

**APRIL
DAZZLES AT
INTERNATIONAL
TENNIS
TOURNEY**



NEWSLINE

Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



**HEAVY FINES
FOR HALL,
GREENE
PG2**



**TCI GETS
6 NEW
AMBULANCES
PG3**



ACTION TIME

**Churches Must Renew Their Sense of Responsibility
and Re-engage with the real struggles of the people
Our communities need more than prayers...**

Former Deputy Premier, Ex-House Speaker Hit With Suspended Sentences, Heavy Fines

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

In a major ruling handed down in the Court of Appeal on Wednesday, July 9, former Deputy Premier and Finance Minister Floyd Basil Hall and former Speaker of the House of Assembly Clayton Standfield Greene were given suspended prison sentences and ordered to pay substantial fines — \$1.18 million and \$413,000 respectively — following convictions in the Turks and Caicos Islands' most high-profile public corruption case.

The long-awaited appellate decision brings partial closure to a legal saga that has spanned over a decade, involving serious allegations of fraud, bribery, and money laundering linked to the highest levels of TCI government during the early to mid-2000s.

The case forms part of a wide-ranging anti-corruption investigation that emerged from a constitutional crisis in 2008–2009, which triggered a UK-led Commission of Inquiry and the partial suspension of the islands' Constitution.

Hall and Greene were originally charged in 2011 along with several other former ministers and political associates, including former Premier Michael Misick. The charges stemmed from allegations of systemic corruption and the misuse of public office during a period of explosive growth in tourism and land development in the TCI.

Convictions and Sentences

In a ruling delivered in September 2023 by Chief Justice Mabel Agyemang, Hall was convicted of bribery for accepting unlawful payments and advantages from



Hall was ordered to pay \$1,181,528 plus interest.



Greene must pay \$413,369 plus interest.

developer Richard Padgett while serving in public office between 2003 and 2009. Greene was convicted of concealing the proceeds of criminal conduct, having facilitated the handling of funds derived from Hall's illicit gains.

Two other defendants, Melbourne Wilson and Jeffrey Hall, were acquitted. Hall had also faced three counts of conspiracy to defraud but was cleared of those charges. Initially, in October 2023, Hall was sentenced to one year in prison, and Greene received six months' imprisonment — both unsuspended. They were also hit with confiscation orders under the Proceeds of Crime Ordinance, requiring Hall to pay \$943,295.70 and Greene \$330,021, or face extended prison terms in default.

Appeals and Final Decision

On appeal, both men challenged their sentences and financial penalties, citing violations of their constitutional right to a fair trial within a reasonable time — particularly in light of the lengthy delays, procedural hurdles, and multiple legal challenges that plagued the proceed-

ings.

In its July 9, 2025 decision, the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeals against conviction but allowed the appeals against sentence, acknowledging that the extended trial process had prejudiced the appellants and warranted reconsideration of punishment.

Hall's sentence was suspended for two years, while Greene's was varied to six months imprisonment suspended for two years. The financial penalties, however, were increased:

Hall is now required to pay \$1,181,528 plus interest.

Greene must pay \$413,369 plus interest, although this amount may be offset depending on payments made by Hall.

In the event of non-payment, Hall faces an additional six years in prison, while Greene faces five years.

A Case Rooted in Crisis

The original charges arose from a 2008–2009 UK-ordered Commission of Inquiry led by retired British judge Sir Robin Auld, which found credible evidence of widespread corruption involving elected officials. In re-

sponse, the UK government suspended parts of the TCI Constitution, dissolved the local Cabinet and House of Assembly, and implemented direct rule.

A Special Investigation and Prosecution Team (SIPT) was established to pursue criminal proceedings against several high-profile figures. Hall, as the former Deputy Premier and Finance Minister, and Greene, as Speaker of the House, were among the most senior officials implicated.

The case saw its first trial begin in 2016 under Justice Paul Harrison, but it was derailed by numerous legal delays and adjournments. Following Harrison's death in 2021, the case was reassigned and retried by Chief Justice Agyemang, who presided over the extensive retrial and issued the original convictions and sentencing in 2023.

Court's Reasoning

The Court of Appeal acknowledged that the prolonged process caused significant hardship to the defendants but ruled that the evidence against them was sufficient and compelling. The court emphasized that while justice was delayed, it was not denied.

"The prejudice suffered by reason of the failure of this court to try the defendants within a reasonable time must be taken into account in any sentence to be imposed," the Court stated, noting that it was appropriate to adjust the penalties for fairness and proportionality.

The decision could influence the resolution of pending cases, including proceedings still underway against former Premier Michael Misick and other defendants.



The cutting of the ribbon to commission the use of the ambulances.

Six New Ambulances Commissioned to Strengthen TCI's Emergency Medical Services

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government officially commissioned six new ambulances during a special ceremony held at the Downtown Ball Park in Providenciales on Friday morning, marking a major investment in national emergency response and healthcare capacity. The event was attended by senior government officials, including Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles; Minister of Public Services and Utilities; Attorney General Hon. Rhondalee Braitwaite-Knowles, Her Excellency the Governor Dileen Daniel Selvaratnam

Director of EMS, Mr. Andy Brijmohansingh, described the moment as a "long-anticipated occasion" that highlights the country's commitment to delivering top-tier emergency medical care.

"These ambulances will be distributed equitably across all islands—Grand Turk, Providenciales, South Caicos, North and Middle Caicos—with plans also in place for Salt Cay," he said.

Minister Knowles described the new units as "mobile lifelines," stressing that quality emergency care must be accessible to every resident of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"This is a deliberate step toward equity, resilience, and improved



A tour of the ambulances.

health outcomes," he said.

The six newly commissioned 2024 Ford Transit Type 2 ambulances, outfitted with advanced Ferno X1 power carts, were supplied by local company Champion Motors. Walter Cox III, representing the firm, highlighted its 11-year partnership with the government, during which Champion has delivered 18 ambulances to date. He also encouraged more young entrepreneurs to step forward and participate in national development.

Pastor Kenyatta Lewis opened the ceremony with a heartfelt prayer and blessing for the new fleet,

commending the professionalism and dedication of TCI's emergency responders.

Her Excellency the Governor called the commissioning "a human moment" that underscores the value of life.

"Every second counts," she said. "These vehicles and the people behind them represent our collective commitment to saving lives."

The ceremony concluded with a symbolic commissioning of the ambulances, signaling a new chapter in TCI's drive for health care excellence and emergency preparedness.



Inside one of the state-of-the-art ambulances.



The Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has launched a formal investigation into a violent altercation involving several taxi operators at the Howard Hamilton International Airport on Saturday, July 5.

The incident, which occurred at the airport’s main taxi stand, was captured on surveillance footage as well as bystanders’ mobile phones and quickly went viral on social media.

In a public statement issued Thursday, July 10, the DMV acknowledged awareness of the videos and confirmed that the matter is under active review.

“The Department of Motor Vehicles advises the public that it is aware of a video circulating on social media regarding an incident that occurred on Saturday, July 5, at the taxi stand at Howard Hamilton International Airport in Providenciales,” the statement read.

DMV Launches Investigation into Violent Taximen Airport Brawl

The videos show a chaotic scene in which one man, reportedly a taxi driver, is struck and falls to the ground. Another man, shirtless and appearing agitated, is seen being restrained by fellow drivers. It remains unclear whether the shirtless individual was the aggressor or involved in the initial blow that sparked the melee.

The confrontation reportedly lasted several minutes, with loud shouting heard in the background and multiple drivers stepping in to try and defuse the situation. The extent of any injuries sustained during the incident has not been confirmed.

No official motive has been established for the brawl. The Howard Hamilton International Airport is an ultra busy hub, especially on a weekend. It is also not clear whether the ugly incident was in view of tourists.

“The Department has launched a thorough investigation to ascertain the facts

and circumstances surrounding the incident,” the statement continued. “The DMV remains committed to ensuring that appropriate actions are taken, where necessary, upon the conclusion of this investigation.”

The DMV has not indicated whether criminal charges will be pursued or whether any disciplinary measures will be taken against the individuals involved. The department’s authority to enforce penalties in such matters remains unclear at this time.

The DMV also reaffirmed its dedication to upholding high standards of professionalism and safety within the transportation sector, adding that disruptive and violent conduct will not be tolerated.

The incident has sparked concern among residents and visitors alike, raising broader questions about airport security, taxi regulation, and customer service in the tourism-dependent territory.

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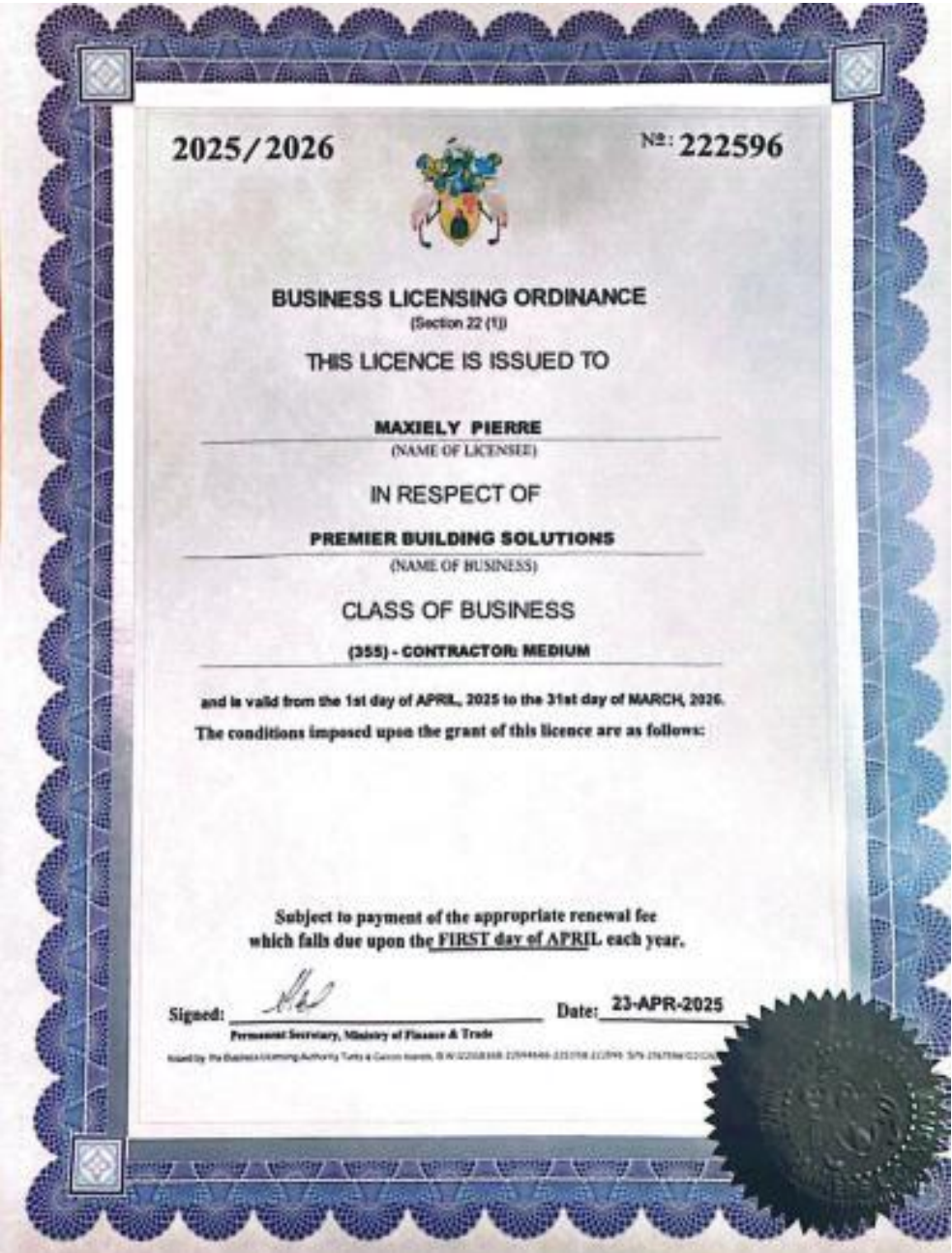
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Hon. Shaun Malcolm, the Minister responsible for Religion greets members of the audience at the National Prayer Breakfast, held last Saturday, July 5, 2025, at the Shore Club in Providenciales.

ACTION TIME

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam has challenged the Churches in the Turks and Caicos Islands to not only talk the talk but walk the walk, in an impassioned speech at the National Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, July 5, where she urged clergy leaders and their parishioners to extend brother and sisterhood beyond their immediate families.

Delivering an applause-riddled address to clergies of all denominations, their parishioners, the business community and civic leaders, under the theme “Faith in Action: Healing Our Land, Serving Our People,” the Governor called on the nation’s religious institutions to renew their sense of responsibility and re-engage with the real struggles of the people. She reminded that audience that prayer must be accompanied by purpose — and that the moral voice of the church must not retreat in the face of rising social challenges.

“The Turks and Caicos Islands is shaped by a rich Christian heritage,” she said. “Our churches, and the faith of our communities, have long been the moral compass of this nation — guiding our choices, strengthening our communities, and nurturing

our relationship with God. But... in times of increasing challenge and uncertainty, faith alone is not enough. God is calling us to action.”

Citing James 5:16 — “The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much” — the Governor acknowledged the power of prayer but reminded attendees that prayer alone cannot heal communities without accompanying acts of service, humility, and accountability.

“Healing comes through honesty, humility and accountability — not only with God, but with one another,” she said. “Faith in action must be evident not just in church-related activities, but in our homes, in our workplaces, on our streets, and in our institutions. Each one of us is called to more.”

The Governor’s speech drew inspiration from both scripture and poetry. She referenced William Blake’s *The Garden of Love*, invoking a chapel “all of gold” that “none did dare to enter in,” symbolizing how religion, if kept behind walls and disconnected from the people, loses its power to uplift and transform.

“Blake reminds us of the danger of a faith that is inaccessible... guarded by tradition but devoid

of connection,” she said. “We must ask ourselves: Are we living the faith we profess?”

She addressed the nation’s struggles head-on — including youth disaffection, growing crime, gender-based challenges, and increasing socio-economic gaps — and asked where the church stood amid these crises.

“When our young people go astray, when crime creeps into our neighbourhoods, when there is displacement and need for shelter, when anger overshadows hope — who is stepping in with guidance, love and accountability?” she asked. “Let it be us — not just in word, but in deed.”

Her call to action extended to specific groups: encouraging men to become role models for youth, urging women to walk in dignity and self-worth, and championing the empowerment of disenfranchised voices across society. She made clear that this was not a political agenda, but a spiritual obligation.

