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VOLUME 5 ISSUE 27

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**100% CUSTOMS
DUTY EXEMPTION**

In New Investment Policy, Invest Turks and Caicos Announced
Total Exemptions for Belonger Owned Business

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More photo highlights from The Point At Grace Bay launch

Grace Bay Resorts, a prominent developer and operator of luxury resorts and branded residences in Turks and Caicos, announces its latest resort residential offering, The Point. Situated at the renowned Point Grace resort on Grace Bay Beach, this exclusive project follows the success of Grace Bay Resorts' Rock House development. The launch was attended by a number of Grace Bay Resorts staff as well as a plethora of Real Estate agents.





Shopping this Christmas?

Stay Alert to your surroundings;

Do Not leave children in the vehicle while shopping;

Do Not leave your vehicle idling while shopping;

Avoid carrying large amounts of cash;

Pay with a cheque or credit card when possible;

Avoid using ATMs at night.

The public is being asked to contact 911, the closest police station or call Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477 and anonymously give information on illegal activities.

Tourism Minister Welcomes Landmark Court Decision To Reject Opposition's Tourist Board/DMO Judicial Review Application



Josephine Connolly

Minister of Tourism Hon. Josephine Connolly, is welcoming the Supreme Court's ruling against Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood and the Opposition's Appointed Member Hon. Alvin Garland in the House of Assembly, denying them leave to file judicial review.

The Applicants sought a judicial review against the Minister of Tourism, the Premier, and the Speaker of the House regarding the introduction of two Bills; the Tourist Board (Dissolution Ordinance) and the Destination Management Fee Ordinance.

Their Challenge concerned the Tourism Minister's presentation of the respective Bills to the House without embarking on proper consultation and the decision of the Speaker of the House Hon. Gordon Burton, to allow the motion by Premier Hon. Washington Misick, to three readings of the Destination Management Fee Bill and the Tourism Regulation and Licensing Bill in one sitting.

The Applicants also took issue with the decision of Premier Misick, to accept the recommendation of the Government to dissolve the Tourist Board in favour of a Destination Management Organisation.

Among the various reliefs sought was an order quashing the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board (Dissolution) Ordinance 2023 and the Destination Management Fee Ordinance 2023. "Establishing Experience Turks and Caicos, the Destination Management and Marketing Organisation (DMMO), was the right decision for the Turks and Caicos Islands," Connolly said. "The Court's decision provides certainty around

the legal framework and supports the ongoing implementation of this new framework which is significant and timely. I believe that Experience Turks and Caicos will propel the Turks and Caicos Islands' tourism to unprecedented economic growth as the government remains committed to the country's development."

Connolly also expressed gratitude to Attorney General Hon. Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles and the members of her Civil Litigation team for presenting such a "robust defense."

"The Attorney General's Chambers' diligence, legal acumen, and dedication to upholding fundamental constitutional principles have contributed to this favorable outcome," the tourism minister said.

The substantive hearing for leave to apply for judicial review was held on November 17th, 2023, before Justice Chris Selochan. The oral judgment was delivered on Monday, December 11th, 2023.

In delivering its judgment, the Supreme Court, considered the submissions raised by the Attorney General's Chambers on behalf of the Government, including:

- the Court lacked jurisdiction to inquire into the matter given that the decisions under challenge were taken in the House of Assembly;
- the delay of the parties in seeking leave only after the Bills had become law;
- the failure of the parties to seek alternative remedy in the House of Assembly;
- there was no realistic prospect of success; and
- the Applicants had no locus standi.

Regarding the power of the Supreme Court to quash an Ordinance, the Court ruled as it relates to primary legislation that it does not have the power to do so. The Court noted that there was no claim that the decisions were inconsistent with the Constitution and even if they were, the Court could only make a declaration.

In considering the issue of delay, the Supreme Court had regard to Order 53 rule 4, and the requirement that applications for judicial review ought to be brought promptly and in any event within three months and found that the Applicants were not prompt in filing their application for judicial review.

The Supreme Court said in its ruling that the Tourist Board (Dissolution) Ordinance 2023, which the Court was being asked to quash, is now law and the Court does not have the power to quash primary legislation.

The Supreme Court ruled that the decision to allow the Destination Management Fee Bill 2023 and Tourism and Licensing Regulation Bill 2023 to be read three times was made since June 28th, 2023, and the Application was not filed until September 2023.

The Applicants would have been aware of the issues and matters arising as a result of what transpired in the House on 28th June 2023 and were under an obligation to take prompt action at that time. In coming to this decision, the Supreme Court considered third-party prejudice and found that the Tourist Board was already dissolved, ex-employees compensated, and a new management company in existence.

The Supreme Court said that quashing the new entities would affect certain contractual obligations etc. and the Court was not satisfied that reasons have been advanced to justify the delay. Regarding the issue of alternative remedy, the Court referred to the affidavit of the Speaker of the House Hon. Gordon Burton, where he referenced the existence of the Privileges Committee.

The Court found that on the face of it, this appears to be a remedy that could have been explored by the Applicants and explained that this must be married with the Supreme Court's finding that decisions of the Speaker and conduct of proceedings in Parliament cannot be subject to Judicial Review except in specified circumstances.

Further, the Court observed that the Applicants had not provided any proper explanation as to why this alternative avenue had not been explored.

On the issue of lack of consultation, the Supreme Court noted that the Government provided detailed affidavit evidence of what they construed as adequate and proper consultation. However, the Court recognised that determining whether or not the consultation embarked upon was adequate and proper consultation was a finding which the Court would have been required to make if the matter was advanced to a substantive hearing for judicial review.

The Court ruled that this was a matter that would have been determined based on evidence of whether consultation was sufficient. The Court said that there may be an arguable ground for judicial review but in light of the Court's findings, stated in terms of its inability to enquire in Parliamentary proceedings, its inability to quash Ordinances and the delay, the Court refused leave to apply for judicial review. Principal Crown Counsel, Civil Litigation, Ms. Clemar Hippolyte and Senior Crown Counsel, Mr. Khadija McFarlane from the Attorney General's Chambers appeared on behalf of the Government, while attorney George Missick appeared on behalf of the Opposition.

The Attorney General Braithwaite-Knowles OBE KC welcomed the Court's judgment which she asserts: "Is a significant and positive court judgment, affirming the fundamental principle of parliamentary sovereignty. The decision underscores the paramount status of parliamentary decisions within our legal framework. Under the Constitution, procedures in the House of Assembly are governed by the Standing Orders and the Honorable Speaker of the House acted within the powers provided to him by virtue of these standing Orders. This judgment upholds the sovereignty of our elected representatives and reinforces the democratic foundation upon which our legal system stands.

"This judgment is not only a victory for the Turks and Caicos Islands Government and the Speaker of the House of Assembly but also a reinforcement of the democratic values that form the bedrock of our nation. It emphasises the significance of respecting the legislative process and the accountability of elected representatives in shaping the laws that reflect the will of the people."

100 Percent Duty Exemption

By Vivian Tyson Editor-in-Chief



From left: Sheryl McLaughlin – Investment Services Executive at Invest Turks and Caicos; Judith Garland – Legal & Compliance Officer; Angela Musgrove – CEO Invest Turks and Caicos; Cindy Ewing – Chair Invest Turks and Caicos; Hon. E. Jay Saunders – Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance, Trade and Investment; Walter Gardiner – Deputy Chair Invest Turks and Caicos; and Salik Garland – Investment Services Executive. The photo was taken at the launch of the county's Investment Policy at Wymara Resort in Providenciales. PHOTO: VIVIAN TYSON

Businesses that are 100 percent Turks and Caicos Islander owned are to benefit from 100 percent duty exemption thanks to the newly launched Invest Turks and Caicos Islands National Investment Policy.

Angela Musgrove, the Invest Turks and Caicos Chief Executive Officer made the announcement at the National

Investment Policy launch on Friday, December 8th at the Wymara Resort on Providenciales.

She said the policy aims to support and empower local entrepreneurs, driving innovation, job creation, and economic self-reliance, also highlighting the critical role of domestic investment in the country's progress and

emphasized the importance of providing access to capital for local businesses.

Musgrove pointed out that as part of the new policy, enhanced incentives and special investment regimes are introduced for specific projects, including those in family islands, special economic zones, and development priority areas.

Businesses solely owned by Belongers, especially in family islands, will benefit from a 100 percent duty exemption. She said 'Family Islands' are classified as all islands in the chain except Providenciales.

The 100 percent exemptions also apply to Providenciales as well if the business is 100 percent Belonger owned. The investment also includes construction of housing complexes. She said the minimum number of rooms for a housing project to receive 100 percent customs exemption will be 10.

"We also create enhanced incentives and special investment regimes for specific projects. Those in the family islands, for example, businesses that are solely owned by Belongers...projects that are in special economic zones and projects that we deem development priority areas," Musgrove said.

"Encouraging domestic investment is critical and crucial. We believe that providing access to capital, empowering local businesses, we will be able to create innovation for job creation and economic self-reliance. So, we are going to actively promote domestic investment and give additional support through greater incentives."

"We are going to align those investments with government vision for increasing the number and value of domestic enterprises, by supporting local entrepreneurs and fostering a thriving business eco-system that drives economic growth and prosperity," Musgrove added. She continued: "To this end, we have increased duty exemptions for projects in the family islands 100 percent. And so, we are looking to see more projects throughout the islands because we want to increase the incentives in that area...businesses that are 100 percent Turks and Caicos Islander owned will be eligible to receive 100 percent duty exemptions across the board."

He said those businesses are also eligible to receive expedited work permits, businesses licenses, and receive reduce work permit (cost) in some areas as well.

"We want to encourage our Turks and Caicos Islander-owned businesses, by increasing exemptions on capital transfer as well...100 percent exemptions on capital investments in specialty area, as well as any sort of projects for housing," she said.

She pointed out that Invest Turks and Caicos is taking the decision to facilitate and support impactful investment projects, noting that the entity is committed to creating more opportunities that benefit locals, while endeavoring to maintain the natural beauty and heritage of the country.

"We understand the transformative power of strategic investment, and we stand ready to make the necessary choices that will carry our nation forward. We are rolling out the red carpet for our locally owned businesses, not just in the MSME but also major projects as well," Musgrove continued.

