicos Islands is well represented.

InterCaribbean Airways is jostling for the Caribbean's Leading Airline 2023, against Air Caraïbes, Bahamasair, Caribbean Airlines, Cubana and Liat. InterCaribbean is also in contention for the Caribbean's Leading Airline Brand.

The locally-based carrier is also looking to take the Caribbean's Leading Cabin Crew 2023, alongside Air Caraïbes, Bahamasair, Caribbean Airlines, Cubana, and Liat.

VIP Flyers Club @ Providenciales International Airport is contesting the Caribbean's Leading Airport Lounge 2023, along with Club MoBay @ Sangster International Airport, Jamaica; Executive Lounge @ Princess Juliana International Airport, St. Maarten; Executive Lounge @ V. C. Bird International Airport, Antigua; Graycliff Airport Lounge @ LPIA, Bahamas; and The Lignum Club at LPIA, Bahamas.

The Grand Turk Cruise Center is in the running for the Caribbean's Leading Cruise Port 2023, along with Nassau Cruise Port, The Bahamas; Port of Bridgetown, Barbados; Port of Falmouth, Jamaica; Port of Oranjestad, Aruba; and Port of Port of Spain, Trinidad & Tobago.

Turks & Caicos Islands is once again leading a strong field in the Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination 2023 category. The other contestants are Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Martinique, The Bahamas, Trinidad & Tobago, and U.S. Virgin Islands.

The TCI is also in the thick of things in the Caribbean's Leading Cruise Destination 2023, alongside Barbados, Dominican Republic, Grand Cayman, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, The Bahamas, and Trinidad & Tobago. The TCI also made it in the Caribbean's Leading Cultural Destination 2023 category. Its grouped alongside Barbados, Bermuda, Cuba, Jamaica, Martinique, Puerto Rico, St. Kitts and Trinidad.

In the Caribbean's Leading Dive Destination 2023 category, the Turks & Caicos Islands is up there with

the likes of Anguilla, Bonaire, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Martinique, St. Kitts, and The Bahamas.

The Turks & Caicos Islands is also jockeying for the Caribbean's Leading Honeymoon Destination 2023, but will have to contend with Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Nevis, Saint Lucia, St. Barth, and The Bahamas.

The TCI is also represented in the Caribbean's Leading Luxury Island Destination 2023. The TCI is up against Anguilla, Saint Lucia, and The Bahamas. The Turks & Caicos Islands Tourist Board is gunning for the top spot in the Caribbean's Leading Tourist Board 2023, alongside Anguilla Tourist Board, Antigua and Barbuda Tourism Authority, Aruba Tourism Authority, Barbados Tourism Marketing Inc., Bermuda Tourism Authority, Dominican Republic Ministry of Tourism, Grenada Tourism Authority, Jamaica Tourist Board, Puerto Rico Tourism Company, St. Kitts Tourism Authority, and The Bahamas Ministry of Tourism.

The Caribbean's Most Romantic Destination 2023 is another category that the TCI aims to snare. But they will have to contend with Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Jamaica, St. Barth, The Bahamas, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

The Palms and Point Grace are vying for the Caribbean's Leading All Suite Hotel 2023. They are up against Sandals Royal Barbados, and Treasure Beach by Elegant Hotels, Barbados.

Beaches Turks & Caicos could take the Caribbean's Leading All-Inclusive Family Resort 2023, but will have to contend with sister properties Beaches Negril, Jamaica and Beaches Ocho Rios, Jamaica, Coconut Bay Beach Resort & Spa, St. Lucia, Hyatt Ziva Rose Hall, Jamaica, Meliá Caribe Beach Resort, Dominican Republic, Royalton Antigua, and Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort, St. Lucia.

Amanyara is contesting the Caribbean's Leading Beach Resort 2023. It is going up against Amanera, Dominican Republic; Four Seasons Resort Nevis, West Indies; Jewel Grande Montego Bay Resort & Spa, Jamaica; Margaritaville Beach Resort Nassau, Bahamas; Sandy Lane, Barbados; Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort, St. Lucia; The Landings Resort & Spa, St. Lucia; The Ritz-Carlton, Turks & Caicos; Windjammer Landing Villa Beach Resort, St. Lucia; and Zemi Beach House, Anguilla.

Point Grace will be bearing the flag for the TCI in the Caribbean's Leading Boutique Hotel 2023, alongside Coral Reef Club, Barbados; Graycliff Hotel, The Bahamas; Hermitage Bay, Antigua; Hotel Casa Hemingway, Dominican Republic; Rockhouse, Jamaica; and Trident Hotel, Jamaica.

The Somerset on Grace Bay will contest the Caribbean's Leading Boutique Resort 2023, being grouped alongside Baoase Luxury Resort, Curacao; Catalonia Bávaro Hotel, Dominican Republic; Curtain Bluff, Antigua; Eden Roc Cap Cana, Dominican Republic; GoldenEye, Jamaica; Jumby Bay Island, Antigua; Ladera Resort, St. Lucia; Ocean Cliff Hotel, Jamaica; Sandals Royal Plantation, Ocho Rios, Jamaica; and Serenity at Coconut Bay, St. Lucia.

The Estate at Grace Bay Club, and The Palms are contesting the Caribbean's Leading Hotel 2023, grouped with Colony Club by Elegant Hotels, Barbados; Half

Moon, Jamaica; JW Marriott Hotel Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic; and The Landings Resort & Spa, St. Lucia.

The Villas Grace Bay Penthouse Suite @ Grace Bay Club will be the standard-bearer for the TCI in the Caribbean's Leading Hotel Suite 2023. Other regional contestants are: Beachfront Grande Rondoal Butler Suite with Private Pool Sanctuary @ Sandals Grande St. Lucian, St. Lucia; Beachfront One Bedroom Skypool Butler Suite w/ Balcony Tranquility Soaking Tub @ Sandals Royal Barbados; Bridge Suite @ The Royal at Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas; and Italian Oceanview PH. 1 Br. Skypool Butler Suite @ Sandals Grenada.

The Ritz-Carlton and the Amanyara will be the two TCI representatives in the Caribbean's Leading Luxury All-Inclusive Resort 2023. Other contestants are: Curtain Bluff, Antigua; Excellence Punta Cana, Dominican Republic; Hyatt Zilara Rose Hall, Jamaica; Sandals Dunn's River, Jamaica; Sandals Emerald Bay, Bahamas; Sandals Grenada; Sandals South Coast; Sonesta Ocean Point Resort, St. Maarten; and Spice Island Beach Resort, Grenada.

COMO Parrot Cay is listed in the category of the Caribbean's Leading Luxury Honeymoon Resort 2023. It will be up against Amanera, Dominican Republic; Cheval Blanc St-Barth Isle de France; Four Seasons Resort Nevis, West Indies; Jade Mountain Resort, St. Lucia; Rosewood Le Guanahani St. Barth; and The Ocean Club, a Luxury Collection Resort, Costa Norte, Dominican Republic.

Amanyara Villas, COMO Parrot Cay and Sailrock Resort are contesting the Caribbean's Leading Luxury Island Resort 2023, alongside Four Seasons Resort Nevis, West Indies; Rosewood Baha Mar, Bahamas; and Scrub Island Resort, Spa & Marina, British Virgin Islands.

The Rock House is the sole TCI representative in the Caribbean's Leading Luxury Resort 2023. Other contestants are: Amanera, Dominican Republic; Baoase Luxury Resort, Curacao; Four Seasons Resort Nevis, West Indies; Jumby Bay Island, Antigua; Mandarin Oriental, Canouan, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines; Rosewood Baha Mar, Bahamas; Sandy Lane, Barbados; and Sugar Beach, A Viceroy Resort, St. Lucia.

Pine Cay, The Meridian Club, and Ambergris Cay lead the pack in the Caribbean's Leading Private Island Resort 2023. Other contestants are: Fowl Cay Resort, Bahamas; Kamalame Cay, Bahamas; Musha Cay, Bahamas; Necker Island, British Virgin Islands; and Over Yonder Cay, Bahamas.