“The Gospel calls us to transformation of heart, not to align with earthly agendas,” she said. “We must safeguard the integrity of the Gospel message, ensuring it is not obscured by the noise around us.”

She challenged religious lead-

ers to confront society’s ills with courage, not withdrawal, and to offer visible, compassionate leadership in public life.

“Let our integrity speak just as loudly as our worship. Let our compassion extend beyond our families to those society forgets. Let our generosity be more than words,” the Governor urged.

Throughout the address, attendees responded with nods, applause, and spontaneous “amens” — a sign that her message resonated deeply. The gathering was not only a time of prayer and reflection, but also a moment of national introspection.

“To the clergy, to the faithful, and to all people of goodwill — our communities need more than prayers. They need your presence,” she said.

Concluding her remarks, Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam returned to the importance of prayer — not as an end, but as the foundation for meaningful action.

“It is through prayer that we seek wisdom. It is in prayer that we find the courage to act... May this time of national prayer be more than a tradition — may it be a catalyst,” she said. “Let us continue to lift our nation in fervent, faithful prayer — and then rise from our knees ready to work.”



By Dr Shalieka Burris

Initially, I was surprised, but now I am genuinely concerned. I've noticed a consistent increase in the number of requests coming in. What I have realised, however, is that colleagues from other universities, locally and internationally, echoed similar experiences, and it became clear that my situation was not an anomaly. Students are relying on artificial intelligence (AI) tools to evaluate their academic writing and are placing more trust in these tools over the assessments of experienced educators. If students are outsourcing their judgment to machines, what happens to the role of human insight in learning? We have to explore these implications. While AI certainly offers many benefits in education, the current trend begs the question: Has AI replaced teaching expertise? The short answer is no, but the longer answer demands a deeper conversation about how AI can support rather than supplant academic judgment.

The Allure of Artificial Intelligence

It's not hard to see why students turn to AI for feedback. AI-powered tools are fast, readily accessible, and capable of generating coherent, structured responses. Tools like ChatGPT, Google Gemini, Claude, Microsoft Copilot, Jasper, and Writesonic offer interactive, conversational interfaces that allow students to pose questions, request rewrites, or even get feedback on drafts. They simulate intelligent dialogue, provide rationale for suggestions, and help students brainstorm, organise, or revise their academic work with ease.

When deadlines gather like storm clouds and students are caught in the downpour of assignments, AI can feel like a welcome umbrella, something to shield them as they push through the pressure. To their credit, many are showing initiative and curiosity, using whatever tools they can to strengthen their writing.

It's a sign of their determination to succeed. However, as with any tool, AI must be used responsibly and critically. The concern arises when students accept AI feedback without question, even when it contradicts human evaluations grounded in years, if not decades, of academic and pedagogical exper-

tise.

The Rubric Isn't the Issue, Interpretation Is

Interestingly, many students do use the grading rubric when reviewing their work. In fact, some proudly tell me that they compared their paper to the rubric and even asked ChatGPT to assess it based on those exact criteria. This shows they're trying to be thorough and responsible.

What they may not realise, however, is that while a rubric provides structure, it still requires expert interpretation. A rubric cannot grade a paper on its own; it is a guide that must be applied through the lens of academic and subject-specific understanding.

A paper might meet structural expectations: clear introduction, thesis, paragraphs, and conclusion, but lack critical depth, proper synthesis of sources, or discipline-specific conventions. These distinctions are often missed by AI and by students who are still developing their evaluative skills, and understandably so. This gap between surface-level alignment and deeper academic quality has been noted in recent studies, which acknowledged and emphasised that while AI tools assist with grading, the skills and judgment of teachers remain crucial, especially for more nuanced evaluations that require understanding each student's unique context.

This disconnect can be genuinely confusing for students. It isn't because students aren't trying; they are trying to figure things out in a digital world that's changing faster than ever.

They're using tools that sound like they know what they're doing, and to a student still honing skills, that can be convincing. My concern isn't about a lack of effort. In fact, I see many students working hard and taking real initiative. What I worry about is whether they're getting the kind of feedback that actually helps them grow.

It's one thing to get a quick response from a chatbot, it's another to sit with someone who can explain why something works, or doesn't, and help build the skills that last. That's the kind of support they really need.

Respecting the Role of the Educator

The role of educators should not be reduced to only that of a grader. We guide growth. We know our students, their voices, their

Has AI replaced teaching expertise?

“CAN you re-mark my paper? AI said it was good.” This is a sentence I’ve heard far too often lately.

effort, and the journey behind each submission. We don't just see a paper, we see the person who wrote it. AI doesn't. It doesn't remember the research proposal or outlines, the class debate, or the breakthrough moment a student had in office hours.

At times, AI tools do not flinch when a quote is misused or a source misrepresented. Many times, they don't notice when a student's writing suddenly sounds like someone or something else.

So, for me, I am not handing over my red pen to a machine. No matter how polished the output, no algorithm can replace the feedback that helps students think better, write clearer, and grow more confident. Real learning comes from real interaction, and that's something no chatbot, no matter how sophisticated, can fake.

Striking the Balance

So how do we move forward without losing what matters most?

First, students can start by treating AI like a writing assistant. Do not treat AI as a final examiner. Use it to generate ideas. Let it tidy up your grammar. But when it comes to meaning, depth, and voice, ask yourself: Would this make sense to someone who actually knows me and my work? Second, don't just check the rubric, understand it. A perfect structure doesn't guarantee a strong argument. That's where trained eyes come in.

AI can tick boxes. Teachers read between the lines. And here's a radical idea: Ask a real person. Go to your tutor. Visit the writing centre. Send that e-mail. The best insights often come from a five-minute conversation.

Finally, remember this: Teachers aren't here to set traps for you. We're not feeding your essays to AI and comparing notes. We read. We reflect. We respond with your growth in mind. That's more than just evaluation. We provide mentorship. If students truly want to thrive in this AI-shaped world, they'll need more than fast feedback. They'll need discernment, dialogue, and the courage to trust human guidance over machine confidence.

Today's students must not only be information literate, they must also be AI literate. They should learn how AI works, what biases it might have, and when to question its feedback. Educators can help facilitate these discussions in the classroom.

A Call to Action for Institutions

Educational institutions must also play a proactive role. Universities need to provide guidance on responsible AI use, integrate digital ethics into the curriculum, and train both staff and students in interpreting AI-generated feedback. Rather than ban-

ning AI tools, we should teach students to use them wisely, balancing innovation with academic integrity.

At the same time, policies should reinforce the primacy of the instructor's evaluation. Appeals based solely on AI feedback should be discouraged unless corroborated by human expertise. The goal is not to wage war on AI but to re-establish trust in human judgment.

AI is here to stay, and rightly so. When used responsibly, it can be an incredible asset to both students and teachers. But we must be clear-eyed about its limits. It does not and cannot replace the value of trained educators who understand not just the mechanics of writing but the deeper layers of meaning, growth, and learning. To the students who place their faith solely in AI: Know that we see your effort, your creativity, and your willingness to grow.

Excellence comes not from shortcuts but from struggle, feedback, and authentic engagement with your learning journey. And to the teachers feeling sidelined by this technological wave: Take heart. Your voice still matters, perhaps now more than ever. Let us guide our students, not away from AI, but through it, so that in learning to write well, they also learn to think deeply, critically, and wisely.

Dr Shalieka Burris is an academic literacy lecturer at the University of Technology, Jamaica. She is a leadership consultant specialising in teamwork development, emotional intelligence, and organisational growth. She is also a trained guidance counsellor. Send comments to the Jamaica Observer or Shalieka.Burris@utech.edu.jm.

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United Way Executives (seated) along with members of the Community Police Department share a photo moment with the students at the summer camp on Monday, July 7, 2025, at the Salvation Army church building, which also doubles as the Brighter Future's Centre.

United Way Kicks Off Two-Week Summer Enrichment Camp

The Salvation Army Brighter Futures Centre in Providenciales was alive with excitement on Monday, July 7, as United Way Turks and Caicos Islands officially launched its 2025 Summer Enrichment Camp.

Now in its fourth year, the camp, which will run for two weeks, has reached a record-breaking 120 children, thanks to the growing reputation of the program—and the generosity of this year's overall sponsor, Nina Siegenthaler.

United Way TCI Chairman Mark Fulford kicked off the event with pride, highlighting the continued success of the summer initiative.

"We're now hosting our fourth annual Summer Enrichment Camp, and the response from the public has been incredible," Fulford said. "Registration opened and within 24 hours, it was completely sold out."

Fulford explained that the program is designed to support students holistically—with hot breakfast and lunch, all school supplies, and a mix of academic and creative programming.

"This camp was born out of our concern for students who

weren't reading at grade level," Fulford explained. "We acted on that by launching our reading intervention program, now in four public schools."

Founded in the aftermath of Hurricane Irma, United Way TCI has evolved into a leading non-profit in the Turks and Caicos Islands, repairing homes, supporting literacy, and strengthening community resilience.

"It's about identifying needs and delivering meaningful solutions," Fulford said.

Building Structure and Spirit Claudine Ewing, CEO of United Way Turks and Caicos, gave insight into the structure of this year's camp—and how it continues to surpass expectations.

"We initially planned for 80 students, but we're at 120 now—and we may see more tomorrow," Ewing shared. "The mornings are focused on academics like reading and comprehension, while the afternoons are filled with activities—everything from sports to science experiments and visual arts."

Special theme days include Science Day, Arts Day, and Sports Day, with the camp culminat-

ing on July 18 in a "Community Conversation" where corporate partners and volunteers will join the children for a day of celebration and connection.

"This isn't just a summer program," Ewing said. "It's a space where children feel supported, encouraged, and part of something bigger. And none of it would be possible this year without our overall sponsor, Nina Siegenthaler."

Making It Happen

Indeed, Nina Siegenthaler's contribution made the 2025 Summer Enrichment Camp possible. As the overall sponsor of this year's program and a founding member of United Way TCI, Siegenthaler's support filled a critical gap—ensuring the camp could continue at full capacity.

"This camp wouldn't have happened this year without Nina," Fulford emphasized.

Siegenthaler herself shared the joy of seeing the camp in action.

"It's amazing to see so many children here," she said. "Last year, my daughter volunteered at the camp when it was much smaller. She loved the expe-

rience. So to see it grow like this—it's deeply rewarding."

She credited the steady leadership of United Way's team.

"Claudine and Mark have worked so hard over the years. I'm proud to be a part of this organization and will continue to support its mission to uplift and empower," she said.

A Friendly Face from the Police Force

Among the many guests engaging with campers were members of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Community Policing Department, led by Constable Krishana Williams. Known as "the singing police," Williams emphasized the importance of connecting positively with youth.

"We want young people to see us not just as law enforcement, but as part of the community," she said. "It's so important to have these one-on-one moments—to teach safety, respect, and confidence."

She noted that many students remembered her from last year. "This time, they weren't afraid. They welcomed us. That's the impact of consistency and community policing," she said.



Keanu Tajay Wilson

Five Cays Resident Charged with Firearm and Ammunition Offences

Five Cays area of Providenciales. The operation resulted in the recovery of a handgun, a magazine, and eight rounds of 9mm ammunition.

Wilson remains in police custody and is expected to appear before the Magistrates' Court in the coming days.

Acting Commissioner of Police, Mr. Rodney Adams, praised the officers involved, stating:

"Each firearm seized represents a significant step toward reducing the risk of gun-related harm to our citizens. I commend the officers for their vigilance and

professionalism throughout this operation. The Force remains steadfast in its mission to ensure the safety of all residents, and I extend my gratitude to the public for their ongoing cooperation in supporting our efforts to maintain law and order."

The RTCIPF continues to reinforce its commitment to tackling illegal firearms and violent crime. Authorities urge members of the public with information regarding illegal weapons or suspicious activities to contact Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477 or reach out to their nearest police station.

A 19-year-old man from Five Cays has been formally charged following the discovery of an illegal firearm and ammunition during a targeted police operation.

Keanu Tajay Wilson, of Sandbar Street, Five Cays, has been charged with two counts of Un-

lawful Possession of a Firearm and one count of Unlawful Possession of Ammunition.

According to Police Reports, on Thursday, June 26, 2025, officers from the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) Serious Crime Unit carried out an intelligence-led operation in the



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Advocating for Housing Stability: Legalizing Land for Indigenous Turks Islanders

An Op-Ed by Hynetta Karen Forbes

I am calling on the Crown Land Unit Turks and Caicos islands (The Turks and Caicos Government) to address the urgent need for the legalization of Indigenous Turks Islanders who have been residing in informal settlements for over a decade.

The current legal framework, which prohibits building without proper permits, has inadvertently marginalized many local families who are simply seeking shelter and stability in a challenging economic environment.

The Turks and Caicos Islands is experiencing a significant rise in the cost of living, which has driven many indigenous residents to construct decent block homes to provide shelter for their families. While the intention of existing laws may be to maintain order and regulate development, the reality is that these laws are affecting local families who have been living in these condi-

tions for years.

These individuals and families have contributed to the community and have deep roots in the local culture. Despite their long-term residency, these families face the constant threat of eviction from the Crown Land Unit. Authorities have indicated that these informal structures may be demolished, leaving residents homeless.

While indigenous families face eviction and demolition, numerous illegal wooden shacks continue to be constructed daily.

I am calling on those in authority to consider the following recommendations:

Regularization of Land: Implement a process to legalize the land occupied by indigenous Turks Islanders who have been squatting for over ten years, something they have been waiting decades for. This would provide them with security of tenure and the ability to in-

vest in their homes.

Assistance Instead of Eviction: Rather than making our people homeless, authorities should focus on providing assistance to those living in informal settlements. This can include support in obtaining permits, access to affordable housing options, and resources for home improvement.

Review of Housing Policies: Reassess existing housing or building policies to address the needs of local residents. Consider creating affordable housing options for indigenous families.

Pricing: It is crucial for authorities to establish a land regularization pricing structure that aligns with the minimum wage in the Turks and Caicos Islands. This will enable long-term residents to secure their homes without financial burden or eviction threats, while promoting stability.

This should be a matter of urgency for our people.



Karen Hynetta Forbes

Sandal's Captures CARPHA's Healthier Safer Tourism Travellers Health Assurance Award

The Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) awarded all 19 Sandals Resorts its prestigious Healthier Safer Tourism (HST) travellers' health assurance award for implementing proactive health measures in Tourism; as well as Sandals Resorts International (SRI) overall as a Healthier Safer Tourism Destination.

This landmark, first of its kind achievement, solidifies SRI's leadership and partnership with CARPHA for healthier, safer tourism, to protect the health and well-being of both visitor and local populations in the Caribbean. The HST plaques were presented by Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director of CARPHA, on July 9th at Sandals Montego Bay at "Celebrating Excellence in Healthier and Safer Tourism" - an award ceremony dedicated to recognising individuals who have advanced tourism health and safety across SRI's resorts.