In the meantime, Minister of Finance Hon. E. Jay Saunders remarked that a great deal of the policy decisions included in the document was taken from a 20-year policy document stumbled upon when his government came to office.

He said the vision document came from an economic survey carried out by its predecessors possibly 2018, which indicated that Turks and Caicos Islanders yearned for the opportunity to be empowered.

Saunders said he believed the document might have gone through parliament at some point, but was never signed off on, or implemented by the previous administration. He pointed out that his government did not alter the document's content, but sign-off on it as is.



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Job Description

The role of the Visitor Experience Officer is to ensure visitors have an excellent experience at our sites as well as learn more about the Trust and the cultural, historical and natural heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands. This will help build support for the Trust and its mission and mission of the Trust or the future of the tourism industry in TCI.

Knowledge and skills:

- General knowledge of islands
- Knowledge of all heritage sites
- Knowledge of the culture and history of TCI
- Excellent customer service skills
- Writing and reporting skills
- Integrity and trustworthiness

Qualifications and Experience:

- Associate Degree
- Training in policies and procedures provided on the job

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Send your cv or resume to director@nationaltrusttc.com and indicate the position being applied for in the email subject.

THE FORTNIGHT THAT WAS

By Basil Springer

"The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; the Lord turn his face toward you and give you peace." – Numbers 6:24-26

Here is a reflection of my last fortnight of experiences.

Thanksgiving is a heartwarming affair. Family reunions are the cornerstone of this holiday, bringing together loved ones in a celebration of gratitude, love and compassion.

This year, our U.S.-based families embraced the spirit of Thanksgiving. Family gatherings offer an opportunity for bonding, forgiveness and helping others. The joy in sharing meals, stories, projects and laughter with family and friends is a poignant reminder of the enduring bonds of kinship and the importance of nurturing these ties. I look forward to connecting with my wider family in Barbados over Christmas to share in these wonderful experiences.

Black Friday heralded the unofficial start of the Christmas shopping season. It's fascinating how this day, following a holiday centered around thankfulness and simplicity, shifts gears towards consumerism. However, it also marks a time of economic vitality and the joy of giving, as people enthusiastically prepare for the upcoming festive season.

The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association's (CHTA) Caribbean Hospitality Industry Exchange Forum (CHIEF) took center stage from November 29 to December 1. CHIEF brought together industry leaders to share insights and strategies

for navigating the complexities of hospitality. The experiences from the forum highlighted the resilience and innovation within the Caribbean hospitality sector, especially in these challenging times.

I was honored to be asked to share innovative and disruptive thoughts on how a 3M Shepherding model, which has been developed and grown by teams under my watch over the last 25 years, simultaneously empowers seasoned industry operatives and younger visionaries to achieve ownership and sustainable success in the tourism industry.

The model governs the metamorphosis of ideas, including management (shepherding – life coaching and business mentoring) of entrepreneurs, intrapreneurs and micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSME); and access to money, particularly for MSMEs with shepherding as collateral.

The first specific innovation is the High Impact Growth Strategy (HIGS) workshop tool that generates several sustainable new ideas from a blank sheet of paper in two days of interactive sessions.

The second is the management of business systems (ManOBiz) matrix of 25 cells where a weakness in the content of any cell can spell the demise of the entire business.

The third is the Quick Response Revolving and Growth Equity Fund which sources its capital primarily from mobilizing private sector savings with government incentives where the Fund in-

vests in promising startups and the startups exit by repurchasing their shares as their businesses grow.

Close on the heels of CHIEF was the 2023 CMEx Leadership Awards and Fundraiser on December 2, which is establishing its place in the tourism awards calendar, CMEx having made its debut as a media symposium event over 23 years ago.

It was an honor to be part of an occasion that recognized the contributions and leadership of tourism and communications leaders around the Caribbean. CMEx's mission of supporting sustainable tourism and community development resonates deeply with me. This event was not only about accolades but it was also a celebration of the collective effort towards sustainable development in tourism, a key driver of the Caribbean economy.

Finally, the Marketplace Excellence Corporation (MPE) staff retreat and client meetings on December 3 marked a fitting end to this fortnight. As a global public relations, marketing and media company, MPE is gearing up for 2024, focusing on helping others navigate the tourism economic growth space and move towards sustainable tourism development. This retreat was a time for introspection and strategic planning, aligning our goals towards creating a positive impact in the industry.

Reflecting on these activities, I am struck by the interconnectedness of our personal and professional lives. From the warmth of family gatherings to the dynamic world of tourism and hospitality, each experience shapes our understanding and approach to life and work. As we move towards sustainable tourism development, the lessons of love, compassion and resilience from these two weeks will undoubtedly guide our endeavors in the upcoming year. Happy Holidays, everyone!



12/11

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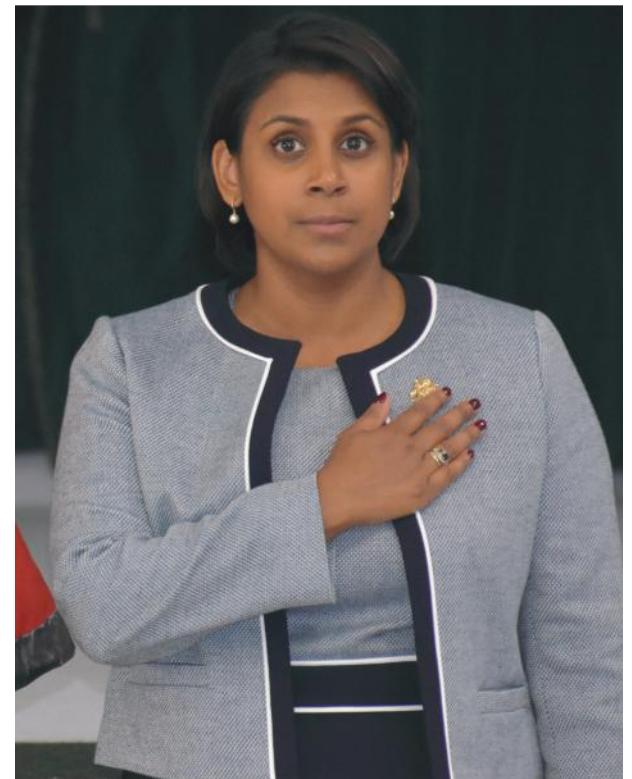
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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

TCI, UK Agree On Locally-Elected Government Having Greater Governance Control



Premier Hon. Washington Misick



Governor for the Turks and Caicos Islands Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam



David Rutley, UK Minister in charge of British Overseas Territories

The United Kingdom Government and democratically elected Governments of the British Overseas Territories, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, have agreed on greater autonomies for the Overseas Territories from a joint meeting held on November 14 and 15, 2023.

The Joint Declaration between the Government of the United Kingdom and the democratically elected Governments of the British Overseas Territories outlines several key agreements and commitments.

Here's a summary of the main points:

I. Stronger Global Family:

Upholding democratic values in the British family. Commitment to the rules-based international system.

Support for closer links between the British Overseas Territories and the Commonwealth.

II. Empowering Territory Governments:

Support for greater autonomy for democratically

elected British Overseas Territory Governments. Engagement with Territory Governments on reviewing their constitutions.

Support for the removal of Territories from the UN list of non-self-governing territories.

III. Mutual Expectations and Responsibilities:

Mechanism for consulting British Overseas Territory governments on proposed UK legislation.

Promotion of collective interests in international forums.

Development of bilateral Compacts between the UK Government and each British Overseas Territory.

Support for bilateral Compacts between individual British Overseas Territories.

IV. Sustainable Development:

Collaboration on sustainable development goals.

Financial support for non-self-sufficient Territories.

Consideration of vulnerability in financial support decisions.

Strengthened partnership to tackle climate priorities.

V. Excellence in Public Service:

Mutual support through challenges and successes. Strengthening public institutions for good governance.

Collaboration for technical support, experience transfer, and cybersecurity.

VI. Implementation and Oversight:

The Joint Ministerial Council (JMC) as the highest forum for political dialogue.

Accountability through the JMC for implementing the Declaration.

UK commitment to publish a strategy outlining how it will deliver on its commitments.

The Declaration emphasizes a deep, historic, and enduring partnership between the UK and the British Overseas Territories. It recognizes the diversity of the territories and commits to shared values, equal rights, and self-determination.

The document underscores the importance of working together to address challenges, promote good governance, and achieve sustainable development. The Joint Ministerial Council will play a crucial role in overseeing the implementation of these commitments.

UK Minister for the Overseas Territories, David Rutley, said: "The Overseas Territories are an important part of the British Family, and our shared values such as support for democracy and the rule of law underpin this close relationship."

"Our new Joint Declaration sets out more clearly than ever how the UK and Overseas Territories will work closer together on the opportunities and challenges of the modern world."

Premier Hon. Charles Washington Misick, Turks and Caicos Islands, said: "A resetting of the relationship between the OTs and the UK to be more future facing considering the realities of the current global trends is welcomed. I look forward to a strategic engagement on delivery of the commitments."

PDM Contemplates Appeal After Unfavorable Ruling on Tourist Board Dissolution



At left Leader of the Opposition Hon. Edwin Astwood and at right Opposition's Appointed Member Hon. Alvin Garland.



In response to its failed attempts to have the courts scrap the newly implemented Destination Management Organization in place of the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board, and its application to seek judicial review, the Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM) is considering an appeal.

The case revolves around the dissolution of the Tourist Board by the Washington Misick government in favor of the DMO. PDM leader Hon. Edwin Astwood and Appointment Member Hon. Alvin Garland announced their commitment to exploring all legal options after the court's decision. The party said it awaits the written judgment from presiding judge Chris Selochan, which should provide insights into the rationale behind the denial of leave. While acknowledging the judge's decision, PDM said it firmly believes there

are grounds for appeal, asserting that the judge may have erred in the exercise of discretion. The party contests the judge's findings related to lacking jurisdiction, undue delay, and the availability of alternative remedies, emphasizing the judge's purported failure to adequately address the central issue of a lack of consultation—a fundamental aspect in the judge's exercise of discretion.