The Shore Club, and Seven Stars Resort & Spa, have been grouped in the Caribbean's Leading Resort 2023. The other regional contestants are: Atlantis Paradise Island, Bahamas; Casa de Campo Resort & Villas, Dominican Republic; Half Moon, Jamaica; Mount Irvine Bay Resort, Trinidad & Tobago; Sandals Grande Antigua; Sandals Negril, Jamaica; Sandals Royal Bahamian, Bahamas Sandals Royal Barbados; and Spice Island Beach Resort, Grenada.

COMO Parrot Cay and Amanyara are placed in the category of the Caribbean's Most Romantic Resort 2023. The others contesting that category are: Four Seasons Resort Nevis, West Indies; Rosewood Le Guanahani St. Barth; Sandals Grande Antigua; and The Ocean Club, a Luxury Collection Resort, Costa Norte, Dominican Republic.

Make Sure Your Passport Is Valid In Advance Of Planning Trip



Having seen an increase in emergency passport requests, the Department of Citizen-

ship and Naturalization, within the Ministry of Home Affairs, is reminding the citizens of

the Turks and Caicos Islands of the importance of checking the validity of their passports whether there are immediate plans to travel, or not.

The department pointed out that it is imperative that individuals check their passports periodically, and especially before purchasing airline tickets. It further pointed out that a passport must be at least six months in validity to be considered as effective for travel. The Passport Office said it strongly recommends that persons should apply for a new passport ten (10) weeks (approximately two and a half months) before travel date. It pointed out that currently there is a delay in processing British Overseas Territory Citizen (BOTC) Passports due to a seasonal increase in receipt of passport applications.

The Department further advises that strict guidelines govern the issuance of BOTC emergency passports, which will be considered under the following conditions:

- Request from InterHealth Canada regarding an emergency transfer of a patient to another country outside of the Turks and Caicos Islands; and
- Urgent business travel by government officials and parliamentarians.

Additional information and forms may be found on the website www.gov.tc/passports

Customs Department hosted Importer Awareness Session



The Customs Department hosted an Importer Awareness Session under the theme “Harmonizing Trade Facilitation and Compliance” This session was held on the 29th June 2023 at the OPUS conference room in Providenciales. Participants were given valuable insights into the intricacies of customs procedures, regulatory requirements, and best practices for successful import operations.

The intent of this awareness session is to equip importers with the necessary knowledge to streamline their import processes, mitigate risks, and ensure compliance. By providing valuable insights and practical guidance, as we aim to empower importers to make informed decisions that drive their business forward. During the session, a wide range of topics we covered, including:

1. Understanding customs regulations and relevant trade law
2. The role of the Customs Department and brokers
3. Navigating documentation and record-keeping requirements
4. Tariff classification and the valuation process
5. Trade facilitation measures and the customs procedures
6. Customs audit and penalty avoidance strategies

The attendees also had the opportunity to engage in Q&A sessions with Customs officials, network with fellow brokers, and gain valuable insights from industry peers.

The Customs Department would like to extend our appreciation to all participants who attended this session. Let us carry the knowledge and insights gained and apply them in our daily practices, ensuring compliance and efficiency in our import operations.

“TCI Customs and Brokers: Together we make the difference”.

Opposition Throws Its Weight Behind The Informal Settlement Unit



Leader of the Opposition Hon. Edwin Astwood affirmed that the Informal Settlement Unit (ISU), which has been established to rid the TCI of structures erected illegal, has his full support, and an issue that would not be used as a political football.

The Opposition Leader made the declaration at the launch of the ISU onat the Laporte Plaza, Downtown Providenciales. He told the gathering that he welcomed the formation of the unit and the job that it has been mandated to do.

"As you know, this is a situation in our community

that we have been fighting to tackle for many, many years," Astwood declared. "From the time I came into government, my time at the hospital, this has been a problem in the Turks and Caicos for many, many years. And now we have solutions that we are trying to put in place to tackle this social issue that needs to be tackled here and now."

The opposition leader pointed out that unplanned communities are very difficult to access especially in a time of crisis, and so need regulations.

"We have seen the troubles that this presented in

our communities. We have seen it through hurricanes, and the pandemic. It was difficult getting to the people. we have seen the issues," he stated.

He lauded government for producing solution to rid the TCI of informal settlements and have it returned to its originally pristine state.

"I believe that now we have seen the solutions, and I here stand with the Unit, with the government in dealing with it. This is a national issue...it is not just an issue for Grand Turk, and it is not just an issue for Providenciales. Yes, those are the two main places, but we have to protect against this in all our islands," Astwood asserted.

"And so, national issues like this we need to be unified, and I am here standing in solidarity with my colleagues from the House of Assembly, my colleagues across government, all the civic groups...I am in support. My government, the people's government, the Turks and Caicos Government...they are the government of the day, and we all of to give the support on this national issue," added the opposition leader. According to Astwood, when it comes on to national issues of this magnitude, political, religious and other persuasions should be tossed aside.

"No matter what group you belong to, let's give this initiative our full support. We need to deal with this. We are saying that we are a first-class destination...we need to look like first-class from the airport straight to the resorts and everywhere in between. So, tackling his issue is truly a step in the right direction in getting us to look like a first-class destination," he reiterated.

"I want to say to the Informal Settlement Unit, you can call me anytime, any place to support you. Government officials, the Opposition is here to support you. We are going to walk together hand in hand on this issue. And we will not make any political issue on this situation in the country," he concluded.

TCICSA Shines at 51st CPSA Conference in Belize

The Turks and Caicos Islands Civil Service Association (TCICSA) proudly announce the successful participation and membership of its President, Mr. Demarco Williams, and Vice President, Mr. Clyde Greene, at the 51st Annual Conference of the Caribbean Public Services Association (CPSA).

The conference, held in Belize from July 16-21, 2023, has brought together esteemed delegates from across the Caribbean to explore the theme "Fortifying Public Services Unions: safeguarding workers for a more resilient Caribbean Labour Movement."

The CPSA conference provided a platform for thought-provoking discussions, insightful presentations, and meaningful networking opportunities. Delegates are engaged in diverse topics relevant to the modern challenges faced by public service unions in the Caribbean.

The TCICSA representatives actively participate in these discussions, sharing their expertise and contributing valuable insights on various pressing issues affecting workers in the region.

Among the notable topics explored during the

conference were:

- Preparing for Retirement: What You Should Know;
- Unfair Globalization and its Impact on Trade Unions;
- Artificial Intelligence and its Impact on Workers in the Caribbean;
- Fortifying Public Service- How?;
- Women's Roles in the World of Work;
- Violence and Harassment in the World of Work; and
- Digitalization in the Public Service.

Mr. Demarco Williams, President of TCICSA, stated, "I am pleased to have led our Civil Service Association to be a part of the international body of Presidents and have the support of my team. Attending the 51st CPSA Conference has been an incredibly enriching experience for our association.

We are grateful for the opportunity to engage in meaningful dialogue with our counterparts from across the Caribbean. The conference has further strengthened our commitment to safeguarding the rights and well-being of workers in

our region as we strive for a more resilient Caribbean labour movement.

This is the first time in the country's history that TCICSA is now officially a part of an international body of Unions and Associations. Our goal is to continue to push for greater pastures for our body as we look into factors that affect public servants on a regional scale."

Mr. Clyde Greene, Vice President of TCICSA, added, "The discussions held during the conference shed light on critical issues facing workers today. It is our duty as a Civil Service Association to actively address these challenges and ensure the rights and interests of our members are protected. We will return from the CPSA conference with fresh perspectives and renewed determination to fortify our public service association."

The TCICSA delegation extends its gratitude to the Caribbean Public Services Association for organizing an exceptional conference that provides a valuable platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration among public service professionals.

Lillian Swann-Missick Is New NHIB Board Chair



From left: Interim NHIP CEO Tamera Robinson; Permanent Secretary Desiree Lewis; New Chairman for the NHIB Lillian Swann-Missick; and Minister of Health and Human Services.

She has been classified as having a strong governance fortitude and will bring a wealth of experience to the job, but the main for Lillian Swann-Missick as the new chairman of the National Health Insurance Board (NHIB) is simply to make those who need the service "live longer".