The health of Caribbean economies is closely related to the health of its travel and tourism industry, given that the Caribbean is the most tourism-dependent region globally. CARPHA, through its innovative Regional Tourism and Health Program (THP), launched the novel HST award in 2020, as an impetus for tourism entities to be rewarded for implementing proactive tourism health and safety measures to be better equipped to manage public health threats while remaining open and competitive; all contributing to more resilient Caribbean tourism and economies.

The CARPHA's HST Award is a tangible, measurable, evidence- travellers' health assurance award, granted to tourism entities that demonstrate consistent implementation of proactive health surveillance and safety protocols.

It provides travellers with added confidence and evidence in choosing a tourism service, by identifying tourism entities that are im-

plementing proactive health measures in food and environmental safety and prevention and control of health threats, with staff training on the same, and real-time health monitoring for confidential rapid identification and response to health threats.

The HST is recognized by regional and international health and tourism bodies including the Caribbean Tourism Organization (CTO), the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) and the Global Tourism Resilience Crisis Management Centre (GTRC-MC). HST awardees are listed on CARPHA's website and will soon be linked to other health and tourism websites.

Dr. Lisa Indar commended the SRI's achievement and leadership in tourism health and safety, remarking "CARPHA has a long-standing, public and private relationship with SRI, collaborating since 2012 on promoting health and safety in tourism. This historic milestone underscores SRI's unwavering commitment to tourism health, safety, and environmental responsibility across the Caribbean as well as demonstrates its novel, trusting, strong partnership with CARPHA.

Mr Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of SRI, fully endorsed the HST award in 2022 as a critical feature in keeping the Caribbean Safer and Healthier. Today, fittingly, SRI is the first resort chain with all its resorts receiving this auspicious award, giving Sandals the unique recognition of a healthier, safer destination.

It's not just another award, but a remarkable recognition regarding Tourism Health and Safety. The SRI brand has now provided tangible evidence of SRI enhancing its reputation as a healthier, safer destination, increasing its competitive advantage over non-HST tourism entities"

Each Sandal resort satisfied the key HST Award requirements by registering and actively reporting through CARPHA's confi-

dential Tourism and Health Information System (THIS) and by ensuring that at least 10 percent of key frontline staff completed the certified training in the Prevention and Control of Infectious Diseases in the Hospitality Sector, with over 1,500 persons trained across all properties.

Mr. Jeremy Jones, Regional Managing Director of Sandals Resorts International, reflected on the achievement: "CARPHA provides a safe environment for reporting and supports the hospitality and tourism industry in the most-tourism dependent region in the world because whenever something goes wrong with tourism in the Caribbean, we all get nervous; we all start to wonder what is the best solution and what CARPHA does for our resorts is to provide that level of safety and comfort. I want to thank Dr. Indar for the work she has done in providing

a healthier, safer option for Sandals Resorts International".

Mr. Gavin Palmer, Corporate Manager of Environment, Health and Safety at Sandals Resorts International, added, "Our long-standing relationship with CARPHA has played an invaluable role in helping us to champion the culture of health, safety and well-being across all our resorts.

Together we have strengthened our systems, empowered our team members and set high standards to ensure that our guests, team members and community members are always protected. This ongoing collaboration reminds us that health and safety are not just policies, they are shared commitments that bring us together, inspire confidence and build a stronger more resilient tourism industry. Thank you once again CARPHA".



Photo Caption: (L-R) Mr. Keston Daniel, Visitor-Based Surveillance Coordinator, CARPHA, Mr. Jeremy Jones, Regional Managing Director, Sandals Resorts International (SRI), Dr. Lisa Indar, Executive Director, CARPHA and Mr. Gavin Palmer, Corporate Manager of Environment, Health and Safety, SRI.

HevN'Sent

ISSUE # 2

Got Questions? Let's Talk.

Send your questions to hevleadership@hotmail.com, to be answered in our next edition. Please note, ALL questions will be answered anonymously.

Your voice matters. Your journey matters.

"LEAD WHERE YOU ARE"

Leadership Styles Overview

Leadership comes in many forms. Each style has its strengths and its limitations. The most effective leaders are those who understand their natural tendencies and can adapt their approach to meet the needs of the moment.

Here are a few core leadership styles that continue to shape individuals, teams, and organizations:

• Transformational Leadership

Inspires with vision and passion. Encourages growth, motivation, and long-term change. This style thrives on purpose and big-picture thinking.

"You'll never know if you can fly until you leap into the unknown."



• Transactional Leadership

Structured and results-driven. Relies on clear expectations, rewards, and accountability to achieve specific goals.

• Laissez-faire Leadership

Hands-off and trusting. Gives team members autonomy and space to lead themselves with minimal interference.

• Autocratic Leadership

Makes quick, firm decisions with little input from others. Works well in crises or fast-paced environments but can hinder collaboration if overused.

• Democratic Leadership

Involves others in decision-making. Encourages dialogue, participation, and shared ownership of outcomes.

• Bureaucratic Leadership

Follow rules and policies strictly. Ensures consistency and compliance, but may limit innovation if not balanced with flexibility.

• Servant Leadership

Leads by serving. Focuses on the needs of others, prioritizing empathy, listening, and the development of those around them.

There is no single "best" style. The most impactful leaders know how to shift their approach based on who they're leading, where they're leading from, and what the moment requires.

Discovering Your Leadership Style

Leadership begins with self-awareness. Use the questions below to reflect on your personal leadership tendencies:

1. Do I prefer to make decisions independently or involve others?
2. Do I thrive in structured or flexible environments?
3. How do I typically handle conflict?
4. What motivates me more: results or relationships?
5. What do I want others to feel from my leadership?
6. Would my team describe me as a visionary, strategist, supporter, or disciplinarian?

7. Am I consistent across different teams and environments?

Your leadership may evolve, but your core tendencies reveal your most authentic style.

Leadership in Action: Leading Through Change

Understanding your style is only the beginning. The true test of leadership is how you show up in real-life situations.

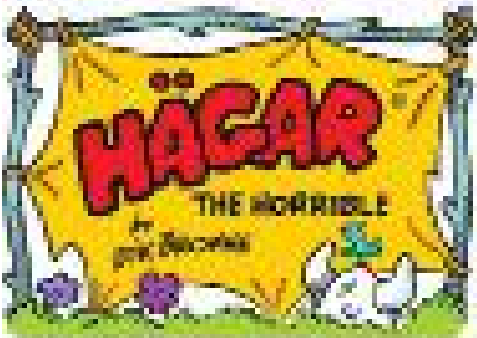
A transformational leader will inspire a shared vision. A transactional leader will provide structure and clarity. A democratic leader will gather input from the team. An autocratic leader will take swift action and make firm calls. A laissez-faire leader will step back and let others take the lead.



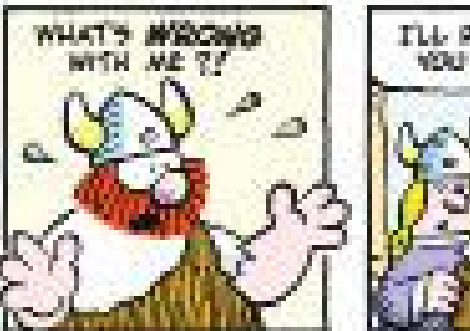
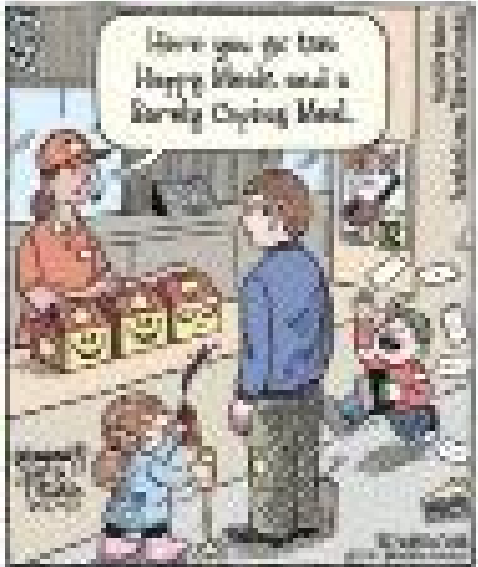
"Your leadership style is not a label. It's a living practice. Learn it. Own it. Grow it."

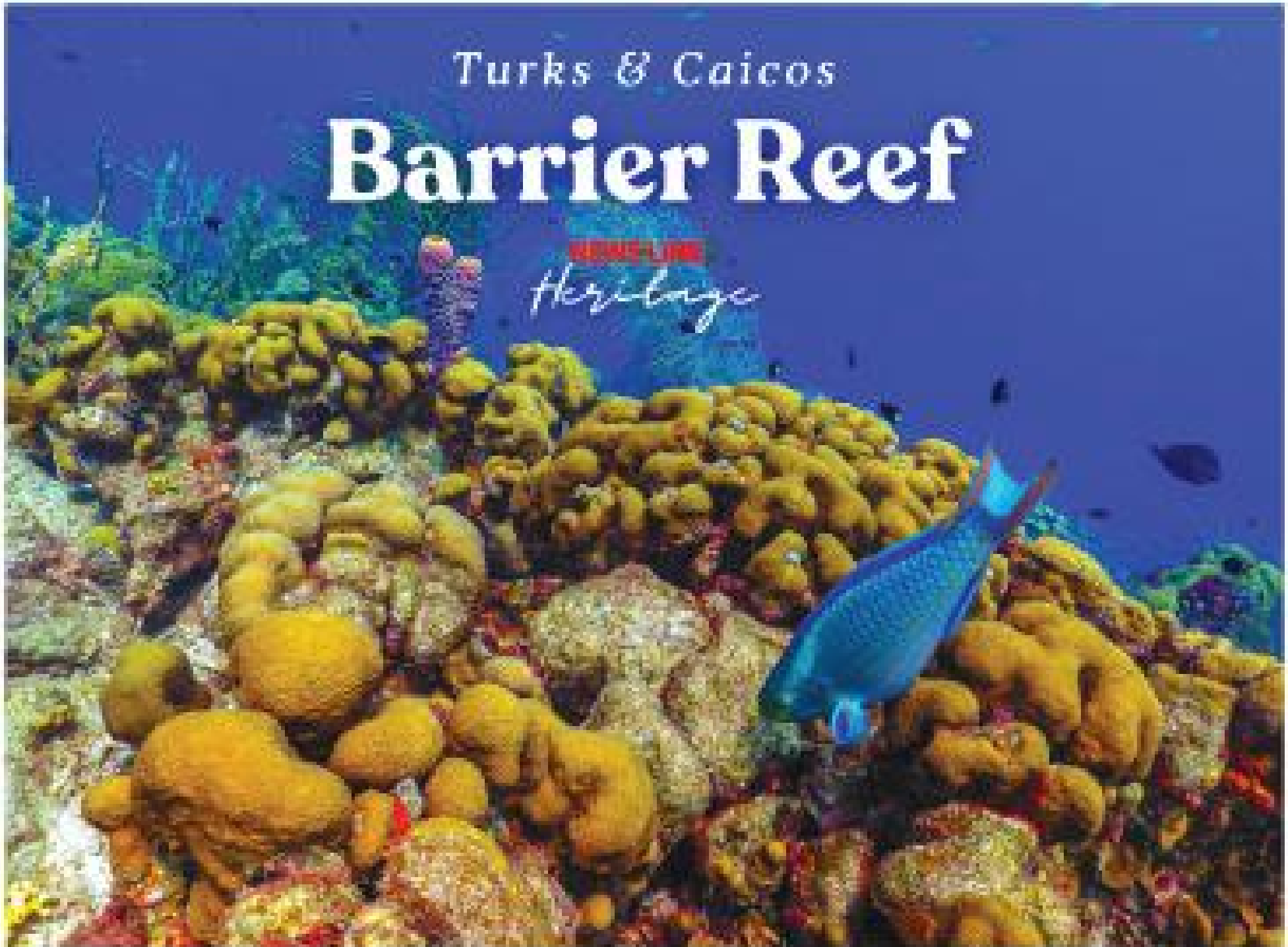
**** Issue #3 will explore real-world leadership challenges. ****





NEWSLINE
COMICS





Turks & Caicos

Barrier Reef

NEWSLINE

Heritage

The Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef: A Living Legacy Beneath the Sea

Spanning over 240 miles, the Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef is the third-largest coral reef system in the world and the most significant continuous barrier reef in the Atlantic region. This sprawling underwater ecosystem is more than just a diver's paradise — it's a vital part of our national heritage, shaping our environment, culture, and economy for generations.

A Natural Fortress and Cradle of Biodiversity

The reef acts as a natural fortress, shielding the low-lying islands from strong ocean currents, storm surges, and coastal erosion. It creates the calm, shallow waters that have become iconic to the TCI experience. But its beauty lies deeper. The Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef is home to an astonishing diversity of marine life. Over 60 species of hard and soft coral thrive here, including staghorn, elkhorn, and brain coral. These form complex habitats for a wide range of species — from schools of blue tang and regilla to nurse sharks, eagle rays, spiny lobsters, and sea turtles. In these waters, reef fish and invertebrates carry out an apocalyptic dance of survival, reproduction, and balance.

Economic Lifeline and Cultural Symbol

For generations, the people of Turks and Caicos have relied on the reef for their livelihoods. In earlier centuries, it supported local fisheries that fed families and fueled trade. Today, it powers a modern economy centered on eco-tourism. Tourists flock to the islands for world-renowned snorkeling and diving experiences in Grace Bay, Smith's Reef, and the dramatic wall drop-offs of Grand Turk and West Caicos. The reef not only draws visitors — it also draws admiration, awe, and a deeper appreciation for the natural world. The reef is also part of our cultural consciousness. Fishermen, boat captains, artisans, and tour operators all draw from its rhythms. Its beauty has inspired local music, folklore, and the culinary heritage passed down through generations. Protecting the reef, then, is not only an environmental responsibility — it is a cultural one.

Fragile Wonder, Shared Responsibility

Despite its resilience, the Turks and Caicos Barrier Reef faces numerous threats. Rising sea temperatures, ocean acidification, overfishing, and pollution have taken their toll. The loss of coral not only threatens biodiversity but undermines the very fabric of island life. Thankfully, efforts are underway to protect this irreplaceable heritage. Organizations like the Turks and Caicos Reef Fund and the Department of Environment & Coastal Resources (DECR) work to raise awareness, enforce marine protection laws, and support reef restoration initiatives. Community-based conservation, sustainable tourism practices, and education are key to ensuring the reef's survival for future generations.

