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RISING FAST**

**PG32**



# NEWSLINE

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**Strong December  
Tourism Performance**  
**PG4**



**ePay is  
here PG8**

# STAGGERING CRIME DROP HAILED

**NORTHERN  
CARIBBEAN  
SECURITY SUMMIT**

2026



**Governor Points to 40% Decline in Major Crime During Summit Address**

*Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam (third from left, seated) and Premier Hon. Charles Washington Misick (fourth from left, seated) are pictured with Cabinet colleagues, regional representatives, Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood (second from right, standing), and members of local and regional law enforcement. Photo: Vivian Tyson*

**>>> STORY ON PG5**



# Wymara Villas Becomes TCI’S First Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Resort

Wymara Villas, Sunset Cove has made history as the first property in Turks and Caicos to earn a Forbes Travel Guide’s Five-Star award. The recognition underscores the exceptional standard required to achieve a Five-Star distinction and marks a significant milestone for luxury tourism in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The achievement was announced today as part of the 68th Annual Star Awards.

Wymara is the only private villa resort in the Caribbean to achieve this honor and one of just 10 properties across the region to hold a Five-Star designation, reinforcing its position among the most exclusive luxury experiences in the market.

“Congratulations to Wymara Villas on achieving the first-ever Forbes Five-Star designation in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands—a landmark accomplishment reflecting world-class excellence and impeccable service,” said The Honourable Charles Washington Misick, Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

“This prestigious recognition elevates our national tourism profile and affirms that Turks and Caicos stands among the world’s finest luxury destinations. By setting a new benchmark



for quality, Wymara Villas has brought immense pride to our islands and strengthened our global reputation.”

“I am proud of Wymara Villas being the first resort in Turks and Caicos to be officially recognized by Forbes Travel Guide as Five-Star,” said Bruce Maclaren, Owner and Developer of Wymara Resort + Villas. “As the first private villa resort in the Caribbean to receive this distinction, it confirms that a villa resort can deliver service at the highest levels.”

Forbes Travel Guide’s Five-Stars are reserved for properties that deliver exceptional service and extraordinary guest experiences, evaluated through anonymous inspections against hundreds of exacting standards.

“With Wymara Villas, Sunset Cove earning a prestigious Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star hotel award, Turks and Caicos now firmly positions itself to travelers seeking the upper echelon of modern luxury,” said Amanda Frasier, President, Standards and Ratings, Forbes Travel Guide. “The Villas set a new benchmark for residential-style luxury through thoughtful design, seamless service, and experiences tailored to each guest.”

Privately situated on the ultra-exclusive sanctuary of Sunset Cove, Wymara Villas comprises 15 one- to six-bedroom oceanfront villas. Each villa blends clean-lined architecture with sweeping ocean views. Select properties feature infinity-edge pools, Wymara’s signature over-water swim decks and waterslides, creating a unique connection to the ocean.

Wymara’s award-winning culinary program is led by Executive Chef and Culinary Director Andrew Mirosh. His new Land + Sea restaurant at Sunset Cove is already a top destination restaurant, acclaimed for its spectacular oceanside setting and elevated take on surf and turf. At the Beach Club, guests enjoy exclusive access to the Caribbean’s only ocean pool, sports and leisure facilities, as well as the new 111SKIN Spa at Wymara Villas.

**Milestone Moment**

In addition to Wymara Villas’ Five-Star accolade, Wymara Resort, located a short drive away on iconic Grace Bay Beach, has once again earned Forbes Travel Guide’s Four-Star award. The 97-room resort is one of only three properties on the island to receive this distinction.

“This is an incredibly proud milestone for the entire Wymara team,” said Shelley Rincon, Chief Executive

Officer of Wymara Resort + Villas. “It reflects the passion, care, and uncompromising standards we bring to every guest experience, and it reinforces our mission to elevate and redefine luxury in Turks and Caicos.”

**Global Prestige, Independent Excellence**

Wymara Resort + Villas is now firmly recognized among the world’s most respected hospitality brands. As an esteemed member of Leading Hotels of the World, Wymara belongs to a curated collection of the world’s most distinguished independent luxury hotels.

Additionally, Forbes Travel Guide recently awarded Wymara Resort + Villas the ‘VERIFIED™ Responsible Hospitality Badge,’ recognizing Wymara’s adherence to more than 100 stringent standards designed to protect the environment and support the well-being of employees, guests, and their communities.

These acknowledgments by Forbes Travel Guide reinforce Wymara’s reputation as a premier destination where luxury and world-class hospitality converge. To learn more or book a stay, visit [wymara.com](http://wymara.com).

Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, Minister of Tourism, has hailed the new accolades that Wymara has achieved, noting that all of the Turks and Caicos Islands celebrates with the resort.