The former parliamentarian, who has been described by many as a voice of reason in the House of Assembly, was officially introduced to the staff and media the chair for this critical entity on Monday, July 31, at the new National Health Insurance Plan office located on the Salt Mills Plaza in the unit recently vacated by the FirstCaribbean Bank's Grace Bay Branch. Missick said based on initial meetings concerning the NHIB, this challenge should be her most daunting yet.

"I can tell you that based on some of the preliminary that I have had, this is going to be my most challenging and difficult board, and I have chaired many," Swann-Missick told reporters, however, quickly adding that her decision to accept the NHIB Board Chair emanates from her passion to serve and a desire to look challenge dead in the eye and dare it.

"I am a service-oriented individual. I have chaired other bodies that faced challenges. And I believe, given my view, and given the type of person that I am, I feel that I can rise to challenges. I believe that I have the will and the wherewithal to overcome challenges, basically because my approach to life is that everything should be done equitably, fairly, and do it because it is the right thing to do," she

asserted.

For his part, Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Shaun Malcolm stated that Swann-Missick has the full confidence of his ministry in getting the job done.

"As the minister who overseas NHIB...being the minister now for just over seven months...and knowing where we are at, and finding the right person, which was not an easy job to do, to help us refocus this board, I know, and I have full confidence that the Hon. Lillian Swann-Missick can accomplish that goal in the best interests of the people of this country. She enjoys my full confidence as the minister," Minister Malcolm said.

Turning to the new Appeals Tribunal, chaired by attorney Mark Fulford, and included Bishop Coleta Williams and Jena Janse, Minister Malcolm stated that the decision was to refocus the machination of the NHIB.

"It is all about refocusing the board. It is a requirement in the Ordinance to have an appeals process, and so, it is just fulfilling that mandate. And with that team, I do have full confidence that that area would get cleaned up as well," Minister Malcolm said.

Permanent Secretary Desiree Lewis pointed out that Swann-Missick would bring strength to the NHIB.

"I echo the sentiments of the minister with regarding appointing Mrs. Lillian Swann-Missick as the chair. Knowing Mrs. Missick, and having worked with her for a number of years I know she comes with a strong background in governance, and I believe that she will bring value

to the board, and also to the TCIG and working with the NIB," Lewis said.

She added: "The interim CEO (Tamera Robinson) will be a good duo in terms of ensuring that the changes that we need are made, and that we remain consistent. Mrs. Missick alluded in her statement about equity and fairness. I remember years ago when we were doing the island campaign on NHIP, those were the words that we echoed...that the scheme would be based on equity, and that is what we want. "We want fairness, but one of the key things that we also want is best health outcomes. And so, we look for the changes as it relates to treatment abroad and to the management to the scheme on a whole, and to bring in new ideas as to how we can best serve the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and ensuring that we work in collaboration with the hospital and the ministry of health, particularly our Primary Healthcare Department, as all three organizations should work in tandem, and achieving the goals."

In the meantime, Robinson disclosed that she was looking forward to working with Missick to achieve a great deal of the NHIB goals.

"I look forward to working with madam chair. I think the last board we did quite a bit of work. We are still on that curve to make the change. And so, as PS Lewis said, that governance strength that madam chair brings will help us to really finetune and get the best out of the organization, so we can meet those goals to building a healthy nation one person at a time," Robinson noted.

Informal Settlement Unit Launches With New Online Platforms



Attorney General
Hon. Rhondalee Braitwaite-Knowles



Premier Hon. Dr. Washington Misick



Governor Her Excellency
Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam



Head of the Informal Settlement Unit Hon.
Carlos Simons



The Informal Settlements Unit (ISU) has been officially launched in the Turks and Caicos Islands with a new website and social media pages that will be a central hub where the public can access informal settlement-related information, news, and resources.

Led by Justice Carlos Simons, the ISU is a Turks and Caicos Islands government agency responsible for mitigating the proliferation of informal settlement activity in the Islands. Justice Simons explained, "The principal aim of the ISU is to build safer, more sustainable communities in the Turks and Caicos Islands and to improve the standard of living and

quality of life of the affected occupants by undertaking this work. We are charged with the work of stopping this illegal practice and regularizing the long-established informal settlements to bring them into line with planning and other applicable laws."

He continued, "Our organization has identified a critical need for a central information portal to provide relevant information through an effective dissemination channel such as a website and social media pages for people to access."

The new platforms will provide an experience that aligns with modern practices, one

that features user-friendly applications, effective navigation, and easily recognizable links to help individuals access information and provide feedback. The sites will further provide relevant, timely posts with updates and real-time announcements related to the mission of the ISU.

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



AND THEY LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER!

UNTIL THEY CAME UP WITH A SEQUEL!

SO THE WOODCUTTER CAME TO THE HOUSE IN THE FOREST...

HEY, JELLYBEAN, KEEP IT DOWN! I'M TRYING TO READ!

BEING A BIG BROTHER IS QUITE A RESPONSIBILITY!

I'M ALWAYS LOOKING FOR GOOD STORIES TO READ TO JELLYBEAN! A LOT OF THEM JUST DON'T CUT IT!

TAKE THIS ONE... "THE PRINCESS AND THE PEA" I NEVER UNDERSTOOD IT!

THIS GIRL'S SO SENSITIVE A PEA UNDER HER MATTRESS DISTURBS HER SLEEP? I DON'T GET IT!

NO, I DON'T IMAGINE YOU WOULD!

I'VE HAD IT POPEYE!

I'M REALLY FED UP!

IT'S THE SAME WHENEVER YOU COME OVER!

YOU SIT THERE AND SURF... WHILE I SIT HERE AND FUME!

IF WE DON'T DO SOMETHING ELSE... ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL GO BERSERK!

I MEAN IT, POPEYE... I'VE GOT TO HAVE A CHANGE OF SCENERY!

ONE OF US IS GOING SLEEPY-TIME FIRST, AND IT'S NOT GONNA BE ME!

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"I DIDN'T THINK IT COULD GET ANY WORSE THAN HER PLAYING...UNTIL SHE STARTED SINGIN'!"

FINALLY! WE'VE REBUILT THE TIME MACHINE! NOW I CAN TRAVEL BACK TO 2019 AND PREVENT COVID, AS WAS MY PLAN THE ENTIRE TIME!

ARE YOU SURE THIS WILL WORK?

I'M POSITIVE.

COUGH

Cyande and Happiness © Explains.net

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I'M GOING GROCERY SHOPPING

TO BUY FOOD...ALL OF WHICH YOU WILL EAT...

LEAVING ME NOTHING!

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN

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JTM DAVIS 11-2

Flamingo Pond Overlook

- Whitby Highway, North Caicos -



Flamingo Pond Overlook is found off King's Road between Whitby and Horstable Beach. As the location's name suggests, this area is typically inhabited by the West Indian Flamingo (*Phoenicopterus ruber*, and also known as the American Flamingo or the Caribbean Flamingo), and the flocks here are at times in the thousands. In addition to the flamingos, there may be spoonbills, ducks, stilts, herons, and egrets to see as well.

The main overlook area is about 300 feet (91 m) from the pond, and the flamingos may be even farther out, so binoculars or a spotting scope will be necessary to get an excellent view of the birds.

Melanie Smith Launches 'Your First 90 Days'

Author and life coach Melanie Smith launched her second book 'Your First 90 Days', on Saturday, July 30 at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa. The event was attended by a wide cross-section of the community. Among the guests were Hon. Kyle Knowles, former Education Minister Hon. Karen Malcolm and fellow author and newspaper columnist Drexwell Seymour. Newsline PAGE2 was at the event to capture the moments.





GARLAND: PREMIER, PLEASE MAKE THAT CALL FOR HELP URGENTLY



Opposition's Appointed Member Hon. Alvin Garland is urging the Washington Misick administration to call for external assistance to deal with the sudden upsurge in violent crimes, which is once again gripping the Turks and Caicos Islands. Garland's came in the wake of daring daylight fatal shooting of a man in Grace Bay on Wednesday, and a subsequent intense shootout with heavily-armed men in Dock Yard, later that day. The following is Garland's statement: I wish to offer my deepest sympathy to the many grieving families throughout our country.