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By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Diabetic Association is calling on the public to participate in its 2025 Health Symposium, a major event focused on improving awareness, management, and prevention of diabetes across the country.

Themed “Island Wellness: Tackling Diabetes Together,” the symposium will take place on Saturday, July 19th, 2025, at 10:00 AM at

the Brighter Futures Center, located at the Salvation Army Church on Leeward Highway, Providenciales.

The event is expected to bring together patients, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and community leaders for a day of education, collaboration, and empowerment.

Delivering the keynote address will be Dr. Denise Braitwaite-Tennant, a leading regional healthcare expert, known for her dynamic work in clinical governance and

Dr. Denise Braitwaite-Tennant to Headline Diabetic Association Health Symposium on July 19

patient care.

A distinguished panel of speakers will also lend their voices and insights:

- Dr. Merle Clarke, Internist/Nephrologist
- Dr. Sonia Mera, Paediatrician/Neonatologist
- Dr. Zaheeb Choudhry, Nephrologist

Nurse Natalie Irish-Lively, Registered Mental Health Nurse and Diabetes Educator (Internship)

Topics to be discussed include:

- Diabetes Management and Kidney Disease
- Reversing Type 2 Diabetes: Myth or Reality?
- Type 1 vs. Type 2 Diabetes in Youth
- Mental Health and Diabetes

The symposium promises to be a valuable opportunity for attendees to ask questions,

hear real-life success stories, and explore new approaches to managing and preventing the disease.

“We’re building a culture of knowledge and support,” the organizers stated. “This event is about coming together to learn and make meaningful steps toward a healthier Turks and Caicos.”

Registration is free and open to the public. To attend, participants can scan the QR code featured on promotional materials, email TCIDIabeticAssociation@gmail.com, or sign up directly at <https://form.jotform.com/251796207909872>.

For more information, contact 649-241-7601.

The event is supported by InterHealth Canada, Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital, and other key health partners.

Turks and Caicos International Music Festival Returns in 2025

The highly anticipated Turks and Caicos International Music Festival is set to make a grand return in 2025, promising an unforgettable experience for both locals and international visitors. Spearheaded by serial entrepreneur Tueton Williams, the festival aims to revitalize entertainment tourism and showcase the vibrant culture of the islands.

“We’ve always felt the need to bring it back,” said Tueton Williams, a key figure in the festival’s revival. “This year, we said, ‘Hey, we got to start.’ We put a team together, and we’re trying to bring it back. Ultimately, the goal is simple: entertainment tourism”.

The festival will feature a diverse lineup of local and Caribbean artists, with a focus on genres like Soca, Dancehall, and Afrobeats. The lineup includes Ruger, Kes the Band, and Maliedonn, along with Pro Vision Band, Gemma, Koolaid and Mickey, Tess, Jack Nasty, TCI Most Wanted, DJ Space, and Prime DJs. Williams explained, “We wanted to start with the Caribbean. We wanted to make sure that it was local.”

“We have local artists, and then we released those two Caribbean artists who represent Soca and Dancehall”. The festival promises a state-of-the-art stage and lighting setup, local food vendors, and a vibrant atmosphere at the downtown ballpark. “It’s going to be very exciting. It’s going to be a bit different. It’s going to be something you haven’t seen in a while,” Williams assured.

In addition to the music festival, the weekend will include a Miss Universe Turks and Caicos pageant and a celebrity golf tournament hosted by NBA Champion Trevor

Ariza. Celebrity guests for the golf tournament include Al Harrington, Rudy Gay, Lamar Odom, Nick Young, Dorell Wright, Matt Barnes, Josh Smith, Metta World Peace, Rajon Rondo and more.

“We’re trying to make the music festival a whole weekend,” Williams noted. “Centered around the music festival on Saturday, but we want to create a weekend of fun”. As the festival approaches, Williams encourages everyone to support the event. “Get your tickets, get your tickets in advance. Support the event. I can’t wait to see you guys on the weekend”.

Adding to the grandeur of the weekend, Gabriela Clesca, former Miss Universe Haiti 2019, is making waves in the pageant world as the lead organizer for Miss Universe Turks and Caicos. With a vision to elevate the pageant to international standards, Gabriela is dedicated to showcasing the potential of the islands and their talented young women.

Her experience and dedication have been instrumental in bringing the Miss Universe pageant to Turks and Caicos, a first in the island’s history. Gabriela’s efforts have not gone unnoticed, with the recent success of Raynea Myers, the reigning Miss Universe Turks and Caicos 2024, serving as a testament to the rigorous training and preparation Gabriela and her team provide. With a focus on discipline and excellence, Gabriela is committed to transforming the pageant into a platform for empowerment and opportunity.

Despite challenges in gaining local support, Gabriela remains optimistic about the future. “I believe in the potential of Turks

and Caicos,” she says. “With community support, we can make history and provide young women with opportunities to shine on the world stage”. Gabriela invites sponsors and collaborators to join her in this journey.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

CHURCH OF CHRIST,
BLUE HILLS

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



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.

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <div>Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581</div> <div>Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030</div> <div>One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.</div> <div>Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731</div> <div>Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755</div> <div>Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289</div> <div>Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118</div> <div>Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854</div> <div>Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866</div> <div>Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212</div> <div>Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc.</div> | <div>Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240</div> <div>Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438</div> <div>Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136</div> <div>Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073</div> <div>New Testament Church of God, Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175</div> <div>New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631</div> <div>Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352</div> <div>Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867</div> <div>House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309</div> <div>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727</div> <div>Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205</div> <div>New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759</div> <div>New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402</div> | <div>Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624</div> <div>Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349</div> <div>Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349</div> <div>Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565</div> <div>Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181</div> <div>St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499</div> <div>Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales</div> <div>United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852</div> <div>Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596</div> <div><i>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</i></div> |
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Highlights of the TCI National breakfast

People from all walks of life converged on the Shore Club Resort on Saturday, July 5, for the 2025 National Prayer Breakfast, spearheaded by Hon. Shaun Malcolm, the minister responsible for Religious Affairs. The guest speaker was Apostle Raymond Wells from The Bahamas. The event was also attended by other cabinet minister, back-benchers and the opposition. A number of pastors representing various denominations from across the country attended the event. The following are photo highlights of prayer breakfast.





THE WAY YOU BREATHE COULD BE A GAME CHANGER FOR STRESS

Simple breathing techniques can calm the nervous system, reduce anxiety, and support better sleep

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos

In today’s fast-paced world, we often overlook one of the most powerful and free tools available for calming the body and sharpening the mind: our breath. Breathing is more than just an automatic function that delivers oxygen to the lungs. It’s deeply intertwined with the state of our nervous system, our emotional health, and even how safe we feel in our own bodies. When our breath is shallow and rapid, often a response to stress, it sends a signal to the brain that we’re in danger, triggering the sympathetic nervous system, also known as “fight or flight.” This can be useful in short bursts, but if it becomes our default, it keeps us stuck in a loop of anxiety, fatigue, and burnout. On the other hand, deep, slow, intentional breathing activates the parasympathetic nervous system, or “rest and digest” mode. This is where true healing, repair, and recovery happen both mentally and physically. The good news? We can consciously influence our nervous system simply by changing the way we breathe. **Here’s how you can tailor your breathwork throughout the day to support energy in the morning, balance in the afternoon, and calm in the evening:**
Morning: Energising Breathwork (e.g., Wim Hof Method) - Start your day with an intentional breathing practice that stimulates your body and clears your mind. Techniques like the Wim Hof Method involve deep, rhythmic breaths (inhaling fully, exhaling naturally) for about 30-40 breaths, followed by short breath re-

tention. This oxygenates the body, increases blood alkalinity, and enhances circulation. Why it works: This type of breathwork activates the sympathetic nervous system in a controlled and purposeful way. It increases alertness, boosts your mood, and can even enhance immune function. Think of it as a natural morning espresso, without the crash. Try it:
● 30 deep breaths in and out (don’t force the exhale)
● Hold the breath after your last exhale as long as is comfortable
● Take a deep breath in, hold for 10–15 seconds, then release
● Repeat for 2–3 rounds
Midday: Box Breathing for Reset & Balance As the day progresses and stress begins to build with meetings, tasks etc. box breathing offers a way to recenter. This technique involves breathing in, holding, exhaling, and holding again, all for the same duration, usually 4 seconds. **Why it works:** This pattern engages the vagus nerve, gently shifting the body from “fight or flight” back toward equilibrium. It brings both mind and body back into the present moment, making it an ideal practice for anyone who feels scattered, overwhelmed, or overstimulated. It’s widely used by high-performing professionals and even military personnel for its grounding effect. **Try it:**
● Inhale for 4
● Hold for 4
● Exhale for 4
● Hold for 4
Repeat for 2–5 minutes whenever you need a reset.

Evening: Longer Exhales to Activate the Parasympathetic Nervous System As night falls, your body naturally wants to slow down, but for many of us, the mind doesn’t follow. Racing thoughts, tension in the body, and overstimulation from screens or stress can make it hard to wind down. This is where breath becomes a powerful cue for rest. Focusing on lengthening the exhale (e.g., in-hale for 4, exhale for 6-8) is one of the most effective ways to calm the nervous system. The exhale phase is where the parasympathetic system gets activated, helping to slow the heart rate, reduce cortisol levels, and quiet mental chatter. **Why it works:** A longer exhale creates a slight pressure change in the chest cavity, which stimulates the vagus nerve: a key player in regulating the parasympathetic nervous system. Over time, this practice can help retrain the body to associate evening with relaxation and safety, leading to deeper, more restorative sleep. **Try it:**
● Inhale for 4 counts
● Exhale slowly for 6 to 8 counts
● Optional: add a gentle body scan or soft music
Do this for 5-10 minutes before bed. Pair it with dim lighting, herbal tea, or journaling to enhance the effects. **Final Thought: Your Breath is Your Anchor** Small changes in your breathing patterns can have a profound impact on how you feel throughout the day. By learning to work with your breath, energizing it when needed, softening it when it’s time to rest, you’re giving your body exactly what it needs to function at its best.

Your breath is always with you, ready to anchor you in the present moment. When used consciously, it becomes a powerful tool for self-regulation, healing, and deep connection to yourself. **For more holistic tools, daily wellness rituals, and support in building a healthier relationship with your body, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.** Monica Uttamchandani is a certified Holistic Health Coach based in the Turks and Caicos Islands, supporting men and women in creating grounded, nourishing lives, one breath at a time. She also consults in person at The Elephant Rooms in Salt Mills, Providenciales



ODESSA FORBES APPOINTED DIRECTOR OF CULTURE

The Office of the Deputy Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands has announced the appointment of Mrs. Odessa Forbes as the Director of Culture within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture. Forbes holds a Master’s in Business Ad-

ministration and a Bachelor’s Degree in Criminal Justice from the American Intercontinental University, FL, a certificate in Business from the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College and a certificate in Project Management through the University of the West Indies. Bringing over 20 years of diverse leadership experience to her new role, Forbes most recently served as Training Manager for the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, where she led organisation-wide professional development and compliance training for over 400 officers and recruits. Her extensive experience also includes culture development through the leading initiatives that promote local heritage and community engagement, ensuring that cultural values are integrated into organisational practices and community programs within the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force. Before assuming the Training Manag-

er position, Forbes served in the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force for over a decade, rising through the ranks to become a Police Sergeant. Earlier in her career, she also gained valuable experience in the hospitality sector, working as a restaurant manager, where she developed strong operational, people management and customer engagement skills. Speaking on her new role, Forbes said, “I am deeply honoured and excited to serve as the Director of Culture. This role offers a powerful opportunity to preserve, celebrate and share the rich cultural identity of the Turks and Caicos Islands, both at home and with the world. As our society continues to grow and diversify, it is more important than ever that our national values, traditions and stories remain visible, accessible and deeply rooted in our collective identity. “I look forward to working with communities across the islands to ensure our

culture continues to inspire pride, unity and innovation for future generations. I remain grateful for the encouragement of my family and mentors and I embrace this role with humility, vision and purpose.” In congratulatory remarks, Deputy Governor and Head of the Public Service H.E. Anya Williams said, “It gives me great pleasure to congratulate Mrs. Odessa Forbes on her appointment as our new Director of Culture. The promotion and preservation of culture is extremely important to our islands, as it not only honours our rich heritage but also shapes the identity and values of our future generations. We wish Mrs. Forbes well on her appointment as she works to chart a new path in advancing cultural development, fostering creative expression and in ensuring that the diverse traditions of our people continue to thrive and inspire. Congratulations on your new appointment, Mrs. Forbes!”



Read Rama



National High School Speech Competition

Roma Stubbs Reflect on Rotary Club of Providenciales Presidency for 2024-2025

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as President of the Rotary Club of Providenciales over the past year," said Roma Stubbs, the Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Providenciales. She said the period was characterized by a dedication to community development, educational support, and environmental responsibility.

"As I reflect on the initiatives we carried out, I am proud of what we were able to achieve through collaboration, shared purpose, and a strong sense of civic responsibility," shared the immediate past president.

She said in the spirit of promoting peace and unity, the Rotary Club of Providenciales (RCOP) started the Rotary year by successfully planting two Peace Poles, one in Grace Bay and the other at the Edward Gartland Youth Centre. These Peace Poles—each inscribed with the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in English, French, and Spanish—stand as powerful visual symbols of Rotary's commitment to fostering harmony in our communities.

Stubbs pointed out that education remained a core pillar of the Club's work. Dictionaries were donated to primary schools in the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), ensuring that students had access to essential learning tools. She said the Club also launched a reading initiative called Read-Rama across several primary schools. This included volunteer-led reading sessions designed to foster a



Some students who received free eyeglasses.

love for reading and support early language development.

Stubbs noted that to support the development of confident, articulate young leaders, the RCOP contributed funds toward a high school speech competition. This event gave students a platform to express their views on critical social issues and practice public speaking. It was inspiring to see their talent and passion for positive change, and we are proud to have played a role in elevating their voices.

She pointed out that in recognizing the direct link between health and academic success, the Club, in collaboration with Dr. Julian

Petrucchi from Menzies Optometry and Sailrock, organized free eye exams for primary school children on the Islands of South Caicos, North and Middle Caicos, and Grand Turk.

She pointed out that the RCOP conducted nearly 300 eye exams and subsequently donated over 50 pairs of eyeglasses to students diagnosed with visual impairments. Many of these children had been struggling in silence due to undiagnosed issues, and the feedback from families and educators was amazingly positive.

She asserted that none of these accomplishments would have been possible without the sup-

port of the Club's dedicated members, volunteers, and community partners, pointing out that together, everyone demonstrated the power of collective action and the impact of compassionate leadership.