Crucially, the PDM highlights that the judge rejected the government's argument challenging the legal standing of Hon. Astwood and Hon. Garland to bring the claim against the government. Despite costs being awarded to the government, the judge ruled that they were only entitled to two-thirds of their costs given the circumstances.

The Opposition says it underscores its commitment to pursuing all available

legal avenues to rectify what they perceive as shortcomings in the judgment. They maintain that the lack of consultation, a core element of their application, deserves further consideration, and the judge's decision allegedly failed to adequately address this crucial point.

They said the PDM remains steadfast in its role as a voice for each Turks and Caicos Islander who was excluded from the consultation process, contravening their fundamental rights, or who faced job termination after years of dedicated service to the Tourist Board.

The party vows to collaborate closely with its legal team to scrutinize the forthcoming written decision and assess the feasibility of an appeal, expressing confidence in the strength of its case. PDM reiterates its commitment to upholding principles crucial to the rule of law and fairness.

Chevening Scholar is TCI's Next Commissioner Of Police



Edvin Martin, who leads the CARICOM Crime Gun Intelligence Unit is the next Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) Commissioner.

The announcement was made on Monday, December 11, by the Officer of the Governor via news release. The newly appointed Commissioner is scheduled to assume his post at the beginning of February 2024, marking the beginning of a new era in the leadership of the RTCIPF.

The appointment, according to the Governor's Office, comes after a thorough open recruitment campaign that involved a stakeholder panel, a separate community panel, and consultations with Premier Charles Washington Misick.

Martin served as the Chief of Police of

the Royal Grenada Police Force until June 2023. The Governor expressed confidence in Martin's ability to lead the RTCIPF with integrity, innovation, and a strong focus on building trust within the community.

"Following a competitive recruitment process, I have appointed Mr. Edvin Martin as the next Commissioner of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force. Mr Martin brings a strong set of leadership skills and regional operational experience having led the Royal Grenada Police Force. With a distinguished career and commitment to public safety, I am confident that Mr Martin will lead our force with integrity, innovation and a firm focus to build trust with communities across our islands, Governor

Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam was quoted as saying, also expressing her gratitude to Martins predecessor Trevor Botting.

Commenting on his appointment, Martin expressed excitement and optimism about taking on the role of Commissioner. He emphasized his commitment to addressing law enforcement challenges and implementing proactive strategies to ensure the safety and security of both citizens and visitors to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"It is with excitement, I accept this prestigious position to lead the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) as its Commissioner of Police. I look forward with optimism to leading the men and women of the RTCIPF in confronting the law enforcement challenges and applying practical, proactive strategies to ensure the safety and security of all citizens and visitors to the shores of Turks and Caicos Islands.

"I am honoured to take forward this tremendous opportunity to serve the people of this beautiful nation by leading the police force into an era of modern policing. I am fully aware of the dynamic, complex, diverse, and multi-dimensional nature of the local and global criminogenic environment.

"This era demands a police force that must ensure safety and security by working collaboratively with colleague officers, and stakeholders to ensure that communities are free of the fear of crime. Be assured I am committed to delivering on this intention," Martin said.

In the meantime, the Governor's Office said Martin brings a wealth of experience to his new role, having served in the police force for an impressive 37 years. Currently, he is leading the CARICOM Crime Gun Intelligence Unit as part of the CARICOM Implementation Agency for Crime and Security.

His background includes a five-year tenure as the Chief of Police in Grenada, and he previously served as the President of the Association of Caribbean Commissioners of Police.

Additionally, Martin holds a Master's degree in Criminology & Criminal Justice from Durham University, earned under the UK Chevening Scholarship program in 2016.

Inspector Ansa Wilson is the 2023 Humanitarian of the Year



Ansa Wilson (second right) collecting her award from Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam. From left are Roxann Wake-Forbes – Chair of the TCI Human Rights Commission; Sivil Dean, last year's Humanitarian recipient; and Allan Robinson, Vice President of light and power company Fortis.



The Orchard was the named NGO of the Year. In photo, Sean Bassett (right) of Island Bargain presents the award to representatives of that NGO.



Wilson is all smiles with her award



Andre Rupert Gibson, the nominee for North Caicos, walked away with the Community Star by Island Award.

Ansa Wilson, Inspector of Police at the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police, has been awarded the prestigious title of the 2023 Turks and Caicos Islands Human Rights Commission Humanitarian of the Year at the annual event took place at the Shore Club Resort in Providenciales, Saturday, December 9.

Wilson's remarkable contributions through her charity, Abuse Awareness Turks and Caicos, have earned her this accolade, recognizing her dedication to supporting vulnerable individuals within the community.

Wilson's charity focuses on addressing issues such as trauma, depression, stress, and disruptions in families, offering support and resources to those in need. Speaking about the award, Wilson expressed her gratitude, acknowledging the efforts of all volunteers and supporters who have played a crucial role in the success of Abuse Awareness Turks and Caicos.

"There is no feeling to describe what I am feeling right now. I am completely shocked. Everything is shaking. I did not expect it, because what I do is hard for some persons to talk about, experiencing trauma, depression, stress, disruption in the family, those things are hard to share and hard to talk about. So, I didn't expect this, but I am extremely grateful," she said.

The inspector shared that her involvement with vulnerable children and adults inspired her to create the organization. She emphasized the importance of prevention through providing information, enabling individuals to make informed decisions.

"I am a police officer...a police inspector



Omardi Morris copped the Junior Humanitarian of the Year

of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, and in 2012, I was introduced to working closely with vulnerable children and vulnerable adults, and after coming in contact with those persons you could not leave them the same.

"It makes me realize that there is more that I could do in terms of prevention. If persons have more information they can make more informed decisions, so that is how Abuse Awareness Turks and Caicos came about. In 2016, I just start sharing information and letting people know of available resources and what to expect when something awful has happened to them.

"And so, that is how I am here today...because of what these persons who shared and read and asked questions and volunteered," she said.

Reflecting on the challenges faced during the early stages of the charity in 2016, Wilson noted the difficulties in securing support. However, over the years, the community rallied behind her cause, with people volunteering their services and resources to assist those in need.

"In 2016, it was hard. Everyone I reached to, they were asking for some form of payment, or they didn't want to go on camera, they didn't want to be recorded. Sometimes stuff would be planned, and no one would show up.

"But as the years passed persons started contacting me and volunteering and asking me if I knew anyone who needed help and were willing to do anything that was needed to help persons...whether it was families who needed some groceries or a child who needed clothing, a school bag, school shoes,

or somebody who needs somebody to talk to.

"People just start donating their services, and from then until now, we are still here today. I always say 'we', because without my Abuse Awareness family, this would not be a possibility. And so, this is win for all of us. This is a win for the community..every island in the Turks and Caicos.

Omardi Morris, son of Home Affairs Minister Hon. Otis Morris, walked away with the Junior Humanitarian Award for 2023. The other nominees were Alcia Bobb and Demarco Williams.

Morris expressed gratitude for the recognition and emphasized the importance of using basketball to drive positive cultural change in Turks and Caicos. Morris, who has been coaching the HJ Robinson High School basketball team for seven years, said he aims to instil problem-solving skills and a sense of responsibility in the youth.

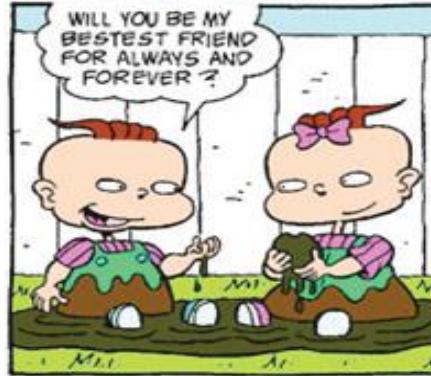
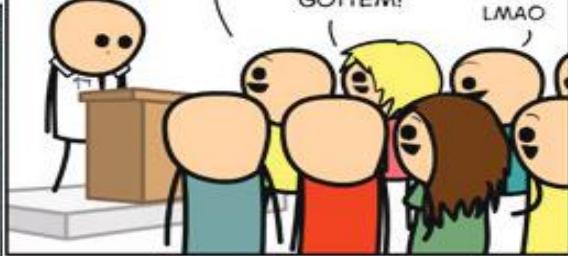
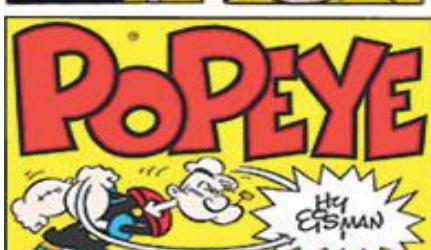
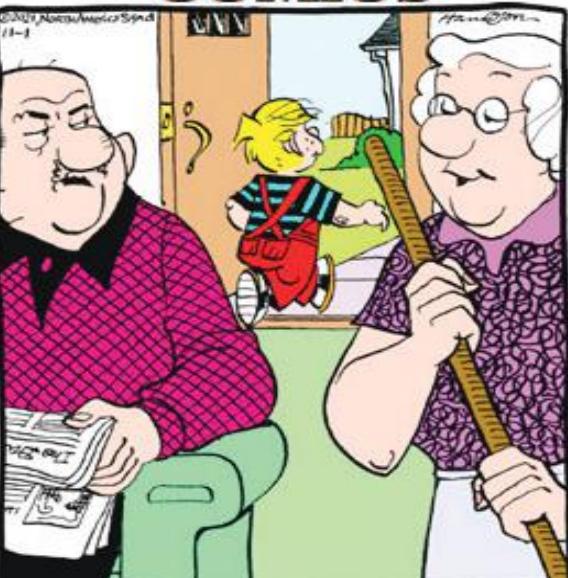
Gibson, the nominee for North Caicos, walked away with the Community Star by Island Award. The other nominees were Omari Morris from Grand Turk, Allen Dickenson from Salt Cay, Luedel Goldman from South Caicos, Steve Puthemus from Middle Caicos and Pastor Barbara Jervis from Providenciales.

Gibson shared his humility in receiving the award, emphasizing that his work is for the people. Gibson revealed that he had initially nominated someone else and campaigned for that individual to win, making his surprise even more profound.

The Orchard was named the 2023 NGO of the year. There were two nominees in that category, the other being The Sisterhood.