We are seeing some startling times in TCI and we need help to not only suppress what seems to be brewing again, but to carry out real operations to remove guns from the streets that would otherwise not be removed.

The PDM and I are calling on the Premier to address his people other than through a Press Release. The TCI has turned the corner and the question is how much more has to happen before we act decisively again?

We need outside help, not because we have no faith in our own, but because we need the ex-

tra skills and manpower, but this cannot be our fall back each time these acts are threatened or committed. The Bahamas assisted us greatly in stemming the violent tide and whilst we are aware that they too have their challenges, one more stint maybe warranted. But after this, we must have an ongoing plan that sees capacity built in in our own Police Organisation.

We have had 7 or 8 murders since June 5th. We saw days where there were 2 murders in 24 hours. In these past two months, we have seen a shooting incident that saw 3 or 4 persons shot and by all accounts intentionally. We are seeing brazen day murders and now in the heart of Grace Bay.

In the past two years we have seen at least 2 beheadings and maybe a third. We have seen a Trial witness killed in close proximity to CID. These historic events have whisked by without matching attention.

We saw our deadliest and bloodiest month last year September and regrettably we maybe on the verge of a repeat. Truth be told, we must all have known that this cycle of violence was only on pause. We must get ahead.

The Minister of Tourism and TCHTA can no longer remain silent and must regain their voices to address our country's visitors. In times when things were not as extreme, they were indeed vocal. We need leading voices and stakeholders on the record.

It is important to measure our comments in times like these but the silence must stop and the call for help must be urgently sent out.

Under the Leadership of Hon Edwin Astwood we the official Opposition stand ready to assist as this is a national threat. We encourage our people to be diligent and careful in their movements while we know tempers are raging among those who have suddenly found themselves grieving.

Government launches Local Government Questionnaire

The Ministry of Home Affairs is pleased to announce the launch of a comprehensive questionnaire, designed to gather valuable insights and opinions of the Turks and Caicos Islands' general public on the advancement of the "Local Government".

This questionnaire, which will be accessible for a period of twenty-one (21) days from 2nd August, aims to foster a deeper understanding of the aspirations and concerns of our citizens and to ensure their voices play a crucial role in shaping the future of local governance in our beautiful nation.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government recognises the importance of effective local governance, where the decisions made at the community level have a direct impact on the lives of our citizens.

As part of our commitment to promoting transparency, inclusivity, and citizen participation, this questionnaire seeks to create an open platform for every individual to express their thoughts and ideas on matters related to local governance.

The questionnaire will cover a wide range of topics, including but not limited to:

- The make-up of the Local Government Council
- Budget allocation and financial accountability
- Local services and infrastructure
- Community development and planning
- Environmental preservation and sustainability
- Citizen engagement and representation
- Public safety and security

Citizens are encouraged to take this opportunity to contribute to the formulation of policies and initiatives that will drive positive change in their respective communities. Your valuable feedback will serve as a foundation for future planning and decision-making by the Government, ensuring that the interests and priorities of the people remain at the forefront.

The Ministry of Home Affairs recognises that the success of any governance system relies on the active involvement of its citizens. As such, we extend our gratitude to everyone who participates in this questionnaire, as it will undoubtedly strengthen the fabric of our democratic society.

The questionnaire can be accessed through various means, including online and social media platforms. Participants can submit their responses securely and confidentially, knowing that their input will be treated with the utmost respect and consideration. The Ministry of Home Affairs calls upon the media, community leaders, and civil society organizations to support and promote this initiative to ensure maximum participation from every corner of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Together, let us embrace this opportunity to build a stronger, more inclusive, and responsive local governance system that truly reflects the aspirations of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

For this edition of LIFELINE FEATURED CHURCH, we are highlighting End Time Harvest New Testament Church Of God located on the Pelican Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales (Opposite Nell’s Gift Shop). The pastors are Kemuel and wife Jolanda Gardiner. The church has numerous opportunities to worship. On Sunday at 9am they have their ‘Worship and Warfare Encounter’; On Wednesday at 7pm, they have their ‘Fire Hour Corporate Prayer Meeting’ and at 8pm, ‘Deeper Bible Study’; On Saturday at 5am, the church hosts ‘Gatekeepers Corporate Prayer Meeting’.



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.

<p>Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030</p> <p>One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.</p> <p>Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731</p> <p>Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755</p> <p>Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-2289</p> <p>Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118</p> <p>Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854</p> <p>Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866</p> <p>Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos Tel:946-3212</p>	<p>Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438</p> <p>Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136</p> <p>Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073</p> <p>New Testament Church of God, Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175</p> <p>New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631</p> <p>Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352</p> <p>Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867</p> <p>House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309</p> <p>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727</p> <p>Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205</p> <p>New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759</p> <p>New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402</p>	<p>Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349</p> <p>Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349</p> <p>Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565</p> <p>Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181</p> <p>St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499</p> <p>Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales</p> <p>United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852</p> <p>Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596</p> <p>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</p>
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Cleansing

NEWSLINE
Style

This is just washing your face. This is the most basic and essential step of any routine. It is recommended by dermatologists to wash your face twice per day to avoid clogged pores, acne and dullness. The first step is to find a cleanser that's right for your skin type. Finding the right one will cleanse your skin without stripping it of essential oils. If having difficulties when looking for the right cleanser. The best option is to go for micellar water. It is soap free, suitable for almost all skin types and attracts dirt and debris.

Modern toners act as skin supplements which deliver extra shots of nutrients to the skin and also help your other products in your regimen to absorb better, while at the same time, helping to balance your complexion. When looking for a toner, keep an eye out for these ingredients:

- * hyaluronic acid—boost hydration, treat fine lines and lock in moisture.
- * rose water & green tea—calm irritation and reduce redness.
- * vitamins E & C—fights daily exposure of free radicals that can age the skin.

Toners should be done after cleansing but before putting anything else on.

Toner



Moisturising

Moisturizers are the one product that dermatologists recommend using year round for all skin types as skin naturally loses the ability to retain moisture as we age. The most basic function of the moisturiser is to hydrate and soften the skin. The texture of the moisturizer will vary depending on your skin type.

- Oily skin—gel moisturizer
- Normal/ Combination—Lotion
- Dry—Cream/Soft Cream
- Inflamed or sensitive—Balm



Basic
SKINCARE
EXPLAINED

Go

Beaches TCI Celebrates Way Forward With Men's Health 411



Section of the audience



BTC Men's Health Presenters - l to r - Dr Agustin Rubinetti and Dr Jan Aler

"Know your health status by doing regular check-ups with your personal physician" was the general message being shared by a team of doctors from the Grace Bay Medical Integrative Health Centre. They were providing sound advice at the Men's Health 411 seminar at the Beaches Turks and Caicos resort (BTC) recently. The male team members at the resort were provided with the necessary health related information through an interactive initiative with leaders and the staff – a programme spearheaded by the company with an engaging and vigor-

ous team member focus.

"Please delete the statement 'what you don't know won't hurt you' when it comes to your health. As a physician, I can tell you that the earlier diseases are diagnosed and addressed, the better it is for you and your general health," shared Dr Jan Aler, general physician from the Grace Bay Medical facility.

With the more than 150 men and a few women present Dr. Aler encouraged them to utilise every opportunity offered by the resort to take care of their health.



"Early detection and treatment can reduce your risk of hypertension, high cholesterol, cancer and other health related issues. With the health benefits that you receive here at Beaches, we encourage you to get your annual comprehensive checks with your personal care physician. Be in the know as men, because prevention is better than cure" Dr Aler noted.

Maintenance Supervisor Romaine Adams, when asked about the experience at the session shared, "the doctors made what is usually some difficult health information easier to understand. The realities of prostate and colon cancers can be hard to accept, but they presented these uncomfortable subject matters in a very simple fashion. We are happy for what was shared and all we have to do now is to act on what we have been taught."