Stubbs concluded by stating, "As I conclude my term as President, I am filled with gratitude and optimism. The seeds we planted this year—both literal and metaphorical—will continue to grow, nourished by the ongoing efforts of this incredible Club. Thank you all for an unforgettable year of service and achievement."



One of the two Peace Poles planted by the Rotary Club of Providenciales



British Airways Holidays Call Centre training with Salterra and the Hartling Group in Newcastle



British Airways Holidays Call Centre training with Salterra and the Hartling Group in Newcastle

Experience Turks and Caicos Strengthens Reach in UK Luxury Travel Market

Over the last 12 months, Experience Turks and Caicos has significantly strengthened its position in the United Kingdom’s luxury travel market through focused trade engagement, strategic partnerships, and innovative marketing initiatives.

Experience Turks and Caicos, through UK marketing representative Paradise Promotions, has provided in-person training to over 1,200 luxury travel advisors in the UK, with an additional 7,000 trade professionals reached through newsletters and digital communications.

Training travel advisors is a critical component of Experience Turks and Caicos’ strategy, equipping them with the knowledge to design bespoke experiences for their clients and ensuring that the Turks and Caicos Islands is always top-of-mind when advising high-value travellers. This direct engagement builds long-term relationships and empowers advisors to confidently present the destination’s unique offerings to discerning audiences.

“As we continue to grow our presence in the UK, working with luxury travel advisors helps us to position the Turks and Caicos Islands as a preferred destination for luxury travellers,” said Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant of Experience Turks and Caicos. “The partnerships we’ve developed and the advisors we’ve trained are vital to ensuring sustained growth and long-term success in this important source market.

Key accomplishments to date include deepening collaborations with top luxury tour operators such as Elegant Resorts, ITC, Carrier, and Caribtours—



Luxury Roadshow in Bournemouth, Brighton and Kent

now among the destination’s leading partners after a comprehensive team visit to the Turks and Caicos Islands last year. New partnerships with Dnata Travel and Hummingbird Travel have also yielded significant results, with both operators emerging as strong sales performers since their introduction to the destination. There are ongoing discussions with CV Villas and Kuoni as these operators consider adding the Turks and Caicos Islands to their offerings.

Landmark events have further bolstered the Turks and Caicos Islands’ presence in the UK market. The Aspire Retreat, held in the Turks and Caicos Islands for the first time (Novem-

ber 2024), hosted 25 luxury travel advisors, 12 buyers, and four media representatives across Providenciales and South Caicos, generating targeted exposure. A destination feature on the Turks and Caicos Islands was subsequently published in the Aspire Magazine and online.

Additionally, Experience Turks and Caicos’ first UK Trade Roadshow held from July 29th to August 2nd, 2024, engaged 62 luxury travel agents and reservation staff, 125 high-net-worth consumers, and three luxury tour operators, raising awareness and generating new business opportunities. A partnership with British Airways has strengthened the UK-Provo route,

ensuring vital connectivity between the two regions and providing a foundation for sustained growth.

To further elevate the destination within the ultra-luxury segment, Experience Turks and Caicos is launching a series of exclusive, experiential events designed to deepen relationships with concierge travel advisors and cultivate new leads among high-value clientele.

The flagship event in July 2025 will feature an intimate sailing experience with round-the-world sailor Gareth Williams, offering a unique platform to showcase Turks and Caicos to a select group of top-tier travel advisors, ultra-high-net-worth clients, and luxury brand partners.



Training travel agents



FortisTCI President and CEO Ruth Forbes, Vice President of Finance, Corporate Services and CFO, Aisha Laporte (far left and right), directors, and members of the Human Resources Department, Corporate Communications team, and Investors in People (IIP) advocate group.

FORTISTCI EARNs PRESTIGIOUS PLATINUM ACCREDITATION FROM INVESTORS IN PEOPLE

FortisTCI has achieved Platinum status from the Investors in People (IIP)

organization, which is the highest level of recognition and a distinction held by only 7% of IIP-accredited companies worldwide. Investors in People is the leading global accreditation for people management.

IIP accreditations last for three years, and organizations can achieve different levels of certification (Standard, Silver, Gold, Platinum) based on their performance. The Investors in People framework evaluates how well an organization leads, supports, and improves its people. It uses a structured model with nine performance indicators and 27 themes, each assessed across four levels of maturity: Developing, Established, Advanced, and High Performing. By achieving a rating of “high-performing” across all 27 assessment themes, FortisTCI made the extraordinary leap from Silver to Platinum since its last assessment three years ago.

The themes closely examine the ways companies lead and inspire teams, live the organization’s values and behaviors, empower and involve employ-

ees, manage performance, recognize and reward high performance, structure work, build capacity, deliver continuous improvement, and create sustainable success.

Although FortisTCI submits a supporting evidence portfolio as part of the evaluation, the results are primarily shaped by employee feedback, gathered through an anonymous online survey and one-on-one interviews with employees, randomly selected by IIP assessors. A record-breaking 93% of employees voluntarily participated in the assessment held in May.

The survey results show that 93% reinforced their belief that the Company has clear and shared values, and nearly 90% recognized the strong learning and development opportunities and understand how this impacts the organization’s success.

FortisTCI’s overall performance score of 768 surpassed the sector and IIP global averages, placing the Company third in its sector worldwide. FortisTCI scored 60 points higher than the sector average and 39 points above the Investors in People average.

FortisTCI has also been identified as one of the very best We Invest in People Platinum accredited organizations from outside of the United Kingdom. The Company has been invited to enter the Investors in People Global Awards for Overseas Employer of the Year 2025 for a chance of being crowned the number one Platinum employer in this category.

FortisTCI is the only Investors in People certified organization in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the only utility Company in the Caribbean region with Platinum, and one of two companies generally in the region with this mark of excellence. Only 7% of Investors in People’s 50,000 accredited organizations worldwide have achieved Platinum. Prior to this, FortisTCI was first accredited as a Standard in 2016 and received Silver certification in 2018 and 2022.

Paul Devoy, CEO of Investors in People stated: “We’d like to congratulate FortisTCI. Platinum accreditation on We Invest in People is a remarkable effort for any organization, and places FortisTCI in fine company with organizations that understand the value of people.”

FortisTCI President and CEO Ruth Forbes stated: “As a Company, we benchmark ourselves against the best globally, and we’re always looking for ways to make work better. This Platinum accreditation reflects our continuous commitment to sustaining a high performance, people-centered culture.

“The Investors in People results tell a powerful story about how our people practices, policies, and programs continue to evolve. Several initiatives were implemented in line with a comprehensive HR strategic plan, and we extend heartfelt gratitude to the human resources department for championing our mission to transform the employee experience, creating a more engaged workplace.”

She continued: “A special thank you to the entire FortisTCI team for sharing their views on how we lead, support and improve them. We will continue to invest in our people, as this not only strengthens their level of fulfilment, engagement and productivity at work, but equally contributes to how well we serve our customers, improve our communities and add value to our stakeholders.”

Could your gut health be why you are tired, moody and struggling to lose weight?

GUT HEALTH is crucial for overall well-being because it impacts digestion, immunity, mental health, and even heart health. A healthy gut ensures efficient nutrient absorption, strengthens the immune system, and may even influence mood and cognitive function.

However, poor gut health can lead to digestive issues, increased susceptibility to illness, and potentially contribute to mental health disorders.

Your gut microbiome is the foundation of your health. Good gut health occurs when you have a balance between the good (helpful) and bad (potentially harmful) bacteria and yeast in your digestive system. In fact, 80 per cent of your immune system is in the gut, and the majority of your body's serotonin is, too.

According to Dr Rivane ChybarVirgo, medical doctor and health and wellness coach, speaking at a weekly 'Health Talk Sunday Series' this means if your gut is not healthy, then your immune system and hormones will not function, and you will get sick.

"There are trillions of bacteria that play an important role in digestion. However, our gut health goes beyond just digestion, as the gut communicates directly with our brain, sending signals that influence our mood, our alertness, our behaviour, and what we call gut connection," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

The gut and brain are in constant communication through a system called the gut-brain axis, impacting our emotions, thoughts, and behaviours. This connection means that gut health can significantly influence mental well-being, and vice versa. Imbalances in the gut microbiome can lead to or worsen conditions like anxiety and depression.

"Gut health has an impact on our emotions. One of the key things in this connection is serotonin (feel good hormone). Ninety-five per cent of that feel-good hormone is produced in the gut, and produced by healthy beneficial bacteria. Having a healthy nutritious diet helps you keep serotonin balanced," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

Poor gut health, characterised by an imbalance in the gut microbiome, can manifest in various symptoms like digestive issues, fatigue, skin problems, and even impact mood and sleep. Addressing gut health involves dietary changes, stress management, and sometimes, professional guidance.

"If your gut health is poor from improper nutrition, low serotonin levels can affect your sleep and cause gut issues, such as sugar cravings, anxiety, and persons may recognise that they feel depressed. One of the medications used to treat depression targets serotonin receptors," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

Studies have shown that people who have certain digestive issues, such as irritable bowel syndrome, are more likely to experience depression and anxiety.

Foods that positively impact gut health include fibre-rich foods like fruits, vegetables, legumes, and whole grains. However, foods like processed foods, refined sugar, fried foods, and excessive amounts of red meat can negatively affect gut health.

"Foods that are ultra-processed, sugary, artificial sweeteners and fried foods have been linked to mental health struggles. Having too much carbohydrates can result in short burst of energy, followed by low energy. The food you eat, the amount of food you eat, and how you balance it play a crucial role in your gut health as well," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

Gut microbiome, she said, is crucial for gut absorption. Even vitamins and minerals, as small an amount as we need, they play a role in our energy levels.

"Having a good gut health can help to absorb nutrients properly and affect how our bodies produce good energy levels. If our digestive system is healthy, it can determine how well we are going to fight off illnesses. If you are tired a lot; gut health is something that you need to take a look at," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

She also indicated that if you find it difficult to lose weight, you may have poor gut

health, especially if you have excess fat in the midsection. There are some hormones that can stimulate inflammation and weak-

en the immune response, and can be a correlation with gut imbalance," Dr Chybar Virgo said.



Foods, habits that can nourish or harm your gut health

GUT HEALTH is an easy thing to take for granted or to ignore completely, if everything is generally functioning well. However, poor gut health can impact your overall health in a variety of ways, from the obvious stomach discomfort to less obvious effects on mood and immune function.

Gut diversity is important because different microorganisms may help support health in a variety of ways, including improved digestion and nutrient absorption, immune-system regulation, protection against harmful bacteria, reduced inflammation, and better brain health.

According to Dr Rivane Chybar Virgo, medical doctor and health and wellness coach, speaking at a weekly 'Health Talk Sunday Series', a healthy and diverse gut microbiome may help reduce your risk of conditions, including diabetes, inflammatory bowel disease, psoriatic arthritis, some cancers, GI disorders, and cardiovascular disease.

"You can think of gut microbiome as a garden. Many persons have heard of probiotics that introduce good bacteria and promote growth of beneficial bacteria. You can get it from yogurt and fermented foods," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

Dr Chybar Virgo said, just like a garden, you need to fertilise your gut. "That fertiliser for gut health is called pre-biotics. You can get pre-biotics from onions, garlic and bananas," she said.

Fibre serves as a prebiotic, or food for the good bacteria that live in your gut. Eating plenty of fibre is associated with increased microbial diversity and a reduced risk of gastrointestinal issues, like constipation and Crohn's disease.

Fibre helps keep the colon healthy by reducing inflammation.

However, most of us do not get enough fibre. You can aim to get 21 to 38 grams of fibre per day. Fibre is found in a variety of foods, including legumes, whole grains, avocados, sweet potatoes, brussels sprouts, tofu, berries, leafy greens, and nuts and seeds.

"Fibre also plays a crucial role in maintaining healthy gut microbiome. Fibre helps to push the waste out of your body, including insoluble fibre that sweeps out debris - removes waste - and these include whole grains, vegetables and nuts," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

"Fibre also include soluble fibre that absorbs moisture, stabilises blood sugar, and

feed gut bacteria; that include oats, beans and apples; and aloe vera that soothes and support the gut lining to help reduce inflammation to enhance nutrient absorption," she added.

Water is critical for healthy digestion. It helps your body absorb and transport nutrients; it helps with keeping your core body temperature steady; it aids in the production of mucus to protect your digestive tract; and it helps prevent constipation.

"When you become constipated, your gut microbiota changes, becoming less abundant. If you become dehydrated, your body will let you know, as not drinking enough can manifest as thirst, headache, dry mouth, less frequent urination, dizziness, and tiredness," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

Increased stress often manifests itself in digestive discomfort. Stress causes hormones like adrenaline and cortisol to spike, leading to symptoms like diarrhoea, constipation, stomach pain, and heartburn.

"This gut-brain connection is powerful; it is why we get butterflies before a big presentation, or feel nauseous when we are in a high-stakes situation. While we cannot avoid stressful situations entirely, it is possible to

learn to manage stress through techniques like belly breathing, relaxation therapy, and meditation," she said.

Certain bacteria in your gut may impact your sleep in a variety of ways, from your likelihood of experiencing insomnia to how frequently you need to nap, to how long you stay asleep at night.

"Most people should aim to get seven to nine hours of sleep a night. If you are struggling to hit that goal, try improving your sleep hygiene, getting plenty of daytime exercise, and trying some of the stress management tips above," she said.

It is not hard to find good reasons to stay active, but here is one more; participating in 150 to 270 minutes of moderate- to high-intensity exercise per week for at least six weeks has a positive effect on your gut microbiota, particularly if you combine aerobic exercise with resistance training.

"We already know that people who are sedentary have different gut microbiota characteristics than active people; this research suggests that you might be able to improve your gut health through exercise, even if you're not currently active," Dr Chybar Virgo said.

Adventist pastor’s ‘Study to the Max’ graduation remix goes viral

Just a quick stroll through TikTok and it becomes obvious that the Shake It to the Max (Fly)(Remix) by Ghanaian-American singer Moliy, Shenseea, Skillibeng and Silent Addy is hugely popular.

The track, however, took a twist when a remix which was part of a presentation by the speaker at the Bellefield High School graduation in Manchester last Thursday went viral on the weekend.

A post by TikToker Clavia, which, up to press time had accumulated more half a million views in two days, was first reposted by Moliy, who then posted it on TikTok with the caption “Study to the max” along with a prayer and a laughing emoji.