NEWSLINE COMICS



Bats

Bats (locally called rat-bats) are the only known extant native mammals in the Turks & Caicos Islands. The only other native mammal was the hutia, a guinea-pig like rodent that lives in mangroves. It is most likely extinct in TCI.

All other mammals in TCI have been introduced by humans. The wild black rats and house mice, feral cats and dogs, and free-roaming livestock including horses, donkeys, pigs, goats, and cattle were all introduced by people, either deliberately or accidentally.

Research has shown that the bats of Conch Bar Caves leave in a strict order. *Monophyllus* leave the caves as the sun is setting. *Erophylla* leave next, as soon as the sun has set. *Macrotus* leave at the end of dusk, but go in and out of the caves through the night. Finally, *Brachyphylla* leave the caves after rallying at the entrances to await complete darkness.



Highlights from the 2023 TCI Human Rights Humanitarian Awards

The 2023 Turks and Caicos Islands Humanitarian Awards function was held on Saturday, December 9, at the Shore Club Resort in Providenciales. The event saw support from a wide cross-section of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community. NewslineTCI was there to capture the event in both text as well as in camera. The following are photo highlights of the event.





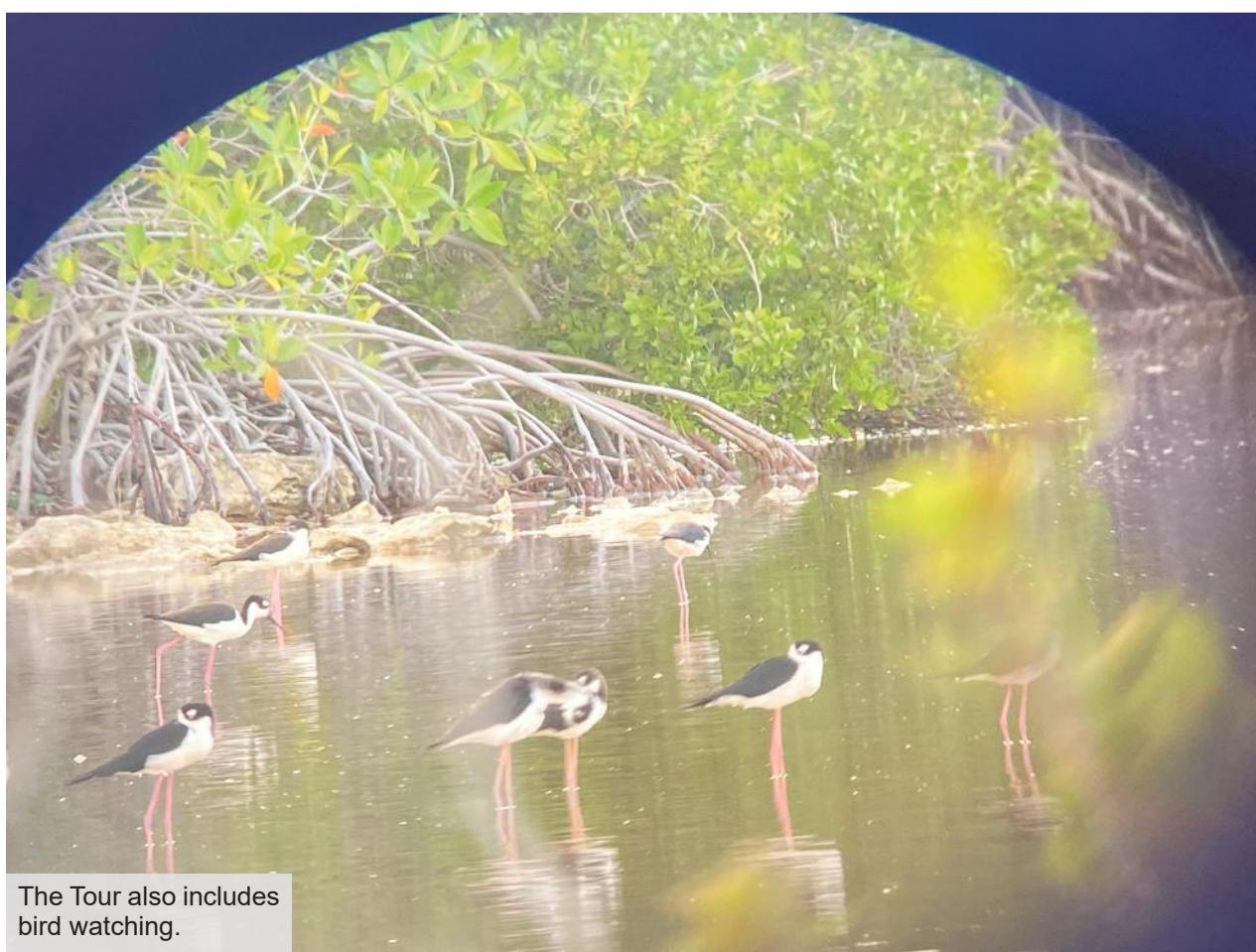
Mary Fulford Launches Island Mystique Culture Tour, a Unique and Immersive Experience in TCI



Guests will get to learn weaving handcraft and make their own souvenirs, such as these bookmarks made by the individuals in the photo.



Mary Fulford, CEO and Founder of Island Mystique.



The Tour also includes bird watching.

Mary Fulford, CEO and Founder of Island Mystique has announced the launch of the first-of-its-kind culturally immersive tour experience company in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Fulford explained that Island Mystique is committed to operating sustainably while providing authentic and personalized experiences that allow guests to deeply connect with the rich culture of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

She said the company offers a variety of engaging tours, including Foodie Tours, Sip and Paint tours in nature, Bird Trail expe-

riences with a certified Bird Tour Guide, Cooking Local Meals, and more. She pointed out that these unique experiences are carefully curated to offer a glimpse into the heart and soul of the islands.

With a background in Luxury Hospitality and Customer Service, coupled with a Bsc Degree in International Hospitality and Tourism Management, Fulford brings a wealth of expertise to the venture.

She said guests are given the flexibility to choose from public or private experiences, group packages, or opt for a customized package tailored to their preferences. Is-

land Mystique aims to go beyond the traditional tourist experience, inviting visitors to truly immerse themselves in the local culture and traditions of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Fulford expressed her enthusiasm for the venture, saying, "Island Mystique is more than just a tour company; it's a gateway to the authentic heart of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Our goal is to provide a memorable and immersive experience that allows guests to explore, indulge, and connect with the vibrant culture of our beautiful islands."

The offerings of Island Mystique can be explored on their website and detailed in their brochure, providing a comprehensive overview of the diverse experiences available.

Whether it's exploring the local cuisine, engaging in a premium bird-watching session with certified guides, or participating in a unique Sip and Paint tour surrounded by nature, Fulford said Island Mystique promises an unforgettable journey through the Turks and Caicos Islands.

For more information, bookings, and inquiries, please visit the Island Mystique website at: <https://islandmystique-tci.com/>; Instagram: https://instagram.com/islandmystique_?igshid=MzRlODBiNWFlZA==; Tik Tok: [Trip Advisor: https://en.tripadvisor.com.hk/Attraction_Review-g147399-d26148369-Reviews-Island_Mystique-Providenciales_Turks_and_Caicos.html](#); Facebook: Island Mystique.



FEATURED CHURCH

HOUSE OF PRAYER MINISTRIES



LIFE LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

Calvary Baptist Church,
South Caicos
Tel:946-3212

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

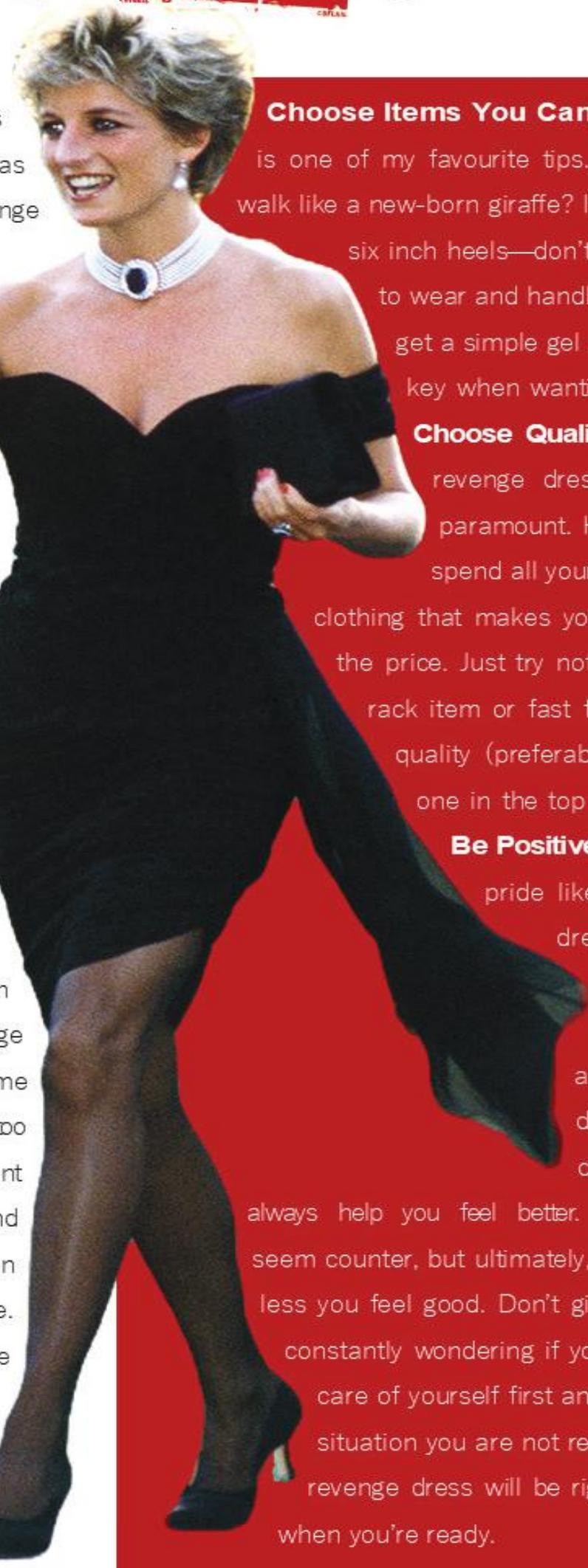
Editor's Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at:contact@newslinetc.com

The REVENGE Dress

The phenomenon of the revenge dress has been around for ages. While its nature has drawn some criticisms, the modern revenge dress is much more. The revenge dress is now a sign of survival, a sign that we are thriving. It's often used as a form of therapy and self encouragement that we are able to carry on despite the circumstance way may find ourselves currently in. The revenge dress has gotten a makeover—and she's now a feminist. The late Princess Diana has the most iconic revenge dress, often considered 'The Original' - an off-the-shoulder LBD by Greek designer *Christina Stambolian*. It's the number she wore the day it was revealed that Prince Charles had been unfaithful in June 1994. Let's examine why her revenge dress was done successfully—and take some notes!