Lloyd Wisdom, spray technician added, "the men in the landscaping department during a heart to heart session, shared with the executive at the resort the need for sessions like these especially for men. They listened to us and found two of the most knowledgeable experts in the field of men's health to share with us. We are grateful for the presentations and naturally will be looking forward to the other professional and personal development ideas we discussed with our leaders."

Dr Agustin Rubinetti, internist at the Grace Bay facility shared with those present the value of men's sexuality. "Research has shown that sexual fulfillment is one of the five basic needs of every man. So men, in order for you to enjoy this need, you must ensure that you take care of your sexuality and your health. Don't be shy, talk with your physician and practice a healthy lifestyle."

Hotel Manager, Sharon Fagan noted, "this initiative is one of the channels through which we are able to hear from our team members especially our men, on what we need to improve on as an organisation. There will be sessions like this each quarter for our men and women as we know that healthy minds and bodies are more beneficial for the development of our families and the Turks and Caicos Islands in general."

Government Launches National Housing Policy



Question and answer panel. (Left to right: Dominique Durham, Deputy Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development; Honourable Jamell Robinson, Minister for Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development; Marcus Samuel, President of the TCI Bankers Association; and Zha-vago Jolly Master of Ceremonies.



Attendees registering upon arrival at the National Housing Policy launch.



Audience members at the National Housing Policy launch.

The National Housing Policy and Programs was launched on 27, at Brayton Hall, Venetian Road, Providenciales.

The theme for the launch was “Creating Sustainable Communities through Equitable Homes”.

According to government, the implementation of the National Housing Policy is paramount, given that it is a direct result of the Government’s overall stated priorities and consultation findings such as the Turks and Caicos Islands 2040 Vision, the National Physical Development Plan 2020-2030, the National Housing Needs Survey 2022, and the Crown Land Review 2022 report, all of which stressed the need for access to adequate and affordable housing for Turks and Caicos Islanders.

The National Housing Policy introduces three short to medium term programs de-

signed to address the housing needs in the Turks and Caicos Islands:

- 1) Program 1: Housing Concessions For Residential Developers
- 2) Program 2: Home Improvement Programs For Existing Homeowners
- 3) Program 3: Community Renewal and In-filling.

The National Housing Policy also includes five strategic programs for consideration in the long term to address the broader issues involving housing. The establishment of the policy document itself has undergone a series of events, engagement forums, meetings, surveys, and consultation processes in order to establish a robust document aimed at addressing the specific housing needs in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

All three housing programs will be opened for application starting from the launch day

itself.

The housing website contains all three programs’ eligibility criteria, guidelines, check-lists, and application forms with clear steps to apply. A Housing Committee has been established to review the complete applications and recommend for further approvals.

The Housing Committee is chaired by the Housing and Community Renewal Department, with members from the Finance Department, Planning Department, Social Welfare Department, Crown Land Unit, and Invest TCI.

The public is also welcomed to visit the Housing and Community Renewal Department office at the Laporte’s Complex, Downtown, Providenciales. Visit the housing website at <https://gov.tc/housing> for further information.

CRIVANNE ADAMS APPOINTED AS DEPUTY CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICER

The Office of the Deputy Governor has announced Ms. Crivanne Adams as the new Deputy Chief Environmental Officer within the Ministry of Health and Human Services.

Adams holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Science from Keele University in the United Kingdom (UK) (2019), where she won the Environmental Science Dissertation Prize for her Dissertation: "The Evaluation of Waste Management Strategies of an Island Nation. The Turks and Caicos Islands as a Case Study". Adams also holds a Master's in Environmental Engineering and Project Management from Leeds University UK (2020).

During her studies, she benefited from several work experience opportunities within the Turks and Caicos Islands Environmental Health Department starting in the summer of 2015, which she credits as a catalyst for her current career path.

In 2021 Ms. Adams officially joined the Turks and Caicos Islands Environmental Health Department as an Environmental Health Officer and is now being appointed to the post of Deputy Chief Environmental Health Officer.

Commenting on her appointment, Adams stated: "I am honored and humbled to have been given this opportunity to demonstrate my ability to take on this role as Deputy Chief Environmental Health Officer.

First and foremost, I thank God for my journey thus far as he continues guiding my steps. I sincerely thank my mother, father, brother, extended family, friends, and colleagues for their unwavering support.

The Environmental Health Department is developing and transitioning into a more modern era of operations. I am committed to the growth and success of my department, and I look forward to contributing to this process of securing

a safe and healthy Turks and Caicos Islands."

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

"It gives me great pleasure to officially announce and congratulate Ms. Crivanne Adams on her appointment to Deputy Chief Environmental Officer in the Ministry of Health and Human Services.

"Crivanne, many years ago, took a keen interest in the area of Health, more specifically Environmental Health, and has prepared herself educationally and professionally to make a positive contribution to the leadership and management of this department as it works to strengthen its remit and to improve environmental health in these islands.

"A known scholar, it no doubt that Ms. Adams will do exceptionally well in this new role."

Rubis Launches Major \$9k Summer Promotion

Katrina Basden
WON A \$500
GROCERY GIFT CARD

RUBIS ULTRA SUMMER GIVEAWAY

RUBIS ULTRA SUMMER GIVEAWAY

RUBIS ULTRA TEC
Advanced Fuel Technology

ULTRA SUMMER GIVEAWAY

WIN \$9,000+ IN PRIZES
GRAND PRIZES: 6 MOS., 4 MOS. & 2 MOS. SUPPLY OF FUEL

PURCHASE \$25 OR MORE IN FUEL AND ENTER TO WIN!

How To Enter:
1. Take a photo of your receipt
2. Upload your receipt via:
QR Code, Rubis Turks & Caicos
FB page or website

WE'LL PRIZE VALUED @ \$500

SCAN TO ENTER TO WIN!

No Smoking

Rubis Turks & Caicos Limited launched its first summer promotion following the introduction of its Rubis Ultra Tec fuels to the public mid-February. The summer promotion, Rubis Ultra Summer Giveaway promises to excite new and loyal customers!

Motorists who purchase \$25 or more in fuel at any Rubis service station in Providenciales or Rubis Fulford in Grand Turk will have the opportunity to win over \$9,000 in prizes. Rubis Sales Executive, Zaneta Burton asserts motorists can choose from seven Rubis service stations with gasoline or diesel to easily participate and win!

"We want residents to experience Rubis Ultra Tec fuels, premium fuel formulated for optimum performance and more miles for the dollar," a news release from the fuel company stated. The Grand Prizes for this giveaway are 6 months', 4 months', and 2 months' supply of free fuel. Additionally, customers can win amazing weekly prizes valued at \$500 that include grocery gift cards and travel vouchers.

To enter, customers must take a photo of their Rubis fuel receipt and upload the photo by scanning the QR Code, visit our website at www.rubis-turksandcaicos.com or visit Rubis Turks & Caicos Facebook page. The promotion ends September 11th, 2023.

NEWSLINE & Chill

Spring Word Scramble

URLMLBAE

TSFUETREIBL

REFWOSL

SNUYN

UTISLP

NHSIUNES

LSBMOOS

BAORIWN

NICPCI

GENRDA

1. He may cross the line

5. Literary Finn

9. Divide

14. Desire

15. Eye with desire

16. Desire

17. Made mad

18. "Kaboom!"

19. Loosen up

20. CON

23. Affirm at the altar

24. Liza Doolittle's dwelling

25. CON

32. Drilled

35. Domain of Eos

36. Put to flight

37. Hollywood Gardner

38. Stan's comedic pal

39. Former fort near Salinas

40. "99 Luftballons" singer

42. Freshman, typically

43. Dates with a Dr., perhaps

45. CON

48. Word with go or by

49. Recited in rhyme, perhaps

53. CON

58. Tartan garment

59. "Night Sins" author Tami

60. SASE, typically

61. Dancer's support

62. Fit

63. "Dollhouse" heroine

64. Jerk

65. Mexican sauce

66. Eye affliction

7. They may have their own tartan

8. 1996 VP candidate

9. Cut corners

10. Factory configurations

11. "Mission: Impossible" composer Schifrin

12. "Meatballs" director Reitman

13. Popular cowboy nickname

21. Was laid low by a high?

22. Broadcasting pioneer Arledge

26. Jung contemporary

27. Yarns

28. "Dallas" family name

29. "Breakfast for Dinner" eatery

30. ____ cloud (home for comets)

31. Assents

32. "Kaboom!"