Study to the max, a song clearly outlining the value of hard work, was penned by Pastor Jermaine Johnson, senior pastor of the Moneague District of Seventh-day Adventist Churches in St. Ann and the CEO of his motivational brand, Johnson Motivates. The track goes in part: “ For you to mek it yuh have to study to the max/Come have a seat and let me tell you all the facts ... yuh want success but yuh don’t have a plan/Fi mek it inna life yuh haffi have ambition.”

A devoted man of God, as well as an in-demand motivational speaker, Johnson emphasises that he is a full-time preacher and has no interest in recording professionally as a deejay. Pastor JJ, as he is affectionately called, just concluded a five-week Procla-

mations of Hope evangelistic series at the MegaMart parking lot in Mandeville and it was an overwhelming success. Some 335 persons were baptised, which is a record for a crusade in Mandeville.

Johnson, who taught music for a decade, is an expert at using social parallels in his sermons “because of relevance”; and at the graduation he did the same.

“I know that it is unorthodox for some, but it is carefully thought out and executed. For you to be impactful you have to know your audience, you have to know your content, you have to know your objective, and you have to know yourself, too. It reminds me of 1 Corinthians 19, when Paul said, ‘ I become all things to all men that I may win the more.’ He knows that there is a boundary, a line that he must not proceed beyond ... but you cannot impact that which you are out of touch with. You use the known to lead people to the unknown,” Johnson told The Gleaner.

The remix is being hailed on social media as a song that could rival that of any top deejay, and others question just how he knew the song which has some bawdy content.

“As a musician, I don’t have to know the song to pattern it, I just have to know the tune. To be honest I don’t really know what the lady is singing about, the only part mi know is ‘shake it to the max’, because everywhere yuh go on social media yuh see di

people dem a cover dem face. The thing is that I don’t go hunting this is what social relevance does in social media. Of course, many will not give you the benefit of the doubt, they will think that that’s what you are consuming. But anything that is trending in Jamaica; it finds you, it finds you on social media, it finds you on the boom box systems passing your house,” he explained.

He shared that last Thursday, while preparing to deliver the keynote to the 203 graduants of the Bellefield High School at the Kendal Camp and Conference Centre in Manchester, he told himself that he “had to put it in the language that these young people who believe seh dem reach now, can know seh dem nuh reach yet”. And with that, Johnson, who was on track to becoming a deejay before he surrendered to the Lord more than 20 years ago, went to the sound engineer and asked if he could play a track for him.

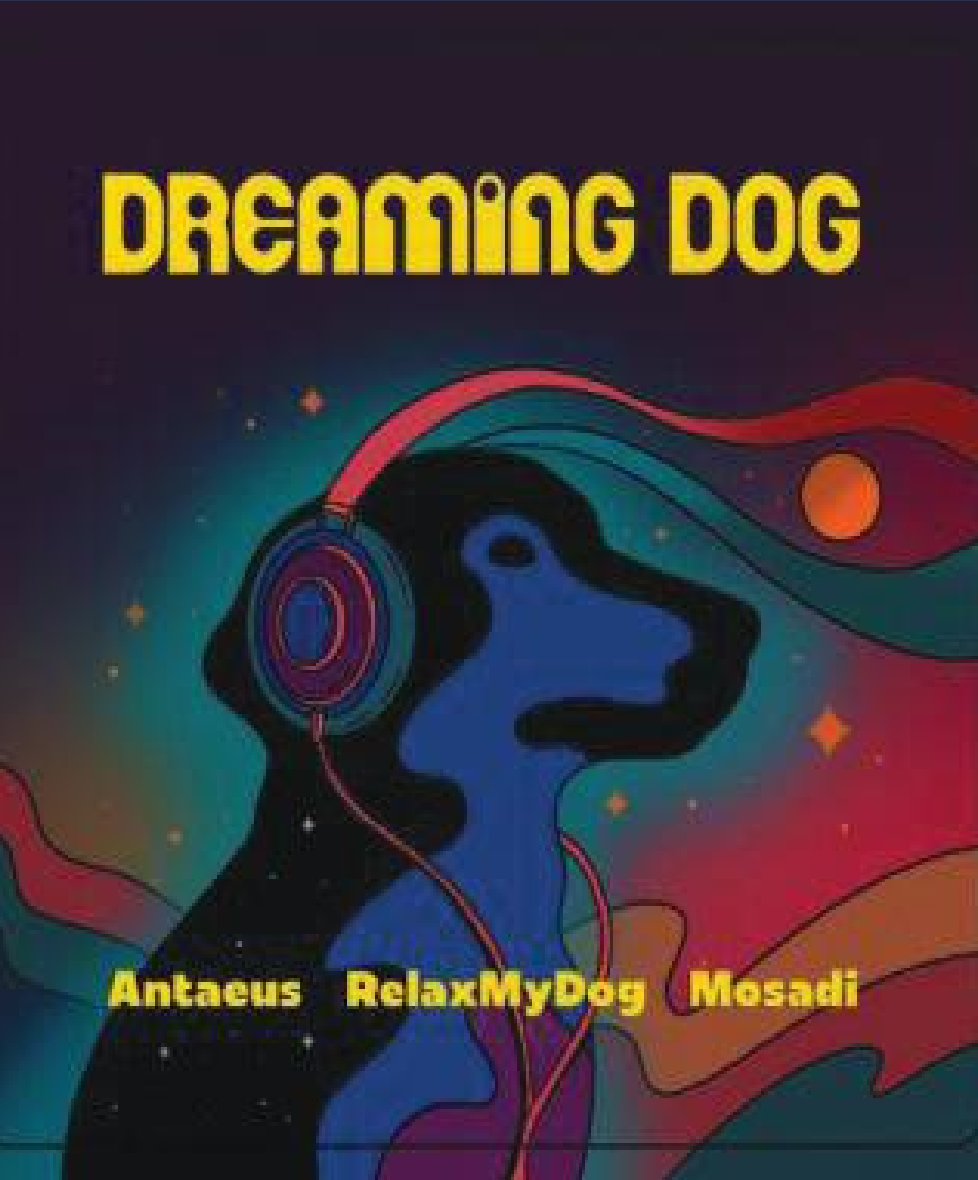
“I had the dub working out for a few months now for graduation season, but I have not used it wholesale. I seh, ‘I goin’ drop it down here.’ No fancy talk can reach so. You have to use the language of the people, which is why in my preaching I don’t go academic, I code-switch with the use of language and it has been exponentially impactful, because people are able to understand the messages with the greatest clarity.

“If I’m teaching and empowering the youth,

I might get a little unconventional, but those who know me and know what I stand for, they will realise that a nuh big mi a big up dancehall and world music; a use mi a use it fi reach di yute dem,” said the pastor, who is the I Believe Initiative Ambassador for the Governor-General’s Programme for Excellence.



Pastor Jermaine Johnson



Music gone to the dogs?

Music For Pets, a Create Music Group label and pioneer in pet entertainment—with more than 20 million pets streaming more than 12 million hours of music monthly—recently announced the release of its latest album, Dreaming Dog.

Produced by Grammy Award-winner Antaeus (Julian Marley’s Color of Royal), Dreaming Dog is a 13-track, tail-wagging, anxiety-busting sound journey designed for dogs and the humans who fetch their playlists. The album arrives just ahead of July 4, dogs’ most stressful holiday.

“We set out to create an immersive musical experience that supports pets emotionally while resonating with their owners,” said Amman Ahmed, president of Music For Pets & VP, Business Development, Create Music Group and co-producer. “This album reflects years of research, creativity, and collaboration with world-class talent in Antaeus. Fireworks may light up the sky, but for dogs, they’re pure fright. Dreaming Dog is the ultimate chill-out soundtrack for anxious pups”.

Dreaming Dog explores the emotional power of sound for pets, blending artistic vision with a deep focus on animal well-being. Far beyond traditional ambient electronic or new age music, the album weaves

a rich tapestry of global sounds, blending the tail-thumping rhythms of South African Amapiano rhythms with soothing Reggae influences and Urban grooves.

The album gently introduces familiar stressors into calming soundscapes. In Peace in Chaos, for example, gentle fireworks ease into the mix, while Chillin in Soweto features joyful children playing in a school yard, turning potential triggers into moments of calm. Dreaming Dog features piano performances by Charu Suri, the only Indian woman to sell out Carnegie Hall (four times), and vocals by Erini, known for touring with Cirque du Soleil.

“We aimed to create music that genuinely relaxes dogs while also appealing to human listeners,” said Antaeus. “It’s a genre-blending experience fusing ambient electronic, lo-fi, Amapiano, and subtle reggae. It’s relaxing, musically rich, and purposefully designed to connect with both dogs and people.”

Founded by Ahmed in Manchester, England, Music For Pets has become a global leader in original audio and video content for animals, with over one billion streams in 2024. Their flagship brands, Relax My Dog and Relax My Cat, consistently rank among the top pet-focused channels worldwide.



Actor Michael Madsen appears at the premiere of 'The Hateful Eight' in Los Angeles on December 7, 2015.

Michael Madsen, 'Reservoir Dogs' star, dies at 67

Reservoir Dogs robber in Tarantino's cinematic universe.

His sister, Oscar-nominated Sideways actor Virginia Madsen, was among those paying him tribute on Thursday. "He was thunder and velvet. Mischief wrapped in tenderness. A poet disguised as an outlaw. A father, a son, a brother — etched in contradiction, tempered by love that left its mark," she said in a statement. "I'll miss our inside jokes, the sudden laughter, the sound of him. I'll miss the boy he was before the legend. I miss my big brother."

His Hateful Eight co-star and fellow Tarantino favourite Walton Goggins celebrated him on Instagram.

"Michael Madsen... this man... this artist... this poet... this rascal..." Goggins wrote. "Aura like no one else. Ain't enough words so I'll just say this.... I love you buddy. A H8TER forever."

James Woods, Madsen's co-star in two films, wrote on X, "I was always touched by his sweet nature and generosity, the absolute opposite of the 'tough guys' he portrayed so brilliantly".

Madsen was born in Chicago to a family of three children.

He performed on stage with the city's Steppenwolf Theatre Company, alongside actors including John Malkovich.

During a handprint ceremony at the TCL Chinese Theatre in November 2020, Madsen reflected on his first visit to Hollywood in the early 1980s.

"I got out and I walked around and I looked and I wondered if there were someday some way that that was going to be a part of me. And I didn't know because I didn't know what I was going to do at that point with myself," he said.

"I could have been a bricklayer. I could have been an architect. I could have

been a garbage man. I could have been nothing. But I got lucky. I got lucky as an actor."

His first film role of any significance was in the 1983 hacker thriller WarGames with Matthew Broderick. The following year, he played pro baseball player Bump Bailey alongside Robert Redford in The Natural.

He spent much of the rest of the 1980s doing one-off guest roles on television dramas, including Miami Vice and Quantum Leap.

1991 would bring a career boost with roles in The Doors, where he played a buddy of Val Kilmer's Jim Morrison, and Thelma and Louise, where he played the boyfriend of Susan Sarandon's Louise.

Then would come Reservoir Dogs.

In 1995, he played a black ops mercenary in the sci-fi thriller Specie and, in 1997, he was third billed after Al Pacino and Johnny Depp as a member of a crew of gangsters in Donnie Brasco.

He occasionally played against type. In the 1993 family orca adventure Free Willy, he was the foster father to the orphan protagonist. Madsen would return to smaller roles but worked constantly in the final two decades of his career. Madsen had six children. He had struggled in recent years after the 2022 death of one of his sons, Hudson.

"Losing a child is the hardest and most painful experience that can happen in this world," Madsen said in an Instagram post last year.

He said the loss put a strain on his marriage to third wife, DeAnna Madsen. He was arrested on suspicion of domestic battery last year, but was not charged. He filed for divorce, but asked that the filing be dismissed just weeks later.

Michael Madsen, the actor best known for his coolly menacing, steely-eyed, often sadistic characters in the films of Quentin Tarantino, including Reservoir Dogs and Kill Bill: Vol. 2, has died.

Madsen was found unresponsive in his home in Malibu, California, on Thursday morning and pronounced dead, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Watch Commander Christopher Jaugregui said. He is believed to have died of natural causes and authorities do not suspect any foul play was involved. Madsen's manager Ron Smith said cardiac arrest was the apparent cause. He was 67.

Madsen's career spanned more than 300 credits stretching back to the early 1980s, many in low-budget and independent films. He often played low-level thugs, gangsters and shady cops in small roles. Tarantino would use that identity but make him a main character. His torture of a captured police officer in Tarantino's 1992 directorial debut Reservoir Dogs, in which Madsen's black-suited bank robber Vic Mr. Blonde Vega severs the man's ear while dancing to Stealers Wheel's Stuck in

the Middle with You, was an early career-defining moment for both director and actor.

Madsen told the Associated Press in 2012 that he hated having to do the scene, especially after the actor playing the officer, Kirk Baltz, ad-libbed a line where he begged for his life because he had children.

"I just said, 'Oh my God,' I couldn't do it, I didn't want to do it," Madsen said. "Acting is such a humiliating profession."

He would become a Tarantino regular. He had a small role as the cowboy-hatted desert dweller Budd, a member of the Deadly Viper Assassination Squad, in 2003's Kill Bill: Vol. 1, then a starring role the following year in the sequel in which he battles with Uma Thurman's protagonist The Bride and buries her alive.

Madsen also appeared in Tarantino's The Hateful Eight and Once Upon a Time ... In Hollywood. He was an alternate choice to play the hit-man role that revived John Travolta's career in 1994's Pulp Fiction. The character, Vincent Vega, is the brother of Madsen's

Australian actor Julian McMahon dies, aged 56

Australian actor Julian McMahon, known for his roles in television series Charmed and Nip/Tuck, has died in the United States from cancer at the age of 56.

His wife, Kelly, announced his death Friday in a statement to the website Deadline.

Born in Sydney in 1968, McMahon initially worked as a model before moving to acting in television, first in Australia and later in the US.

He made a name for himself playing Cole Turner, a demon in the fantasy

television series Charmed, which ran from 2000 to 2005.

"I'm heartbroken," series co-star Alysa Milano wrote on Instagram after he died in Florida.

"Losing him feels unreal. Too soon. Too unfair. Rest, my friend. I'll carry your laugh with me," she added.

McMahon was nominated for an Emmy in 2005 for Nip/Tuck (2003-2010), another hit US series, in which he played an unscrupulous plastic surgeon.

Producers Warner Bros Television re-

leased a brief statement on Facebook paying tribute to his work on the series.

McMahon also appeared in a number of films, playing villain Doctor Doom in two films from the Fantastic Four superhero franchise.

More recently, he appeared alongside Nicolas Cage in The Surfer, presented at the 2024 Cannes Film Festival.

His final screen appearance was in the Netflix whodunnit series The Residence, released this year, in which he played the Australian prime minister.