Stay classy. Her dress wasn't too short or too low cut. It was the perfect amount of each. To achieve, learn your body type and proportions and balance them. Choose when you show off certain assets, - not all at once.

Play To Your Strengths. This is the chance to show yourself off. Pick an asset and put it on display. For example, have a tiny waist? Accentuate it! Have amazing legs? Show them off!



Choose Items You Can Actually Wear.

This is one of my favourite tips. Why wear heels if you walk like a new-born giraffe? If you don't normally wear six inch heels—don't! If you don't know how to wear and handle ultra-long stiletto nails, get a simple gel polish! Comfort is always key when wanting to exude confidence..

Choose Quality. When wearing a revenge dress, looking expensive is paramount. However, be smart, don't spend all your money on one article of clothing that makes you cry when you think of the price. Just try not to make it your regular rack item or fast fashion brand. Choose a quality (preferably sustainable!) brand—one in the top end of your price range.

Be Positive. Wear positivity and pride like you wear the revenge dress. Show those who wish the worst of you that you're still around and thriving. Even if you don't believe that yet, dressing to feel good will

always help you feel better. **Do it for you.** This may seem counter, but ultimately, you can't look good unless you feel good. Don't give anyone the power by constantly wondering if you've been noticed. Take care of yourself first and don't jump back into a situation you are not ready to be a part of. The revenge dress will be right there waiting for you when you're ready.

School Census Day Launch Regarded As Successful



The inauguration event for the Ministry of Education's School Census Day initiative witnessed the attendance of 45 individuals, including Principals, Vice Principals, Teachers, Education Officers and Ministry Officials.

Hosted by the Policy and Planning Unit (PPU) within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Social Services, the successful launch occurred on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, at the Blue Haven Resort in Providenciales. The guest

speaker was Mr. Shirlin Forbes, Head of the Statistics Unit.

School Census Day, now integrated into the academic calendar and scheduled annually for October 31st, signifies a pivotal milestone in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) educational landscape.

School Census Day is a day when all educational institutions in the TCI unite to submit vital education data to the Ministry. This initiative is at the heart of the Ministry's ongoing mission to ensure an inclusive and equitable quality of education and lifelong learning opportunities for every child and youth in the TCI.

Accurate data collection, according to the ministry, is paramount in fostering educational excellence, and the School Census Day is a significant step in this direction.

The PPU's goal, as it pertains to School Census Day, is to "Empower Education through Data". This goal, the ministry said further, signifies its commitment to utilising information gathered on School Census Day to make informed decisions, develop effective policies, and implement programmes that enhance the quality of education and benefit students, parents, teachers and communities.

By harnessing the power of data, the PPU aims to drive positive changes in the education system and create a more informed, transparent, and efficient educational environment.

Minister of Education, Hon. Rachel Taylor was pleased with the launch, the level of support and the prospect of the programme.

"On School Census Day, we embark on a journey that transcends mere data collection; it's a journey towards empowerment and improvement. Each data point provided is a commitment towards a brighter, more inclusive, equitable, and prosperous future for every child in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"The launch of School Census Day is a testament to the government's unwavering dedication to fostering an educational environment that empowers and uplifts every child, ensuring that no one is left behind.

"Moreover, this initiative aligns seamlessly with the government's overarching goal of building a data-driven governance framework, emphasising comprehensive, accurate, timely data collection, analysis, and informed decision-making. "Therefore, I invite all principals to pledge to submit their school data to the Ministry every year by October 31 (School Census Day). Let this be a tradition, a symbol of your unwavering dedication to enhancing education in the TCI."

For further information on the School Census Day initiative and its profound impact on educational development, contact the Policy and Planning Unit of the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Social Services at 649-338-4805/649-338-3143/649-338-3141.

TCI Community College Holds 28th Graduation Exercise



Photo of the TCI Community College graduation exercise

The Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) proudly marked its 28th Annual Graduation Ceremony with an inspiring theme, "From Vision to Achievement: Making Strides Towards Excellence in Education and Training." The ceremony, held on December 7, 2023, witnessed the graduation of 99 exceptional individuals, including 45 Associate degree recipients, 11 Bachelor's degree recipients, and 43 Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Certification recipients.

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including Mr. Edgar Howell, Acting Deputy Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports, and Social Services, who delivered greetings on behalf of the Minister of Education, Honourable Rachel Marshall Taylor, who was unable to join due to her House of Assembly commitment.

The Minister conveyed heartfelt congratulations to the graduates, emphasising the theme's resonance with the transformative journeys undertaken by each graduate and the profound impact on the community and the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Dr. Barbara Ambrister, Chair of the Board of Governors, lauded the graduates and the institution's progress, highlighting the transformative changes underway at TCICC. She emphasised the college's commitment to achieving excellence in education and training.

The ceremony featured a compelling video commencement message from Dr. Candice Williams, President and CEO of TCICC. In her speech, Dr. Williams reflected on the college's vision to become the first choice for education and training in the Turks and Caicos Islands and beyond. She showcased the progress made in various key programme strategies, underscoring TCICC's commitment to academic excellence, partnerships, and international collaborations.

Highlights from Dr. Williams' Speech:

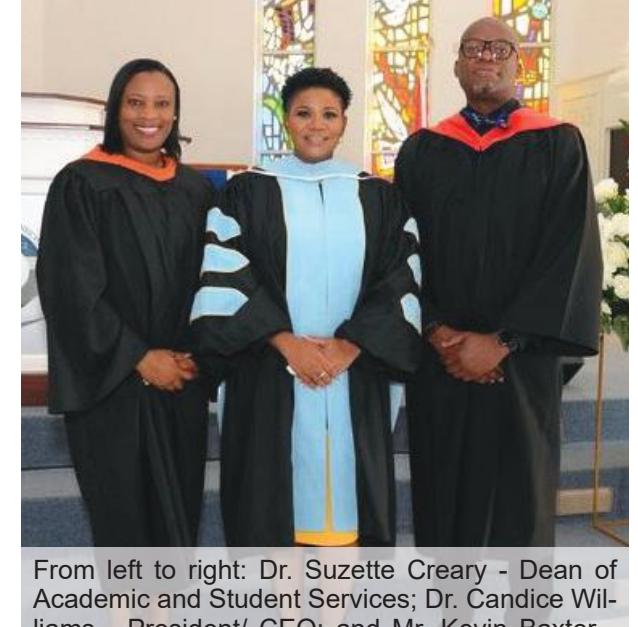
- Organisational Structure Enhancement: Dr. Williams highlighted the comprehensive Organisational Review of TCICC, led by the Ministry of Education and Dr. Barbara Ambrister, resulting

in a strategic placement of key personnel to ensure academic excellence.

- Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET): TCICC achieved notable progress in TVET programmes, securing initial accreditation status from the National Centre for Construction Education and Research (NCCER). This positions TCICC to offer top-tier technical programmes aligned with industry standards.
- Global Partnerships: TCICC signed Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with nine international institutions, fostering collaboration and providing students and faculty with valuable opportunities for exchange programmes, research, and credit transfers.
- Capacity Building: TCICC invested in staff capacity building through specialised courses and highlighted achievements, such as faculty members obtaining doctoral degrees and upgrading their qualifications.
- Research and Innovation: The college showcased its commitment to research and innovation, winning the "Blended Challenge Competition" and presenting papers at regional and international conferences.
- Student Success: TCICC celebrated a 29% increase in enrolment, expanded reach through satellite sites, and achieved success in student support services, including the hiring of a Student Support Officer.
- Facility Upgrades: The completion of phase 1 renovations to the Alliance Business Centre, TCICC East, was highlighted, showcasing the commitment to providing state-of-the-art facilities.

In conclusion, Dr. Williams expressed gratitude to the Ministry of Education, the Board of Governors, external stakeholders, students, and the dedicated faculty and staff who contributed to TCICC's success. She emphasised that the journey from vision to achievement is continuous, requiring ongoing self-assessment and improvement.

During the graduation ceremony, Salutatorian Ms. Kaymia Reid took the stage with grace to introduce our esteemed guest speaker. The event



From left to right: Dr. Suzette Creary - Dean of Academic and Student Services; Dr. Candice Williams - President/ CEO; and Mr. Kevin Baxter - Dean of TVET.

included powerful addresses from Valedictorians, Mrs. Antonique Wright-Todd, and Ms. Donnell Simmons.

Both speakers shared inspiring narratives, recounting the triumphs and challenges faced by themselves and their fellow graduates throughout their academic journeys.

Mrs. Wright-Todd underscored the resilience of the students in the face of the pandemic's challenges, emphasizing that these experiences have uniquely equipped them for any future hurdles. She conveyed that success transcends innate talent or luck, emphasizing the importance of tenacity and the ability to rise after a fall.

Ms. Simmons, in her address, highlighted the transformative power of dedication, passion, and the right opportunities, asserting that anyone can forge their path in any industry. Her words served as a testament to the boundless possibilities that training and skill development can unlock, resonating with the graduates as they embark on their diverse and promising futures.