33. Out's partner

34. Punjabi princess

38. SNL alum, Cheri

41. Surreptitious romances

43. Love personified

44. Jazz-men Ellis and Russell

46. Type of bicycle

47. High point

50. Color lightly

51. Like wool sweaters, for some

52. Daphnis's love

53. Response to a rake

54. Legal opening?

55. Imitation

56. Bindlestiff

57. Eden event

58. NOVA network

1. Umbrella 2. butterflies 3. flowers 4. Sunny 5. Tulips 6. Sunshine 7. Blossom 8. Rainbow 9. Picnic 10. Garden

Brain Teaser

I can be short and sometimes hot. When displayed, I rarely impress. What am I?

Answer: Temper

The Wrath of....

ACROSS

DOWN

Birds Seen In TCI

Warbler

Hummingbird

Vireo

Gnatcatcher

Osprey

Gull

Tern

Cattle egret

Dowitcher

Mangrove cuckoo

Bananaquit

Brown pelican

Stilts

Sanderling

Green heron

O S C L N N R T S X W B D R

O A L A D O J E V T R J E V

K N Y N T B R K L O L H T D

C D R E Q T B E W B C I O T

U E R N R Y L N H T R W T B

C R L I B P P E A N I A A S

E L N L B E S C E T E N W Y

V I R R L G T O C G A E V M

O N D I E A N H L N R I R X

R G C L N T E I A M R E M G

G A G G J R R Q M E T R T Z

N M U K N R U Y O M M D V B

A W L B M I P K N J U M N P

M R L T T D N K M P Y H V L

JOKE of the WEEK

I went down the street to a 24-hour grocery store. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, "Hey! The sign says you're open 24 hours." He Said, "Yes, but not in a row!"

SUDOKU

6	7		8		5		1
	5			2	1	3	6
		1	3	7		9	
5	2		9				1
3			6		2	5	9
9	8		5	1		2	3
1	3			5	9		2
	9		1			5	
	6		2	3			9

6	8				1		3	9
1					9		2	5
9	5			2				8
	3	9		1			8	
8		1			2	9		
2			9					1
5			2	9		8		
3		8	1			5		
4	9			5	8		1	2

Is It a Heart Attack or Heartburn?



Chest pain. It's a symptom that gets our attention. While it can turn out to be a heart attack, it can also be a sign of a less serious condition, such as heartburn. The problem is that it can be really tough to tell the difference. However, the symptoms do differ. The more you know, the easier it is to avoid heart damage if chest pain does turn out to be a heart attack or unnecessary panic if it doesn't.

Why Can Heartburn and a Heart Attack Feel Similar?

Gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD) and other gastrointestinal problems such as ulcers, muscle spasms in the esophagus, a gallbladder attack, and pancreatitis can all cause chest pain and other symptoms that mimic those of a heart attack or angina—a crushing type of chest pain caused by decreased blood flow to the heart. Some people with angina say it feels like an elephant is sitting on their chest.

According to the American College of Gastroenterology, as many as 70 million patients (23% of the population) in the United States suffer from non-cardiac chest pain (NCCP). The most common cause of NCCP is GERD, which is caused by chronic acid reflux from the stomach into the esophagus.

The ambiguity in symptoms is caused by the fact that the nerves in the stomach and heart don't clearly signal to the brain where the pain originates.

Nerves in the chest are not as specific as nerves in, say, the hand, Stephen Kopecky, MD, a cardiologist at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., told Health. Dr. Kopecky explained that if someone were to get hit with a hammer on their little finger, the person would be able to identify which finger was injured. But if someone were hurt in the heart, lungs, pancreas, esophagus, or stomach, in each case they may just feel the pain

coming from the chest.

"This makes for a real problem when diagnosing," said Dr. Kopecky. "And about half of patients who have a heart attack have minor symptoms (or no symptoms) and do not seek medical attention."

Although every individual may experience varying symptoms depending on their stomach or heart condition, there are some ways to differentiate between the two.

How To Tell the Difference

If the problem is heart-related, you will likely feel a tightness, burning, or pressure in your chest. This pain is often worsened by exercise or severe emotional stress. It may spread to the back, neck, jaw, or arms, and is often associated with:

- Sweating
- Dizziness
- Nausea
- Difficulty breathing
- An irregular pulse

The culprit is also more likely to be heart-related if you have risk factors including diabetes, smoking, obesity, high cholesterol, or a family history of heart disease. Age plays a role as well: Heart disease is more common in men over 45 and in women over 55.

Time of Pain as a Factor

Duration is another factor, Myrna Alexander Nickens, MD, a cardiologist at Jackson Cardiology Associates in Jackson, Miss, told Health. Dr. Nickens said angina will usually last five to 10 minutes before subsiding. A heart attack will be slightly longer. And reflux can last for hours.

Pain After Eating Some Foods

If the problem is related to the digestive system, like GERD, it is often a sharper pain that may be precipitated by eating a fatty or spicy meal and is affected by a change in position. The pain will get worse when lying down or bending over. Stomach acid may come up

into your esophagus and can leave a sour taste in your mouth.

But physicians caution that there are always exceptions. Julius M. Gardin, MD, chairman of the department of internal medicine at Hackensack University Medical Center in Hackensack, N.J., said some patients get angina after eating a big meal because blood flow is diverted from the heart for digestion. And, due to the placebo effect, people who are having a heart attack and mistakenly believe they are experiencing heartburn may actually feel better after taking an antacid, said Dr. Gardin.

Symptoms in Women and the Elderly

Women and elderly people are more likely than younger men to have unusual heart attack symptoms, said Dr. Alexander Nickens. Women may have nausea, exhaustion, and a generalized tired feeling when they're having a heart attack. Elderly people may feel faint, out of breath, or just generally bad.

If You're Worried, Get Checked Out

If you have symptoms that you are unsure about, see your healthcare provider. And go to the emergency room if you have chest tightness, break into a sweat, turn pale, become very weak, or faint.

If you have chest discomfort that's mild or passes when you're at rest, an emergency visit may not be necessary, but Dr. Alexander Nickens recommended seeing a doctor as soon as possible. A healthcare provider can use a blood test to see if you've had a mild heart attack or other heart problems.

Dr. Nickens also recommended annual checkups for anyone with heart disease risk factors even if they aren't having any chest pain or discomfort, and more frequent visits for those with specific risk factors such as diabetes and hypertension, which is particularly likely to increase the risk of a heart attack.

If you have chest pain that seems to be stomach-related, antacids should improve symptoms. And taking aspirin, which is a blood thinner, may bring relief for those suffering from heart problems and decrease the chance of having a heart attack or death, said Dr. Alexander Nickens.

If you experience severe chest pain and you aren't sure what's causing it, Dr. Gardin recommended chewing aspirin and seeking medical care. An important exception, he said, is people who have a known history of ulcers, since aspirin can make ulcers bleed. Although aspirin can make gastrointestinal symptoms worse, it's the lesser of two evils. "There is a risk-benefit calculation that one would make," said Dr. Gardin. "The theory is that more people die of heart attacks than reflux."

If a heart attack is treated promptly—within 90 minutes of when symptoms start—the damage to the heart muscle may be minimized. "In terms of a heart attack, time is muscle," said Dr. Gardin.

Influencer who promoted fruit-only diet dies aged 39 'of malnutrition'



A social media influencer who extolled the virtues of a vegan diet of raw tropical fruit has died, reportedly of malnutrition, exhaustion and infections.

Zhanna Samsonova, a Russian blogger who regularly posted about her extreme diet of raw tropical fruit on Instagram and TikTok, was living and working in south-east Asia.

The 39-year-old claimed she had not drunk water for six years, drinking fruit and vegetable juices instead.

She regularly spoke of taking pride in the fact that people could not believe she was approaching her 40th birthday.

"I eat simple food, although I have a lot of experience as a raw food chef," she wrote on social media. "I love creating my own recipes and inspiring people to eat healthier."