Julian McMahon in his role as the Australian prime minister in the Netflix series The Residence.



Engagement with students from the Ianthe Pratt Primary school



Therapy Abroad team with the Minister of Education and Director of SENS

Special Education Needs Services Host Weeklong Speech Camps for Children in Turks and Caicos

In an effort to continue to advance speech and language development among children with neurodevelopmental challenges in the Turks & Caicos Islands, the Department of Special Education Needs Services (SENS), hosted Hampton University's Speech-Language Pathology (SLP) program as part of their partnership with Therapy Abroad.

Two speech camps, held at Ianthe Pratt Primary School and Shining Stars Preparatory, provided individualized assessments and group-based speech therapy sessions for 20 children identified with speech and language delays. These schools were chosen based on the high number of incoming speech and communication related referrals to the department.

This initiative represents a growing collaboration between SENS and international universities through Therapy Abroad to bring specialist services directly to children across the islands who may otherwise face long wait times or limited access to therapy.

The visiting team from Hampton University included speech-language pathology graduate students and faculty members who worked closely with the Department's clinicians to assess, support, and empower children through evidence-based communication strategies. Activities focused on language enrichment, articulation, social communication skills, and caregiver education. The team also donated a communication board to the SNAP Center playground as a resource for the non-verbal learners.

Dr. Anya Malcolm-Gibbs, Director of Special Education Needs Services, expressed her appreciation, "This partnership has made an incredible difference in the lives of the children and families we serve. Every time we bring in these volunteer teams, we're not just expanding access — we're building confidence and capacity within our system. We thank Hampton University and Therapy Abroad for their commitment and generosity."

Mrs. Lashaunda Skippings, Coordinator of Assessments, added, "We've seen firsthand how focused intervention can unlock the potential in our students. These camps allow us to fast-track progress for some of our most vulnerable learners and support parents in understanding their child's development."

Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports, and Social Services, also praised the initiative, stating, "These partnerships demonstrate our ministry's commitment to building human capital, fostering inclusive education, and ensuring no child is left behind. I commend the Department of Special Education Needs for continuously pushing boundaries and creating meaningful, impactful change in the lives of our children."

This initiative is part of a broader national effort to strengthen support services for children with special needs across the TCI. The Department encourages parents and caregivers to continue registering their children for services as more therapy teams are expected to visit throughout the year.



Therapy Abroad team and Coordinator of Assessments



Therapy Abroad team presentation to SNAP



Musk, a former Trump adviser, left the administration on May 30
By Rachel Raposas and Erin Clack Published on July 5, 2025 04:20PM EDT
340 Comments
Elon Musk arrives to the inauguration of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on January 20, 2025 in Washington, DC.
Elon Musk arrives to the inauguration of U.S. President-elect Donald Trump on January 20, 2025 in Washington, DC.
Credit : Chip Somodevilla/Getty
NEED TO KNOW
Elon Musk is starting his own political party in response to Congress passing Trump’s domestic policy bill
Musk announced the news on Saturday, July 5, writing on X: “Today, the America Party is formed to give you back your freedom”
Musk, a former adviser to Trump, left his position in the administration after disagreeing with the president on the “Big, Beautiful

Bill,” Trump’s spending plan
Elon Musk is starting his own political party. On Saturday, July 5, the Tesla founder and former adviser to President Donald Trump announced on X that he has formed the America Party. The announcement came one day after Musk, 54, posted a poll on the platform with the message, “Independence Day is the perfect time to ask if you want independence from the two-party (some would say uniparty) system! Should we create the America Party?”
The poll — which garnered more than 1.2 million votes — resulted in 65.4% of respondents voting “yes.”
He followed up with another X post on Saturday announcing the launch of the America party.
“By a factor of 2 to 1, you want a new political party and you shall have it!” he wrote. “When it comes to bankrupting our country with waste & graft, we live in a one-party

Elon Musk Creates His Own Political Party to Take Down Trump — and Gives It a MAGA-Friendly Name

system, not a democracy. Today, the America Party is formed to give you back your freedom.”
Also on Saturday, Musk reshared a meme featuring an image of a two-headed snake with the caption, “End the Uniparty.” In response, Musk wrote simply, “Yes.”
On Monday, June 30, Musk vowed that if the Republican-controlled Congress passed Trump’s “Big, Beautiful Bill” — which the Tesla CEO has repeatedly slammed — he would form and fund the “America Party” in an effort to oust GOP lawmakers.
“If this insane spending bill passes, the America Party will be formed the next day,” he wrote in a post on X. “Our country needs an alternative to the Democrat-Republican uniparty so that the people actually have a VOICE.”
Elon Musk, chief executive officer of Tesla Inc., in the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, DC, US, on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025.
Elon Musk in February 2025.
Aaron Schwartz/CNP/Bloomberg/Getty
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Elon Musk speaks with U.S. President-elect Donald Trump as they watch the launch of the sixth test flight of the SpaceX Starship

rocket on November 19, 2024 in Brownsville, Texas. SpaceX’s billionaire owner, Elon Musk, a Trump confidante, has been tapped to lead the new Department of Government Efficiency alongside former presidential candidate Vivek Ramaswamy.
Musk previously floated the idea of forming a third party earlier in the month. On June 5, the billionaire posted a poll on X, posing the question, “Is it time to create a new political party in America that actually represents the 80% in the middle?”
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As one of the most powerful advisers to Trump at the start of his term, Musk was tasked with leading the controversial Department of Government Efficiency, which dramatically slimmed the federal workforce and shuttered government agencies.
President Donald Trump and Elon Musk
Donald Trump gestures toward Elon Musk in the Oval Office on March 14, 2025.
ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP via Getty
Musk’s once bro-ey relationship with Trump blew up in flames almost immediately after Musk left the administration on May 30, as the tech billionaire slammed the legislation as a reversal of his efforts to slash government spending.
The two men then began hurling insults at each other via social media on June 5, and have had a soured relationship since then.

BRICS group condemns tariff increases

Soldiers patrol Flamengo Beach next to the Sugar Loaf mountain, ahead of the 17th annual BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro, Sunday, July 6, 2025.
The BRICS bloc of developing nations on Sunday condemned the increase of tariffs and attacks on Iran.
The group’s declaration, which took aim at Israel’s military actions in the Middle East, spared its member Russia from criticism and mentioned war-torn Ukraine just once.
The two-day summit was marked by the absences of two of its most powerful members. President of China Xi Jinping did not attend a BRICS summit for the first time since he became his country’s leader in 2012. President of Russia Vladimir Putin, who spoke via videoconference, continues to mostly avoid travelling abroad because of an international arrest warrant issued after Russia invaded Ukraine.
In an indirect swipe at the United States, the group’s declaration raised “serious concerns” about the rise of tariffs which it said were “inconsistent with WTO (World Trade Organization) rules”. The BRICS added that those restrictions “threaten to reduce global trade, disrupt global supply chains, and introduce uncertainty”.
US President Donald Trump, said in a social media post late Sunday that any country that aligns itself with what he termed “the anti-American policies of BRICS” would be levied an added 10 per cent tariff.
President of Brazil Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, who hosted the summit, criticised NATO’s decision to hike military spending by 5.0 per cent of GDP annually by 2035. That



Soldiers patrol Flamengo Beach next to the Sugar Loaf mountain, ahead of the 17th annual BRICS summit in Rio de Janeiro, Sunday, July 6, 2025.

sentiment was later echoed in the group’s declaration.
“It is always easier to invest in war than in peace,” Lula said at the opening of the summit.
President of Iran Masoud Pezeshkian, who was expected to attend the summit before the attacks on his country in June, sent his foreign minister Abbas Araghchi to the meeting in Rio, which continued on Monday.
The group’s declaration criticised the attacks on Iran without mentioning the United States or Israel, the two nations that conducted them.
In his speech, Araghchi told leaders he had pushed for every member of the United Na-

tions to condemn Israel strongly. He added that Israel and the US should be accountable for rights violations. The Iranian foreign minister said the aftermath of the war “will not be limited” to one country.
“The entire region and beyond will be damaged,” Araghchi said.
BRICS leaders expressed “grave concern” for the humanitarian situation in Gaza, called for the release of all hostages, a return to the negotiating table, and reaffirmed their commitment to the two-state solution.
Later, Iran’s Araghchi said in a separate statement on messaging app Telegram that his government had expressed its reservation regarding a two-state solution in a note, saying it will not work “just as it has

not worked in the past”.
Also on Telegram, Russia’s foreign ministry, in another statement, named the US and Israel and condemned the “unprovoked military strikes” against Iran.
The group’s 31-page declaration mentions Ukraine just once, while condemning “in the strongest terms” recent Ukrainian attacks on Russia.
“We recall our national positions concerning the conflict in Ukraine as expressed in the appropriate fora, including the UN Security Council and the UN General Assembly,” the group said.
While Lula advocated on Sunday for the reform of West-led global institutions, Brazil aimed to avoid becoming the target of higher tariffs.
Brazil decided to focus on less controversial issues in the summit, such as promoting trade relations between members and global health, said Ana Garcia, a professor at the Rio de Janeiro Federal Rural University Garcia
“Brazil wants the least amount of damage possible and to avoid drawing the attention of the Trump administration to prevent any type of risk to the Brazilian economy,” said Garcia.
Trump has threatened to impose 100 per cent tariffs against the bloc, if they take any moves to undermine the dollar. Last year, at the summit hosted by Russia in Kazan, the Kremlin sought to develop alternatives to US-dominated payment systems which would allow it to dodge Western sanctions imposed after Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in February 2022.

‘We cannot leave Haiti to the mercy of gangs’ — Holness

Caribbean Community (Caricom) Chair, Prime Minister Dr Andrew Holness has made it clear that while international momentum to support Haiti has slowed, Caricom must intensify efforts to get the support needed for the neighbouring country which is grappling with a security crisis.

“We cannot be true to our principles in Caricom if we do not redouble our efforts in the international community to garner support for the mission in Haiti. We cannot leave our brothers and sisters in Haiti at the mercy of gangs,” entreated Holness.

He was addressing the opening ceremony of the 49th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community. The ceremony was held on Sunday at the Montego Convention Centre in Rose Hall, St James.

Holness noted that Jamaica was one of the first countries to give a

commitment to Haiti and, in so doing, made a call for others to provide support.

Last September, Jamaica sent 20 members of the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF) and four from the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) to assist with restoring order in Haiti. Kenya also sent a security mission. On Sunday evening, Holness said Haiti and the mobilisation of international support for the security efforts in that country will be another area of significant effort and priority for Caricom under his chairmanship, which began on July 1, 2025 and will last for six months. In making his point about the impact gangs are having on Haiti and other countries within the region, he pointed to a July 2024 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) report, entitled “Drugs, firearms, and gang networks in Jamaica, St Lucia, Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago”.

“We must dismantle the influence

of gangs in our communities, disrupt their financing and cut off access to weapons,” he said to a round of applause.

“I am on record as saying that we need to launch a war on gangs of a similar magnitude and nature to the war on terror,” added Holness. He called for the issue to be treated as a national security threat and a public health emergency. In making his point, he noted that 90 per cent of homicide perpetrators and victims are male.

Pointing to the need for regional cooperation, Holness has promised that the issue of security will be a priority during his leadership of the Caribbean Community.

In her address during the opening ceremony, outgoing Caricom chair and Prime Minister of Barbados Mia Mottley expressed disappointment at the level of international support provided to Haiti to date. She said the country’s stability had

been a major concern of Caricom over the past six months.

“The world, really, needs a check on itself when it comes to Haiti. If ever we doubted that there were first-class and second-class citizens in the eyes of the world, don’t doubt it anymore,” said Mottley, who has earned a reputation for being frank in her pronouncements on matters of regional importance.

She argued that last year more people were killed in Haiti than in any other country on earth, including those at war and the subject of military conflict. Despite this, she said, the world was unable to move beyond promises and platitudes that would bring help to the people of Haiti.

Mottley noted that Caribbean countries’ support is limited by their size and financial capacity, and while Kenya is assisting, more help is needed, especially in machinery.

Mottley renews appeal for regional leaders to make CCJ final appellate court

In a parting salvo as her time at the helm of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) ended, Prime Minister of the Republic of Barbados Mia Mottley made a fresh appeal, Sunday evening, for regional leaders to make the Caribbean Court of Justice (CCJ) their final appellate court.

She was speaking during the opening ceremony of the 49th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of Caricom, held at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St James.

“Having been the one who was the chair of the preparatory committee for the establishment of the Caribbean Court of Justice, you will forgive me if I now make yet another appeal for the citizens of this region to allow their governments to know that there ought to be a singular purpose for the Caribbean Court of Justice to be truly the last Court of Appeal for the states,” Mottley stated.

“We are aware that there are some countries that have the requirement of referendum. But this, like

everything else, ought to be the subject of public education. And if we can so do, then I believe we can finally start to move the needle generationally for us recognising that this ought to be our final court,” she added.

Her appeal came hours after newly installed CCJ president, Justice Winston Anderson, during his swearing-in ceremony at Jewel Grande Montego Bay Resort and Spa in St James, expressed hope that during his time leading the institution more Caribbean countries will engage the CCJ as their final appellate court.

Twelve Caribbean countries were part of the start-up of the CCJ, and the institution in its original jurisdiction acts as the final court for all matters arising from the interpretation and application of the Revised Treaty of Chaguaramas which governs the Caricom Single Market and Economy. However, only five countries in the region have so far made the CCJ their final appeal court: Barbados, Belize, Dominica, Guyana and Saint Lucia.



Barbados Prime Minister Mia Mottley addresses the 49th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of Caricom currently underway at the Montego Bay Convention Centre in St James.

A man with long dark hair and sunglasses, wearing a blue and white striped shirt and white pants, stands on the left. A woman with long dark hair, wearing a black long-sleeved shirt and white shorts, sits on a stone ledge on the right. They are both holding large gold trophies. The background shows a stone wall and a building with large windows.

APRIL DAZZLES AT INTERNATIONAL TENNIS TOURNEY

**April Thirumalaiyandi-grabs doubles title, third
in singles**

See Story on Page 32



West Indies coach Daren Sammy during a team talk.

Sammy warns of West Indies shake-up

Brathwaite is averaging 3.75; Carty, 14; and Campbell, 17.50.

Fast-bowler Shamar Joseph, who bats at number nine, has scored 105 runs in the series at an average of 26.25, second behind only King, who has 115 runs at an average of 28.75.

During a post-match press conference following the defeat, Sammy was asked whether he had other top-order batters who he could turn to for the final Test, which begins in Jamaica on Saturday.

"We do have a couple more options, obviously. For both sides it has been really challenging with the top order, more challenging for us because they find a way in the middle order to score runs and get that 250 plus, but we've not found that.