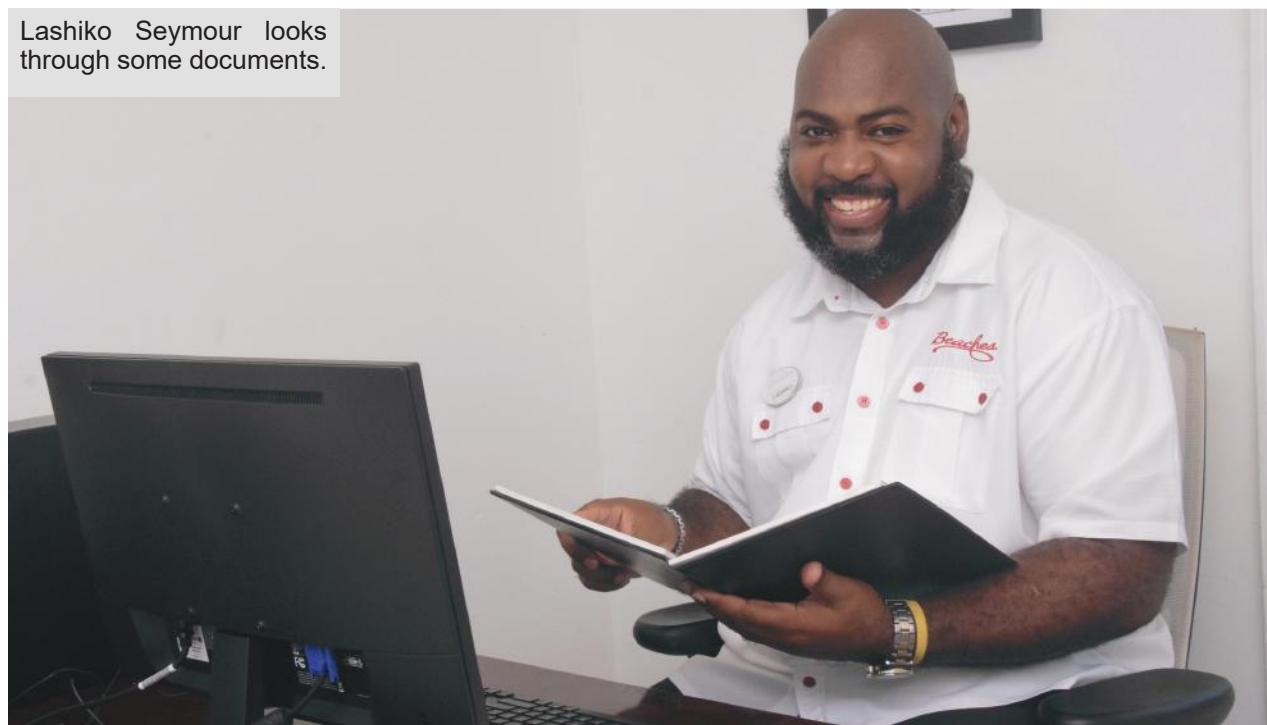
In a poignant moment, Ms. Kayon Cox, Registrar General in the Ministry of Home Affairs and TCICC Alumnus, delivered a keynote address. Ms. Cox presented a roadmap for success, encouraging graduates to develop a clear vision, harness the strength of passion in their academic pursuits, and allow that passion to fuel their dedication to education and achieving greatness.

The monumental moment of the ceremony was the graduation of inmates and staff from the Department of Correctional Services with certifications in Commercial Food Preparation and Customer Service, marking a historic accomplishment in rehabilitation and capacity building.

As TCICC continues to make strides towards excellence in education and training, the institution remains committed to its vision of becoming the first choice for education and training within the Turks and Caicos Islands and beyond.

Lashiko Seymour, From Mentee to Master

Lashiko Seymour looks through some documents.



Lashiko shares a point with Consierge Agent Brianna Simon

Lashiko Seymour's success story is rooted in humble beginnings. His life's journey highlights the value of mentors and speaks to the transformative impact of resilience, dedication, and a strong work ethic.

Lashiko was born in South Caicos, Turks and Caicos Islands. As a youngster he had to relocate to Providenciales when his parents moved in search of work. Resources weren't always plentiful but values of gratitude and the will to achieve were reinforced daily.

Throughout his high school years at Clement Howell, Lashiko aspired to becoming a professional basketballer. However, those dreams were short lived. Upon completing his secondary studies, he attended the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College where he did a hospitality course, after which he received a scholarship to Johnson and Wales University in Miami where he obtained a degree in Hotel Management.

Lashiko recounts his time in university as the first major turning point in his life. "I always understood the value of education but throughout high school I

never put out any extra effort. It was when I got to university that I started to take my education seriously. Money was 'tight', especially when the scholarship funding was reduced. It was at that point that I decided that I would pick up more courses and finish ahead of time." He fondly recalls the moment he had called the Department of Education and spoken with the lady in charge of the grants and scholarships.

When he had asked if he could take on some additional courses the lady was pleasantly surprised, acknowledging that he was the first scholarship recipient that had ever made such a request. This very mature decision on his part, would also benefit future recipients because his early completion would allow other persons to receive benefits sooner rather than later. When many persons at that stage of their lives would have been feting and enjoying college life, Lashiko was doubling down on his studies. He was focused on returning home with his degree so that he could help improve the quality of life of his family.

When asked why he did not seek employment in the United States, without hesitation he calmly yet proudly responded, "I rather be home. This is where I am comfortable." Lashiko urges other young men and women who go abroad to pursue further studies not to abandon their home. "Turks and Caicos is our home and if we leave to certify ourselves and gain various credentials, we must be prepared at some point to return to contribute to the development of our home."

Lashiko's career in the hospitality industry began in 2010 when he joined Beaches Turks and Caicos as a front desk clerk. Eleven months in, he was promoted to night auditor where he served for an additional year and two months. It was at this point that he had a life altering experience.

"Being a part of such a large organization, it is easy to remain in obscurity, especially when working the night shift like I did. We come in, we get things done but no one really sees us in operation. At least, that is what I thought before getting perhaps the most profound career advice of my life.

"In an exchange with one of the administrators from Sandals Resorts International, she told me to make my presence felt so that when my resume hits the desk of the managers, they will already know who I am. From that moment onward I became more assertive, I started to do things a bit more differently which left a lasting impression on those I encountered. I was no longer just a night auditor. People knew me by name."

This is a winning principle for anyone starting a career to adopt. Additionally, he is grateful for the opportunities that the Sandals Corporate University (SCU) has provided for continued training and development. Through the SCU, he believes that every member of staff has an opportunity to get certified in mandatory courses as well as programmes of their choice, at no cost to them.

It's one thing to receive advice but it takes someone who is humble and receptive to learning to take these golden nuggets of wisdom and apply them. At twenty-three years old, Lashiko was fortunate to have not one, not two, but three men, in addition to his father, offering advice on career choices, investment among other things. In fact, he credits his success to three of his mentors; Gerald Williams, Kenneth Hamilton and Ben Williams who were night managers at Beaches.

"They were always on my case pushing me to pursue my goals. Because of them, I was motivated to acquire property at an early age, build my home and now I can provide financial security for my family."

Having applied the wise counsel of his mentors, Lashiko is now comfortably enjoying the fruits of his labour. During the day he has the pleasure of taking care of his nine month old son. In his leisure time he enjoys watching basketball, comedy and action films. He notes that the advantage of working on the night shift is that he has ample time to spend with his family during the day.

Lashiko urges young people entering the hospitality industry to foster relationships with persons who can pass on positive values. "Sometimes you can spare yourself a lot of trouble when you listen to your elders. That is what saved me. Now I am able to mentor others, and I do not take this responsibility lightly."

Lashiko Seymour, is an exemplary son of the soil. He is a dedicated family man and team member. His past challenges have equipped him with a spirit of resilience that fuels his desire for success on the job. His journey is a testament to the positive impact of mentorship, the unwavering pursuit of knowledge and the ability to overcome financial obstacles in pursuit of a brighter future.

NEWSLINE[®] & Chill

Spring Word Scramble

URLMLBAE
TSFUETREIBL
REFWOSL
SNUYN
UTISLP
NHSIUNES
LSBMOOS
BAORIWN
NICPCI
GENRDA

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

Brain Teaser

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

Answer: Temper

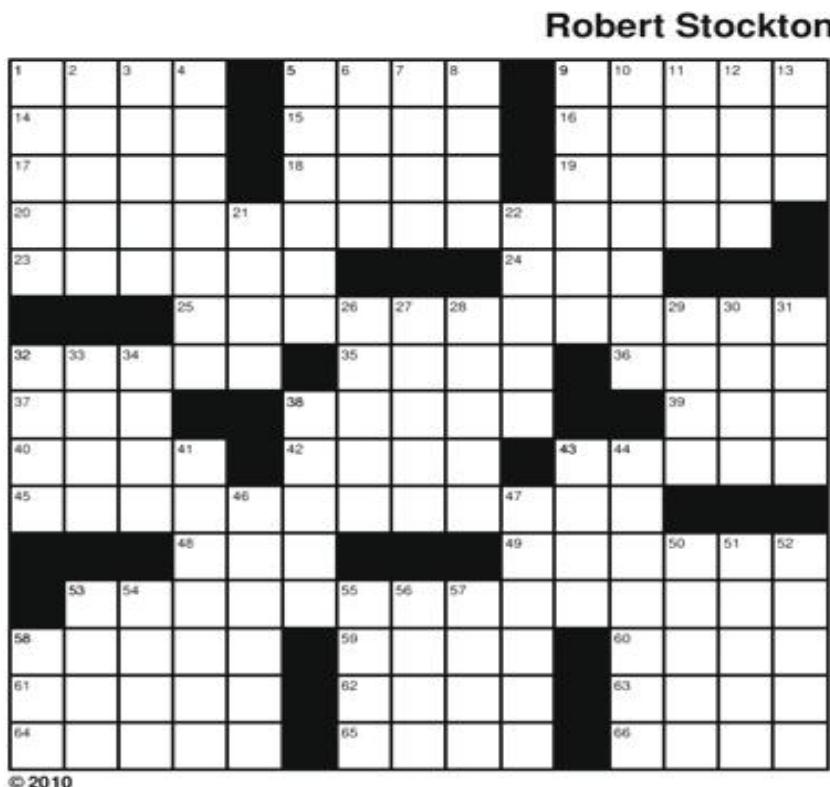
The Wrath of....

ACROSS

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

DOWN

1. Sends to stores
2. Jazz Chick
3. Rich Little's trade
4. Place for a glasses case
5. Rub elbows
6. Unpleasant-sounding citrus



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

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

Robert Stockton

SUDOKU

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| 6 | 2 | 3 | | | 9 | | | |

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| 5 | | 2 | 9 | | 8 | | |
| 3 | 8 | 1 | | 5 | | | |

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!"