She boasted of eating no salt, oil or protein and

insisted that she never caught a cold.

But her extreme dietary regime gradually began to take its toll and she died on July 21 in Malaysia. Her official cause of death has not been revealed. Her mother blamed it on a "cholera-like infection", but friends say she had become more emaciated and died of malnutrition.

"It was scary to look at her, to be honest. Her hands were thin, like those of my 12-year-old sister," a friend told 116.RU, a Russian news website. "But she was always very cheerful, like a child, she was happy when people praised her cooking, she always ran everywhere, she took pictures."

When Ms Samsonova first embraced a healthy diet, she reportedly ate fish and dairy products. However she became increasingly restrictive, cutting out important sources of protein such as nuts.

Living off fruit, fruit juices and fruit smoothies, she appeared increasingly thin and gaunt in the photographs she posted online.

She looked like "a walking skeleton", according to one Russian news outlet, which said she had spent the last 17 years travelling around Asia.

Another friend said that concern around Ms Samsonova's health grew a few months ago when she was travelling in Sri Lanka. She was advised to seek medical assistance but reportedly refused.

"When I saw her later in Phuket, I was horrified. I lived one floor above her and every day I feared finding her lifeless body in the morning," said the unnamed friend.

Ms Samsonova was originally from the town of Zelenodolsk, about 500 miles east of Moscow. As

her diet became more extreme, she sometimes embraced periods of dry fasting, when she neither ate food nor drank water.

She claimed that dry fasting enabled her to "overcome" Covid-19 when she caught the virus on a trip back to Russia in 2021.

"I started to heal myself with dry fasting," she said. "I have been practising this method for a long time. I overcame this infection despite my unconventional treatment, which many condemn."

She described on her blog how her trip back home had been difficult because she could find only pineapple juice to drink and was considered "abnormal" by people she met.

"I feel like Jesus, who was not recognised for his knowledge and crucified on the cross for bringing knowledge and light to people," she wrote on Instagram.

As news of her death emerged, social media users were divided between those expressing admiration and sympathy for Ms Samsonova.

One person described her as "a beautiful nymph with mermaid hair". Others said her extreme diet was an eating disorder, saying she only had herself to blame.

Her family hope her body can be repatriated soon, amid reports of bureaucratic delays.

Her mother appealed to people to "stop writing bad things".

"She is already dead, she is no more," said Vera Samsonova, 63.

"Please stop writing bad things, it hurts me a lot. She chose this path. I fought for many years [but] she did not listen to her mother."

Amazon issues urgent scam warning after surge in incidents



Online retail giant Amazon has issued an urgent scam warning to customers as fraudsters try to con shoppers out of cash. Amazon is alerting customers to scams involving phone calls, texts and emails.

The first scam, dubbed 'Prime membership scams' involves unexpected calls/texts/emails that refer to an issue with your membership, or a costly membership fee, with scammers asking you to confirm or cancel the charge. The scammers will then try and convince you to provide

payment or bank account information in order to reinstate a membership.

In a warning sent to customers, Amazon said: "In its warning, Amazon told customers: "Amazon will never ask you to provide payment information for products or services over the phone. Visit the Message Centre on Amazon.co.uk or on our app to review authentic emails from Amazon."

"To verify your Prime Membership status or make payments, log into your Amazon account, and go to Your Account."

The second scam has been described as 'Account suspension/deletion scams'. It involves texts, emails and phone calls where the Amazon user is told their account will be suspended or deleted. Customers are then asked to click on a fraudulent link or verbally asked to provide information to 'verify your account'.

Amazon states: "Amazon will never ask you to disclose your password or verify sensitive personal information over the phone or on any website other than Amazon.co.uk."

'Please do not click on any links or provide your information to anyone over the phone without authenticating the email or phone call.'

"If you have questions about the status of your account, go directly to Amazon.co.uk or on our app to view your account details, including the Message Center which displays a log of communications sent from Amazon."

Amazon: Tips to identify a scam

Amazon has offered four useful tips on ways to identify scams and keep your account and information safe.

Always go through the Amazon mobile app or website when seeking customer service, tech support, or when looking to make changes to your accounts.

Scammers may try to create a sense of urgency to persuade you to do what they're asking. Be wary any time someone tries to convince you that you must act now.

Amazon will never ask you to provide payment information, including gift cards (or 'verification cards,' as some scammers call them) for products or services over the phone.

Legitimate Amazon websites contain 'amazon.co.uk' or 'amazon.co.uk/support'. Go directly to Amazon's website when seeking help with Amazon devices, services, orders or to make changes to your account.

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



Jamaica's Khadija Shaw (right) celebrates after the Women's World Cup Group F soccer match between Jamaica and Brazil in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, August 2.

Jamaica advanced to the knockout round for the first time following a 0-0 draw Wednesday that ended Brazil's run in the group stage for the first time since 1995 at the Women's World Cup.

The scoreless game in Melbourne also ended Brazilian great Marta's World Cup career. She holds the all-time scoring record with 17 goals at the World Cup but couldn't add to her tally in her sixth trip to the global tournament.

After conceding 12 goals in its Women's World Cup debut in 1999, Jamaica shut out France, Panama and Brazil in consecutive games to finish second in Group F behind the French.

In addition to being ranked well below both Brazil and France, Jamaica progressed despite the financial struggles it faced before the tournament.

These difficulties resulted in Jamaica receiving support from fans through crowdfunding due to inadequate support from its federation. Nearly \$100,000 was raised for the team through two fundraisers.

After opening the tournament with a 4-0 victory over Panama, Brazil failed to get the victory it needed to extend Marta's World Cup campaign. With Marta starting the match for the first time in the group stage, Brazil maintained posses-

sion for most of the first half but struggled to test Jamaica goalkeeper Rebecca Spencer.

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

A free kick from Andressa and a header from Debinha in stoppage time represented Brazil's closest chance of scoring the winning goal. It was close, but close enough.

With the draw, the Reggae Girlz advance to the Round of 16 in their second Women's World Cup. The team made its debut in 2019 but lost all three group-stage matches, including a 3-0 loss to Brazil. This time, Jamaica finishes unbeaten in Group F.

Brazil's loss means it is eliminated from the Women's World Cup in the group stage for the first time since 1995. With the exit from the tournament, Marta has played her final World Cup match after announcing her plan to retire prior to the tournament. She bids farewell to the game's biggest stage as the World Cup's all-time leading scorer with 17 goals.

"It's the best feeling I've ever had in my life. To be able to do this is unbelievable to just watch it, while I'm alive. I thank the girls for doing this for the country. The country should be proud." — Lorne Donaldson, Jamaica coach.

"For me, that is the end, but it's just the beginning for the others." — Marta, Brazil's veteran forward.

Jamaica advances to play the winner of Group H next week in Adelaide, South Australia. Brazil's tournament comes to a disappointing end.

India blow away Windies in ODI series decider



West Indies Captain Shai Hope walks off the field after he was dismissed by Mukesh Kumar of India during the third One-Day International cricket match at Brian Lara Stadium in Tarouba, Trinidad and Tobago, on Tuesday.

India swiftly erased the memory of a poor second match to annihilate the West Indies by 200 runs in the decisive third and final one-day international (ODI) at the Brian Lara Stadium on Tuesday. Even with senior players in captain Rohit Sharma and

Virat Kohli still rested the tourists' batting finally came good collectively to post a formidable 351-5 batting first.

Their seamers then demolished the home side's top order and a ninth-wicket partnership of 55 merely de-

played the inevitable with the West Indies bundled out for 151 off 35.3 overs.

India's margin of victory was their second largest in ODIs against the West Indies and also extended their run of bilateral series wins against the Caribbean team in the format to 13.

Openers Shubman Gill and Ishan Kishan set the tone for the India innings after they were put in with man-of-the-series Kishan benefiting from an early dropped chance to belt 77 off 64 balls — his third consecutive half-century- in an opening stand of 143.

Gill was more circumspect in getting to a top score of 85 off 92 balls before falling to Gudakesh Motie.