"Our lower order, eight, nine, 10, have been really good and we have seen glimpses of

what we can do as a team," Sammy said.

"Definitely, we will have a look at that and see the guys that are in the squad and how fair it is to move on as quickly as three Test matches."

Speaking specifically to Brathwaite, who is coming off his 100th Test match and has scored a paltry 15 runs in four innings, Sammy said a decision would be made on if he would keep his place in the team.

"All options are on the table. Obviously, Kraigg just played his 100th Test match, [but] he hasn't looked good this series, and in a team where you're searching for performances, you get very close to say, ok, do we give somebody else a chance.

"But we will really have a good discussion, myself, the selection group and the captain, about that particular situation," Sammy said.

DESCRIBING THE West Indies' batting effort as "not good enough", West Indies head coach Daren Sammy has suggested that there might be some changes to the batting line-up for the third and final Test match against Australia in Jamaica.

West Indies' batters were bundled out by the visitors yet again, this time for 143 in two and a half hours, as they went down by 133 runs in the second Test at the National

Cricket Stadium on Sunday to give Australia an unassailable 2-0 lead in the three-match series.

Across the four innings, Brandon King has been the only West Indies batsman to score a half-century, with openers Kraigg Brathwaite and John Campbell, along with number-three Keacy Carty struggling against Australia's pace attack of Mitchell Starc, Josh Hazlewood and Pat Cummins.

Pochettino blames bad calls for US Gold Cup loss

US COACH Mauricio Pochettino faulted match officials for three key calls in the Americans' 2-1 CONCACAF Gold Cup final loss to Mexico on Sunday night, saying they wouldn't allow a video review to deny an El Tri goal for the third time in the tournament. Pochettino felt his team should have been awarded a penalty kick for a hand ball by Jorge Sánchez in the 67th minute. He also said Diego Luna should not have been whistled for the foul leading to the free kick that set up Edson Álvarez's tiebreaking goal in the 77th minute, and that the original decision ruling Álvarez offside should have been upheld.

Pochettino said if similar calls went against Mexico, "it would be a fire on the stadium. But for us, it's like, OK, they are nice guys. They're nice guys. It's not a problem."

After the goal was initially disallowed by an offside flag, the decision was reversed by the VAR and Mexico went on to their 10th Gold Cup title.

Defender Chris Richards, who put the US ahead in the fourth minute, faulted the officials assigned to games by Concacaf, the governing body of North and Central America and the Caribbean. He compared Sánchez's action to those of retired NBA star Shaquille O'Neal. Richards felt defender César Montes should have been called for a foul for blocking him on the free kick

"I think the thing about Concacaf is that we're always one step behind with the referee," Richards said.

"Palmed the ball like Shaq in the box, and then on the other end we had a block that was offside. Any other week it would be



United States head coach Mauricio Pochettino (left) talks with midfielder Diego Luna as they walk off the field at half-time of the team's Concacaf Gold Cup final match against Mexico in Houston on Sunday.

called offsides. But, again, that's Concacaf for you. They hate us and we just have to keep moving with it."

Sánchez fell in his own penalty area in the 67th minute after colliding with Max Arfsten, and Sánchez pushed down on the ball with his left hand as he tried to balance himself. Guatemalan referee Mario Escobar let play continue.

"I'm not going to cry. I wanted to tell the truth," Pochettino said, "and the truth was that if that happened in the opposite half, in the other box, for sure it's a penalty."

"You say silly penalty, silly penalty," Pochettino told reporters. "It's like plenty of penalties that are so silly. Silly, yes. The player was with the knee on the floor. He pushed the hand over the ball. It's not that the hand was on the floor and the ball touched. OK, all the excuses now, but that was [a] penalty and maybe 2-1 for us and maybe we now are celebrating the trophy."

"I think that is clear and it's not about to cry. It's not about the complain. It's not about to put excuses in the different things, but I think we can continue talking," Pochettino

added.

"For me, it was embarrassing to see that situation, and it's a shame."

Mexico was awarded the key free kick when Luna was called for fouling Alexis Vega on a flank.

"He slipped and fall down alone," Pochettino said.

Johan Vásquez flicked the restart kick across the goal mouth and Álvarez burst past the defence, redirecting the ball from three yards just inside Matt Freese's far post.

"When he touched the ball, the player from Mexico delivered the ball, was in an offside position," Pochettino claimed. "That's it. Nothing more to say."

Mexico's Santiago Giménez had appeared to score on a bicycle kick in the fourth minute of second-half stoppage time in the group-stage finale against Costa Rica on June 22, but that was overturned for offside by the VAR in a match that ended 0-0.

Álvarez had a 54th-minute goal that would have given El Tri a two-goal lead in Wednesday's semi-final against Honduras, but that, too, was reversed by an offside call in a video review. Mexico advanced with a 1-0 win. "It's difficult to give the third disallowed goal," Pochettino said. "Please, guys, I come from — when (was) I born I (was) born with the ball in my hands, in my arms. And I know very well what it is to play football, and I know very well everything. Come on. Stop. I think my player doesn't deserve this. If we lose, we lose. No problem. I am the first to say, 'Hey, we need to improve.' But I am not crying, I am saying nothing against Mexico. Nothing. I respect Mexico."



West Indies female cricketer Hayley Matthews

WEST INDIES Women’s captain Hayley Matthews and her teammate Afy Fletcher have been nominated for the ICC Women’s Player of the Month award for June after impressive performances in their recently concluded series against South Africa. South African opener Tazmin Brits is also in contention for the award. Matthews starred with the bat to lead West Indies Women to a 2-1 T20I series against the Proteas last month, their first T20I series win over South Africa Women in 12 years. The result followed a 2-1 defeat in the

preceding ODI series. In the ODI series, Matthews scored 104 runs at an average of 34.66 and took four wickets. She was even more proficient in the T20I series, scoring 147 runs at an average of 73.50 and a strike rate of 120.49, while also picking up two wickets. Fletcher, a leg spinner, took the most wickets in both the T20I and ODI series. She captured nine wickets in the ODIs at an economy of 5.53 and an average of 24, while also contributing 30 runs at a strike rate of 100. Fletcher was also successful in the T20Is,

Matthews, Fletcher nominated for ICC’s Player of the Month award

claiming five wickets at an average of 16.20 and an economy of 6.75. Meanwhile, Brits dominated the ODI series, where she was named Player of the Series. Across the three-match series, she amassed 184 runs at an average of 61.33 at a strike rate of 87.61.

Brits continued her impressive form in the T20I encounters, smashing an unbeaten 98 in the first match, which earned her the Player of the Match award. She ended with a total of 132 runs in the T20I series at an average of 66 and a strike rate of 122.22.



West Indies Female Bowler Afy Fletcher

Netball Jamaica welcomes new boss

FORMER DIRECTOR of marketing and sponsorship of Netball Jamaica, Karen Rosen-Baugh, was officially ushered in as the new president of the association, following their annual general meeting (AGM) on Saturday. Simone Forbes also defeated Keyan Shawn Murdock in the run-off for the first vice-president position, to complete the executive, which also includes Second Vice-President Dwayne Gutzmer and Treasurer Elaine Walters. Six directors, Tashike Salmon, Derrick Brown, Karen Whinstanley, Karlene Waugh, Suzette Townsend and Denese Palmer, were also voted in to complete the board. Baugh thanked the public for its support, even though she was elected unopposed, and said she noted members’ concerns regarding umpiring, improving parish associations, and producing timely audits, but insists they can only achieve their objectives by working together. “They had some concerns, especially about umpiring. We have acknowledged, too, that umpiring needs some attention in terms of training and certification of new umpires, and then there is a mix between umpires and coaches. “Also, we definitely are focused on getting our financials in order. There was also quite a lot of time spent on that.

We have a new treasurer and the good thing is, we have the old treasurer on the board as a director. So that transition should be seamless. “We had some really good open discussions. We spoke a lot about the parish organisations, and most of the nominees had that as an objective to help to work towards building that out. And I believe we are in good stead,” she told The Gleaner. She said they will be moving straight away to organise the secretariat in order to ensure that local clubs and leagues get more support, and that all is in place for the national under-21 team to be fully prepared for the Youth World Cup in September. “Those are the main things we are going to start working on. We have the Youth World Cup coming up in September and right now we have the under-21 team training, and all the arrangements that need to be made for them to be organised and ready to go off in September. So there is some work that needs to be done before that comes around.” Rosen-Baugh was also pleased with the turnout of members on Saturday, and believes she has a sound team to move the sport forward “The members came out because there were a lot of interest. I think because there were so many candidates for di-

rector positions and the competition for first VP, I guess drew people out. “I am very pleased because the candidates were good, no matter the mix you got. Most of the directors would be new, and we will have a mix of people

with different skill sets. “So the final decisions by the members, I think, gave us a very good mix of people who are willing to work hand in hand for netball. So it is just to see how fast we can get going,” she said



Netball Jamaica’s President Karen Rosen Baugh.



FAION HICKS NFL CLINIC

Faion Hicks, the NFL Player with local roots, staged a one-day football camp at the TCI Playing Field in Providenciales on Tuesday, July 8, under his Faion Hicks Foundation. Hicks was joined by two other players, plus local coaches from the Sports Commission. Hicks said he was happy to conduct the clinic in the place which his roots run deep. Many youth, both boys and girls, turned out to take part in the camp. The following are photo highlights of the event.





April proudly takes a snapshot beside the Turks and Caicos Islands Flag after winning the tennis doubles title and placing third in the singles event.

TCI’S April Thirumalaiyandi Wins Mixed Doubles Title, 3rd in Singles at “Little Mo” International Tennis Tournament

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Turks and Caicos junior tennis star April Thirumalaiyandi delivered a standout performance at the 2025 “Little Mo” International Tennis Tournament, held from July 4–9 at the U.S. Air Force Academy in Colorado Springs, Colorado. April teamed up with Nolan Wu of the United States in the Mixed 12 & Under Doubles division and together they claimed the championship title. In the final, the pair took on the top-seeded team of Valentina Kukeeva and Mathias Simon, defeating them convincingly 8–4 on Court 2. Their dynamic teamwork, composure, and attacking style proved too much for the favored duo.

“This was a huge win for April,” said Coach Rey Garcia of the TCI Tennis Academy, who traveled with her to the tournament. “She rose to the occasion and played fearlessly. Winning the doubles title at an international tournament is a massive achievement.”

April’s success extended beyond the doubles court. She also earned 3rd place in the singles championship, finishing among the best in a highly competitive international field. On her path to the semifinals, April stunned the #2 and #4 seeded players from the U.S., showing both skill and tenacity. In one of the tournament’s most thrilling singles matches, April found herself down 2-5 in the second set. Undeterred, she mounted a fierce comeback to win the set 7-5, then closed out the match with a 10-7 win in the super tiebreaker.

The six-day tournament brought together top junior tennis players from around the world, making April’s performance even more impressive. Her results — Mixed Doubles Champion and Singles Bronze Medalist — signal a bright future for this rising talent and a proud moment for the Turks and Caicos Islands on the global tennis stage.

Salt Rakers Shine at 2025 SPA Seminole Sunrise Lanes Swim Meet

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club delivered an outstanding performance at the 2025 SPA Seminole Sunrise Lanes Swim Meet, which concluded today at the North Shore Pool in St. Petersburg, Florida. Over the course of three days of intense competition from July 4–6, the Salt Rakers swimmers proudly made their mark, demonstrating skill, determination, and incredible team spirit.

Outstanding Performances and Personal Bests

Among the standout achievements:

- Ezekiel Martin claimed 2nd place in the Boys 11–12 50m Butterfly (37.80) and went on to secure 4th in the Backstroke and 3rd in the Breaststroke.
- Kian Jules secured 3rd place finishes in both the 100m Butterfly and the 50m Butterfly.
- Hayley Williams competed fiercely in the Girls 13–14 50m Backstroke, showing commendable effort.
- Bryce Andrews demonstrated perseverance, dropping time in the 50m Freestyle with improved endurance.
- Peyton Andrews displayed great determination in completing the Butterfly event to establish a seed time for her next competition.
- Kymani Delancy dropped an impressive 11.90 seconds in the 50m Freestyle, exceeding his personal goal of 5 seconds. He also placed 5th in the 50m Backstroke.
- London Harvey achieved her best performance in the Freestyle, cutting 1.23 seconds from her time.
- Kailey Jules, an 8 & under swim-

mer, showed great promise by dropping 0.23 seconds in the Freestyle.

- Daniel Martin had one of his best meets, dropping 24.66 seconds in the Butterfly, while also finishing 4th in the 100m Butterfly and 5th in the 50m Breaststroke.
- Isabelle Martin, also 8 & under, dropped 27.46 seconds in her Freestyle event, a remarkable accomplishment.
- Michael Martin dropped 4.03 seconds in the 100m Freestyle, establishing himself as a swimmer to watch.
- Samuel Martin shaved 4.59 seconds off his Backstroke time, his strongest event of the meet.
- Mikayla McDonald dropped 7.24 seconds in her Backstroke, showing strong improvement.
- Lorenzi Smith dropped an incredible 13.04 seconds from his seed time—a performance that promises even more at

the upcoming Goodwill Championship.

- Peyton Stubbs dropped 4.12 seconds in the 100m Freestyle and finished 5th in the 50m Butterfly.
- Ethan Williams delivered an exceptional performance, earning 1st place in the 100m Freestyle, 3rd in the 50m Butterfly, 5th in the 50m Freestyle, and 5th in the Breaststroke.

Building Momentum for the Future

Throughout the weekend, Salt Rakers swimmers competed in both morning and afternoon sessions in a 50-meter, 10-lane long-course pool equipped with Colorado electronic timing and warm-down lanes. The SPA Seminole Sunrise Lanes Swim Meet, hosted by St. Petersburg Aquatics, draws top-age group swimmers from across Florida and provides an excellent platform for skill development and competitive experience.

Salt Rakers Aquatic Club was proudly led by Head Coach Bennett Williams and Assistant Coaches Lincoln Martin and Bradley Jules. Every swimmer gave their best effort, showing the unity, preparation, and resilience that have become the hallmarks of the club.

As Salt Rakers continues to grow, several swimmers are now setting their sights on the Goodwill Swimming Championship in Barbados from August 15–17, 2025. This will be another major milestone for the club and the Turks and Caicos Islands National Team.

A Moment of Pride

Salt Rakers Aquatic Club can be extremely proud of what they achieved at this meet. The success in St. Petersburg marks a significant step forward in the club’s journey, laying the foundation for even greater accomplishments in the future.



The Salt Rakers Aquatics Club