What is balanced nutrition?



EATING A healthy, balanced diet is an important part of maintaining good health and can help you feel your best. This means eating a wide variety of foods in the right proportions and consuming the right amount of food and drink to achieve and maintain a healthy body weight.

A balanced diet fulfills all of a person's nutritional needs. It comprises foods from five groups including vegetables, protein, and whole grains that can help manage weight and reduce the risk of disease.

According to Patricia Hudson Buck, wellness coach, there are four pillars to overall wellness. Experts, she said, widely consider exercise, good nutrition, relaxation and sleep crucial to healthy living. While these so-called 'four pil-

lars' of good health help keep your body running, they also do wonders for your emotional well-being.

A balanced diet, she said, should fulfil all of a person's nutritional needs. "Humans need a certain number of calories and nutrients to stay healthy. A balanced diet provides all the nutrients a person requires, without going over the recommended daily calorie intake," Buck said. By eating a balanced diet, she said people can get the nutrients and calories they need and avoid eating junk food, or food without nutritional value.

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) used to recommend following a food pyramid. However, as nutritional science has changed, they now recommend eating foods from the five groups and building a balanced plate.

According to the USDA's recommendations, half of a person's plate should consist of fruits and vegetables. The other half should be made up of grains and protein. They recommend accompanying each meal with a serving of low-fat dairy or another source of the nutrients found in dairy.

"A healthful, balanced diet includes foods from these five groups – vegetables, fruits, grains, protein and dairy. The vegetable group includes five subgroups – leafy greens red or orange vegetables, starchy vegetables, and beans and

peas (legumes). To get enough nutrients and keep dietary boredom at bay, people should choose a variety of vegetables," Buck said.

Cooking vegetables

People may enjoy vegetables raw or cooked. However, it is important to remember that cooking vegetables removes some of their nutritional value. Also, some methods, such as deep-frying, can add unhealthful fats to a dish. A balanced diet also includes plenty of fruit. Instead of getting fruit from juice, nutrition experts recommend eating whole fruits. "Juice contains fewer nutrients. Also, the manufacturing process often adds empty calories due to added sugar. People should opt for fresh or frozen fruits, or fruits canned in water instead of syrup," Buck said.

Fruit and vegetables are a good source of vitamins and minerals and fibre, and should make up just over a third of the food you eat each day. It is recommended that you eat at least five portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables every day. There is evidence that people who eat at least five portions of fruit and vegetables a day have a lower risk of heart disease, stroke and some cancers.

There are two subgroups of grain – whole grains and refined grains. Whole grains include all three parts of the grain, which are the bran, germ, and endosperm. The body breaks down whole grains slowly, so they have less effect on a person's blood sugar.

Additionally, whole grains tend to contain more fibre and protein than refined grains.

Refined grains are processed and do not contain the three original components. Refined grains also tend to have less protein and fibre, and they can cause blood sugar spikes.

"At least half of the grains that a person eats daily should be whole grains. Healthful whole grains include quinoa, oats, brown rice, barley, buckwheat," Buck said.

The 2015-2020 Dietary Guidelines for Americans state that all people should include nutrient-dense protein as part of their regular diet. The guidelines suggest that this protein should make up a quarter of a person's plate.

Nutritious protein choices include beef and pork, chicken and turkey, fish, beans, peas, and legumes.

Dairy and fortified soy products are a vital source of calcium. The USDA recommend consuming low-fat versions whenever possible. Low-fat dairy and soy products include ricotta or cottage cheese, low-fat milk, yogurt, and soy milk. People who are lactose intolerant can opt for low-lactose or lactose-free products or choose soy-based sources of calcium and other nutrients.

Eating a balanced diet means eating foods from the five major groups. Dietary guidelines change over time, as scientists discover new information about nutrition. Current recommendations suggest that a person's plate should contain primarily vegetables and fruits, some lean protein, some dairy, and soluble fibre.

Coral Gardens Management Co Ltd

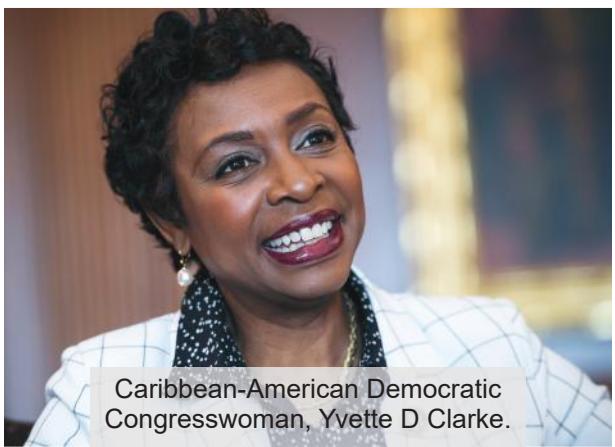
whose address is Penn's Road, Lower Bight; Providenciales is seeking suitable qualified Belongers to fill the following positions:

HOUSEMAN

- Cleans, maintains and prepares arrival and departure guest rooms and bathrooms.
- High level inside & Outside cleaning, shifting furniture's using heavy cleaning equipment, ladders, shampoo and vacuum carpet
- Maintain and clean assigned public areas & guest room
- Collects soiled linen for laundering from housekeeping carts
- Cleans and restocks the facilities, administration offices and

This position is held by Work Permit Holder. Qualified Belonger candidates with clean police record are encouraged to submit a CV by e-mail to: marsha@misickstanbrook.tc (Marsha Blanche) Applications should be received no later than December 15, 2023.

Biden urged to reject Trump-era immigration policies



Caribbean-American Democratic Congresswoman, Yvette D Clarke.

Caribbean-American Democratic Congresswoman, Yvette D Clarke, is urging the Biden administration to reject any Trump-era immigration policies currently under consideration by Republicans in the Congressional supplemental aid package negotiations.

"For their implicit inhumanity and ineffectiveness, I've long maintained that Trump-era policies have no place in our national immigration strategy moving forward," Clarke, the daughter of Jamaican im-

migrants and vice chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, told the Caribbean Media Corporation.

"As Congressional Republicans, once again, hold Congress for ransom to force through their cruel, callous, and deeply unpopular policy demands, I urge President Biden to refuse to bow to their ultimatums," added Clarke.

Clarke, who is the representative for the predominantly Caribbean 9th Congressional District in Brooklyn, went on to say, "Our immigration system is in desperate need of comprehensive reform, centred around humanity and dignity for all migrants and asylum seekers."

She said, from the Republicans' "bad-faith proposal, there is no debate that our colleagues across the aisle are far more interested in making our immigration system worse. Republicans' efforts to skirt our obligations to those requesting asylum, refugees, and all others seeking safe haven from political persecution and violence cannot be ignored and their actions must be unequivocally rejected by the Biden-Harris Administration."

Clarke said the immigration policies of the United States must respect international law and preserve the dignity of migrant families. She added that

America was "founded on these principles, and we must continue to adhere to them."

Meanwhile, chair of the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, and Border Safety, Senator Alex Padilla, and Nanette Barragán, chair of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus – both of California, also urged Biden to reject the Trump-era immigration policies being considered in the ongoing negotiations around the supplemental aid package.

Last month, Padilla led 10 colleagues in issuing a joint statement condemning the proposed threats to the asylum system in the supplemental aid package negotiations.

The Biden administration and Congress are reportedly considering moving forward with new restrictions on the United States asylum system, including an expanded deportation process to be included in the supplemental funding bill to Ukraine, due to Republican pressure and threats to derail the process.

Many of the migrant and asylum seekers arriving in New York from the southern border of the United States are nationals of Cuba, Haiti, Venezuela and Guatemala.

UN body gives damning report on Bahamas



The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. - CMC photo

NASSAU, Bahamas, CMC – The United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention (WGAD) is calling on the Bahamian authorities to do more to ensure people under arrest are given access to legal representation.

"The Working Group interviewed numerous detainees who were deprived of any legal representation at the initial stages of the proceedings because they did not have the financial means," the UN Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said in its preliminary report.

"As a result, individuals who lack the socio-economic resources to secure private legal representation face an increased likelihood of arbitrary detention," WGAD said, adding that it met numerous detainees who were not informed of their right to counsel at the outset of their detention, at the police station and were subsequently unable to access counsel as their case progressed including during trial at the magistrate level.

It said further, those convicted by the Magistrates Court and without access to pro bono counsel, were unaware of their right to appeal and unable to exercise it in the seven-day time frame given.

The WGAD said that in one instance, it came across

an individual serving a life sentence who did not have a lawyer throughout all stages of criminal proceedings.

"Further, the Working Group was informed that while legally represented suspects have a right to consult with their lawyer prior to a police interrogation, their right to have a lawyer present throughout such an interview is frequently denied.

"The Working Group considers that suspects have the right for their lawyer to be physically present during the initial police interrogations and throughout subsequent pre-trial proceedings and that this physical presence is essential to ensure effective and practical legal assistance."

The WGAD visited the country from November 27 to December 9 and visited 10 facilities and interviewed over 130 people in detention.

"Despite the ad hoc availability of legal representation at the Magistrates Courts through the legal aid clinic attached to the Eugene Dupuch Law School Clinic and pro bono assistance from members of the Bar Association, much broader access to state-funded lawyers is needed," the UN group said.

"Only during the trial at the Supreme Court, pursuant to the filing of a voluntary bill of indictment

(VBI), does the Supreme Court appoint a lawyer to represent the defendant free of charge from the Public Defender's Office or the crown brief system. "The Public Defender's Office grapples with an overwhelming caseload and is under-resourced with only six attorneys available. The Working Group calls on the authorities to improve access to legal assistance by strengthening significantly the Public Defender's Office," it added.

In its report, the WGAD said also that people are too often arrested without a warrant, and arrests are sometimes based on outdated or expired warrants. It also found that detainees are often detained for significantly longer than 48 hours without court-granted extensions.

It said that many detainees interviewed were never presented with a warrant, and the report characterises the powers of police to arrest without a warrant as too broad.