In this first-ever men's ODI to be played at the venue, the West Indies were never in the hunt after Mukesh Kumar's opening burst removed openers Brandon King and Kyle Mayers before adding the important wicket of Captain Shai Hope.

"I keep stressing on our attitude because I don't think we are consistent enough," Hope lamented. "Some days we compete with the best in the world, other days we get steamrolled."

Both squads now prepare for the final leg of the tour, a five-match T20 international series, with the first fixture on Thursday also at the Brian Lara Stadium

Exciting Police Action League

Basketball, Softball



17 and Under Basketball action



The Police Action League Basketball and Softball competitions continued on the weekend of July 29, with some competitive games at the Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex and the neighboring Downtown Ball Park.

The basketball competition played its second week last weekend, while the softball competition kicked off last weekend. In the Softball competition, held on July 31, the Under 17 game, which was the first competition

of the day, saw Avengers narrowly losing to Badgers 6 – 7. In the second game of the day, the Skyhawks were in a no-nonsense mood trouncing the Guardians by a whopping 20 to 4.

In the basketball games, Sequest went down narrowly to the Guardians 49 to 52 in the Under 13 category of game 12. In game 13, Commanders were very much in command against the Skyhawks, turning them back by a 10-point margin 41 to 31.

In game 14, the Avengers were on top of things against the Badgers, overcoming them 33 to 25. In the 15 and Under category, which was game 15 of the competition, the Guardians were humbled 29 to 37 by Sequest. In Game 16, the Commanders got the better of Skyhawks by a single point, 36 to 35. In Game 17, Badgers went down to Avengers 19 to 25. In game 18, Sequest out-scored Guardians 40 to 32.

In game 10 of the 17 and Under competition, Skyhawks got the better of Commanders 49 to 46. In game 11, Avengers blew past Badgers 48 to 30.

Softball and Basketball Games in the PALS competition scheduled for the weekend are: Basketball – Friday, August 4, Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex 5:30 PM Guardians v Skyhawks 17U, and at 6:30 PM Commanders v Avengers 17U.

On Saturday, 5 August, at 9:00 AM Sequest v Badgers in the 13 and Under category. At 10:00 AM Guardians v Skyhawks 13 and Under category. At 11:00 AM Commanders v Avengers in the 13 Under category. At 12:00 PM Sequest v Badgers in the 15 and Under category.

At 1:00 PM Guardians v Skyhawks in the 15 and Under category. At 2:00 PM Commanders v Avengers in the 15 and Under category. And 3:00 PM Sequest v Badgers in the 17 and Under category.

In Softball action at the Downtown Ballpark (All 17U), on Saturday, 5 August, Badgers vs Skyhawks at 9:30 AM, and at 11:15 AM Guardians vs Avengers.

PAL is still running an open registration for both Basketball and Softball at the Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm. The Police Action League, now, it is looking for more 17U Basketball and Softball players to join the league. To complete registration, a Photo ID of the player is required, and a \$20 cash registration fee along with a parent-signed waiver.

Fans can find games on schedule at <https://www.gov.tc/sports/news/police-action-league> with tickets on sale at the door, \$3 for adults and \$1 for children. Each ticket gives access to all basketball and softball games on the schedule for the day.

For the latest news and updates on the Police Action League, fans can follow the league on Instagram (@policeactionleague) and Facebook (Police Action League). To share your experience with PAL, use the hashtag #PALeague.

2024 Date For Red Hot Challenge Set



A file photo of one of the Red Hot Challenge's Arm Wrestling matches

Coming off of a smashing success in its second staging despite at least two postponements due to inclement weather this year, the 2024 date for the Turks and Caicos Islands Red Cross Red Hot Challenge Sports Extravaganza has been set.

According to the organizers, the 3rd annual Red Hot Challenge is scheduled for Saturday, May 4, 2024, at the National Stadium on Providenciales.

This year's event, which was held on July 8th at the National Stadium, was dubbed a huge success, true sportsmanship from all 12 teams was celebrated.

In the end, it was the Beaches Pirates who took first place, the Amanyara Cruisers came in second, and the National Security Secretariat was awarded third place.

Speaking on the event, TCI Red Cross Director Can-

dianne Williams said, "This year's Red Hot Challenge was a success, all thanks to the incredible support we have received from our participating teams, sponsors, and supporters of our annual event."

She continued, "This year was particularly an interesting year for us, and it did not come without some challenges as we had to reschedule the annual event two times due to inclement weather. This affected our participation numbers but not the general interest in the event. We started as a 20-team competition but still ended up with 12 participating teams."

"But we are proud of what we were able to accomplish despite the challenges, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Beaches Pirates on winning first place in this year's competition, as well as the Amanyara Cruisers and the National Secretariat

Destroyers on coming in second and third, respectively.

"The games would not be successful without that friendly competitive spirit, and we look forward to welcoming all the teams back next year for another round of fun," Williams said.

This year's event highlights included competition games such as arm wrestling, football toss, planks, spoon relay races, egg tosses, water balloon tosses, sprint races, tug-of-war, arm wrestling, soccer kicks, and so much more. The annual Red Hot Challenge is a part of the organization's 'Red Hot' fundraising series, which is a major fundraising activity for the TCI Red Cross and has already seen two successful corporate sports days and two fashion extravaganzas featuring vintage items from the Red Cross Thrift Shop.

Speaking on the fundraising initiatives was Karen Whitt of the Hartling Group, who serves as Chair of the Fundraising Committee for the TCIRC. She said, "It is important for the Red Cross to host these critical fundraisers to not only bring awareness to their humanitarian work but also to bring people together for a good cause."

"We kindly ask everyone to support these fundraising initiatives and the organization, as the Red Cross continues to provide much-needed relief and support services to the residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands."

"This will kick off our Red Cross Month of Activities," Williams said.

"Thank you to the teams, the sponsors, the patrons, and of course the participants for supporting us this year. All funds raised from the Red Hot Challenge will go to support our humanitarian work in disaster preparedness, relief, and recovery," Williams concluded.

The next Red Cross fundraising event will be the highly anticipated Red Hot Fashion Event, which is scheduled for Saturday, November 4, 2023.

Sports Commission Stages Exciting Sports Development



Budding athletes in the Turks and Caicos Islands, especially those on Providenciales were kept sharp over the summer courtesy of the TCI Sports Commission through its Development Camp held at the National Stadium.

Courtney Missick, Sports Programme Officer with the Sports Commission Told NewslineTCI that that

the camp was geared to maintain the shape of the athletes, and even for them to improve on their fitness level to meet the start of the season

He said the one-week Track Development Camp was staged for ages 12 to 18, and was held to be run between Monday, July 31, to Friday, August 4.

"What we are trying to do is to condition the athletes when they return to their individual coaches, to have them return with some form of fitness instead of starting from zero all over again... to prepare them for Inter-High and regional and international track meets," Missick said.

He said the first day was focused on conditioning, teaching the athletes proper techniques, while having them going through their drills.

"Also, we also had them doing some laps so they could gain some aerobic endurance and stuff like that. We also merged them in a training camp basically," Missick continued.

He pointed out that after Monday, they went into all-out track and field techniques, working on speed and endurance.

In the meantime, Missick said the camp had seen a great deal of potential especially from beginner ath-

letes, pointing out that such enthusiasm and desire for the sport should be encouraged. He said the potential came from both on the track side as well as for field events.

"The camp was pretty good. I see a lot of active persons. We see a lot of them that have potential for track and field as well, and some are basically trying to get into the track and field sport. We have seen some good potential," Missick said.

Missick, a TCI Scholarship recipient, who attended high school in Jamaica and represented the country in regional and international events, returned home from The MICO University College, Jamaica, where he obtained his bachelor's degree in education, specializing in Physical Education. In July 2022, Missick was introduced to TCI Sports Commission as an apprentice, in the capacity of a Sports Programme Apprentice.

After approximately three months of his apprenticeship, the position of Sports Programme Officer was advertised internally, and Missick, was already performing his functions and responsibilities as a full-time employee, was shortlisted, and eventually given the nod.

EXCITING POLICE ACTION LEAGUE GAMES

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