"The Working Group considers that such expanded exceptions to the arrest warrant requirement are not consistent with human rights law. It thus recommends ensuring that warrants are obtained in advance to avoid undermining judicial control of detention."

Regarding prison conditions, the Working Group highlighted familiar concerns about overcrowding at the prison, particularly in the maximum-security section, where slop buckets are still used and there is a lack of running water and adequate sanitation.

"The Working Group received information that some detainees suffered vision loss due to their detention in darkness," the report said, noting also recurrent complaints about detainees' inability to access medical care and the absence of treatment for drug-dependent people.

Regarding the detention of people with psychosocial disabilities, the WGAD noted that some people have stayed at the Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre for over 30 years, with the shortage of community-based services potentially causing some to remain at the centre indefinitely when they could be discharged.

Venues revealed for 2024 Copa America



MIAMI, United States (AFP) - Next year's 48th edition of the Copa America, featuring 10 South American nations and six North American teams, will be held in 14 venues across 10 US states, organisers said on Monday. South American governing body CONMEBOL had already announced that the June 20 open-

er would be held at Mercedes-Benz Stadium in Atlanta, with the final on July 14 at Hard Rock Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida.

On Monday CONMEBOL revealed that AT&T Stadium in Arlington, Texas; NRG Stadium in Houston; State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona; and Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas, Nevada,

will host quarter-final matches.

Semi-finals will be played at MetLife Stadium in New Jersey and at Bank of America Stadium in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Other venues are Q2 Stadium in Austin, Texas; SoFi Stadium in Los Angeles and Levi's Stadium in Santa Clara, both in California; Exploria Stadium in Orlando, Florida; and Children's Mercy Park in Kansas City.

Group play will take place from June 20 through July 2. The quarter-finals will be held July 4-6, semi-finals July 9 and 10, and the third-place match on July 13.

"According to the dynamics of the competition, two groups will play in the west and centre of the country, and two groups in the east and centre," CONMEBOL said in a statement. "The competition will move in an easterly direction; the quarter-finals will be played in the west and centre while the semi-final and final will take place in the east."

The tournament, typically held in South America, will serve as a tune-up for the US ahead of the 2026 World Cup, which the United States is co-hosting with Mexico and Canada.

"The passion of football will run through this great country from east to west and from north to south, bringing excitement and fun to hundreds of thousands of fans at the venues and millions of spectators around the world," predicted Alejandro Dominguez, president of CONMEBOL and Fifa vice-president.

The draw for the tournament, which will see Argentina defending their title, is on Thursday.

Jamaica's Jaydon Hibbert wins prestigious Bowerman Award



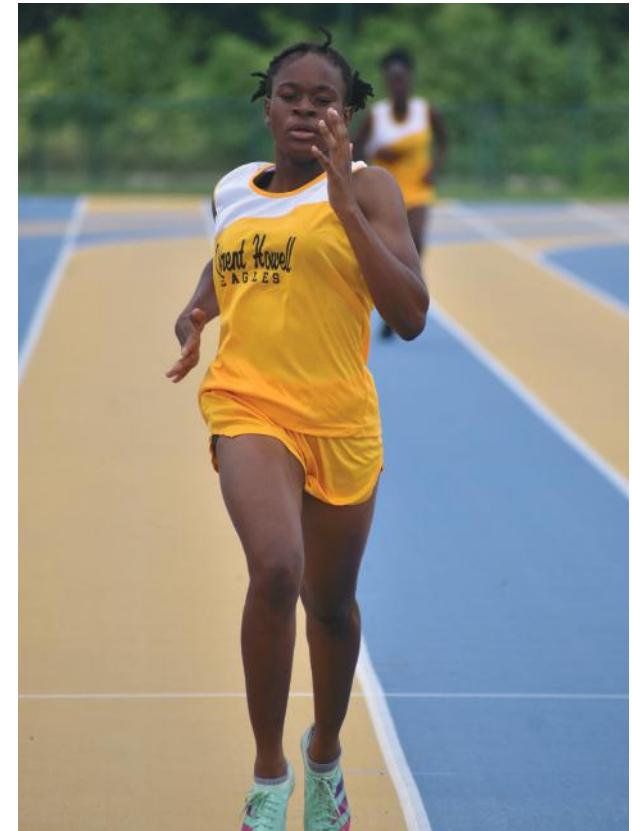
Jaydon Hibbert became the first Jamaican to win the prestigious Bowerman Award on Thursday, December 14, at the US Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association (USTFCCCA) Convention in Denver, Colorado.

The 18-year-old University of Arkansas student/athlete was unbeaten through the indoor and outdoor season, winning the NCAA Division One double as well as the double in arguably the toughest conference, the South-East Conference (SEC).

Along the way he set two World Under-20 records, indoors and outdoors and was the first freshman to take the award.

Also shortlisted for the award were Kyle Garland of the University of Georgia and Leo Neugebauer of the University of Texas, both decathletes.

Provo Track Development Meet Unveils Raw Talent



The track Development Meet held on Saturday, December 9, at the National Stadium in Providenciales showcased a plethora of raw talent, setting the stage for an exciting upcoming track and field season.

The event, exclusively focused on track disciplines, provided a platform for athletes to exhibit their skills and stamina as they gear up for the track and field season commencing globally in January 2024. The Stadium track was set ablaze with pulsating energy as athletes from clubs and schools displayed their prowess in various track events.

Unlike traditional track and field competitions, this meet concentrated solely on track events, omitting field events from its program. This unique approach, according to one of the orga-

nizers, allowed athletes to hone their speed, endurance, and technique in preparation for the challenges that lie ahead.

As a prelude to the impending track and field season, the event added a valuable dimension to the annual lineup of track meets hosted by the Turks and Caicos Islands Amateur Athletics Association (TCIAA). Athletes embraced the opportunity to participate, considering it a crucial stepping stone to sharpen their skills before engaging in both local and international competitions.

The meet, which included primary as well as secondary school students, featured a diverse range of races, including middle-distance events like the 800m, as well as sprints such as the 100m, 200m, 400m, and relay races. Young-

er children were catered to with shorter races, such as 80m, instead of 100m. This comprehensive mix ensured that athletes could showcase their abilities across various disciplines, contributing to the overall excitement of the event.

Participants and spectators alike expressed satisfaction with the organization and execution of the meet, underscoring its significance as a valuable addition to the TCI's track and field calendar.

The success of this event not only highlights the athletic talent within these islands but also emphasizes the importance of fostering such developmental opportunities for aspiring athletes. The Turks and Caicos, especially in recent years have been doing well on the regional track and field scene, mining all color medals at the region's signature annual junior athlete event – the Carifta Track and Field Championship, which is held during the Easter Weekend.

As the TCI continues seek to establish itself as a hub for track and field excellence, the organizers pointed out that events such as last Saturday's Development Meet is bound to play a pivotal role in nurturing emerging talent and providing a platform for athletes to shine on both local and international stages.

The track and field community in the Turks and Caicos eagerly anticipates the official start of the season, with the momentum gained from this developmental meet, setting a promising tone for the challenges and triumphs that lie ahead. The top track and field event in the Turks and Caicos Islands is the Inter-High School Track and field competition.

The event normally sees throng of spectators representing various schools across the Turks and Caicos throwing their weight behind their favorites schools with vociferous support.

Sandals Foundation, returning guests donate sports gear to TCI Softball Federation



Semi-professional softball player and Beaches Turks and Caicos guest, Alexa Bertelsmann (left) goes through some catching routine with Maranatha Academy catcher Melliesha Saint-Jean at the start of the high school softball competition at the Ball Park.



President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Softball Federation, Godfrey Been, expresses his satisfaction to the Sandals Foundation and the Beaches Turks and Caicos resort returning guests the Bertelsmann family for the donation of the softball gear to the federation



Tamara Bassett, Board Member of the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission and Godfrey Been, president of the Softball Federation accept the softball gear from the Sandals Foundation and the Bertelsmann family recently at the Ball Park downtown Providenciales.



President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Softball Federation, Godfrey Been (left), shares a moment with Semi-professional player and Beaches Turks and Caicos guest Alexa Bertelsmann (centre) and Joddy Harvey, Sports Commission Compliance Manager discuss plans for the further partnership with the organisations.

Beaches Turks and Caicos resort returning guests, Moe Bertelsmann and family recently presented softball

gear and jerseys to the Turks and Caicos Islands Softball Federation and the Sports Commission.

The family along with the Sandals Foundation team made the presentation to Godfrey Been, President of the Softball Federation and Tamara Bassett, Board Member of the Sports Commission, at the opening of the High School Softball season at the Ball Park in downtown Providenciales.

The supplies, which include bats, balls, catching helmets, gloves, shin guards, hard hats, catching gear, and practice playing gear will bolster the federation's ability to provide instructional training while allowing coaches and the players to be more prepared not only for this season but the long term.

General Manager James McAnally shared, "Guests are one of the Sandals Foundation's greatest partners in providing support to our islands throughout the Caribbean. We are grateful to the Bertelsmann family for their donation to the Softball Federation and hope it will help in developing this fast growing sport."

In sharing the inspiration behind the family's donation, mother, Anne Bertelsmann noted: "As a family we are passionate about the sport of softball and the physical and mental discipline that these activities provide for our youth. When we did our research on the sport here in Turks and Caicos Islands and shared with other families and organisations, they all decided to help. My daughter Alexa even donated some of her lightly used equipment along with friends, Chris Goodfred and Tonia Martin."

Softball Federation president, Godfrey Been, in expressing his appreciation for the gifts shared: "These items came at the right time. As a federation, we have been working on introducing and improving the sports at every high school throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. With this donation, we now have gears to play practice games as well as helping our local coaches with providing for their players and being better prepared for the future. We are grateful to the Bertelsmann family and the Sandals Foundation for supporting softball here in the region. We will take this and 'run' with it to get softball to where it once was, the number one sport."

Melleisha St. Jean, catcher of the Maranatha Academy's softball team was impressed by Alexa who joined a few players on the field and traded catching techniques.

"As young players, to see Sandals Foundation and guests sharing with us and even taking the time to give us some playing tips really helped us. I am inspired to continue playing the game," St. Jean said.



DEVELOPMENT MEET GIVES GLIMPSE OF EPIC TRACK SEASON