“This recognition confirms that the Turks and Caicos Islands can compete at the very highest level of global luxury tourism,” the Tourism Minister noted. “A Forbes Five-Star designation is not given lightly, and Wymara earning this distinction reflects the quality of product and level of service we are deliberately positioning the destination to deliver. It aligns squarely with our national tourism strategy, which is focused on attracting high-value investment, raising standards across the sector, and strengthening the long-term competitiveness of the destination.”

In the meantime, Shannon Knapp, President & CEO, The Leading Hotels of the World, pointing the resort has exhibited first class service that meet the expectations of the guests. She pointed out that due to the quality service and natural beauty, the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to be a hit with the discerning traveller.

“We are pleased to congratulate Wymara Resort + Villas on its Five-Star recognition in the Forbes Travel Guide 2026,” Knapp said. “This is a milestone achievement in Turks & Caicos, a destination that continues to be a favorite among LHW travelers. Distinctions like this reinforce our members’ ability to consistently deliver best-in-class quality and experiences and Wymara Resort + Villas is a great example of a property that embodies this.”

# LUMPY CONSTRUCTION

SOUTH DOCK ROAD, PROVIDENCIALES HAS AN OPENING FOR A

# CARPENTER

**RESPONSIBILITIES OF THIS POSITION INCLUDE**  
REPAIRS OF BUILDING FRAMEWORKS AND STRUCTURES SUCH AS STAIRWAYS, DOORFRAMES, PARTITIONS, AND VARIOUS WOODEN FURNITURE. ASSISTS WITH GENERAL MAINTENANCE

**ENQUIRIES EXPERIENCE:** MINIMUM 2 YEARS’ EXPERIENCE AS A CARPENTER WITH THE ABILITY TO COMMUNICATE EFFECTIVELY. **SALARY: \$8.00 - \$10.00 PER HOUR. MONDAY - FRIDAY**

**Please apply no later than Friday, February 13, 2026, to 649-241-2478.**





**DATE OPEN:** February 9, 2026

**POSITION:** Housekeeper

**START DATE:** ASAP

**PROPERTY:** West Bay Club

**Job Overview:** We are looking for a professional Housekeeper able of attending to our facilities with integrity and attention to detail. The goal is to create a clean and orderly environment for our guests that will become a critical factor in maintaining and strengthening our reputation.

- Responsibilities:**
- Perform a variety of cleaning activities such as sweeping, mopping, dusting and polishing
  - Ensure all rooms are cared for and inspected according to standards
  - Protect equipment and make sure there are no inadequacies
  - Notify superiors on any damages, deficits and disturbances
  - Deal with reasonable complaints/requests with professionalism and patience
  - Check stocking levels of all consumables and replace when appropriate
  - Adhere strictly to rules regarding health and safety and be aware of any company-related practices

**This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2.**  
**Qualified Belongers need only to apply**  
**Salary Range: \$8.00 per hour**

**DATE OPEN:** February 9, 2026

**POSITION:** Labourer

**START DATE:** ASAP

**PROPERTY:** West Bay Club

**Job Overview:** We are looking for a professional labourer to perform a variety of physical tasks to support daily operations and maintain work areas. The goal is to create a clean and orderly environment for our guests that will become a critical factor in maintaining and strengthening our reputation.

- Main Duties:**
- Assist maintenance and housekeeping teams as needed
  - Clean and maintain public and back-of-house areas
  - Move furniture, equipment, and supplies
  - Support basic maintenance tasks
  - Dispose of waste and recyclables properly
  - Follow safety and hotel standards at all time

**This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2.**  
**Salary Range: \$8.00 per hour**

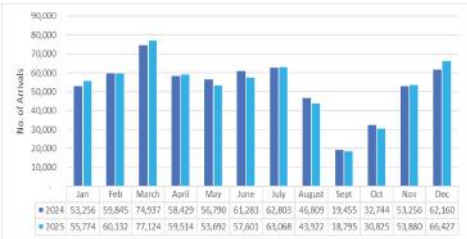




PENNICOOK... We have spent the last two years investing in groundwork such as crucial travel advisor training to assist them in selling the destination more effectively.

The Turks and Caicos Islands saw an increase in stayover arrivals in December, seven percent higher than the corresponding period in 2024. Preliminary data suggests that stay over arrivals by air for the month of December was 66,427 in comparison to 62,610 in December 2024. From January to December 2025, preliminary visitor arrival numbers totalled 640,754; on par with the number recorded for the same period of 2024. The first quarter of the calendar year attracted the largest number of arrivals with visitor arrivals three percent higher than the first quarter of 2024. Reduced airlift from the United Kingdom and the United States, most notably the Virgin Atlantic and JetBlue services, was however felt from the second quarter (April to June). As a result, visitor arrivals dropped three percent in the second quarter.

Stay Over Arrivals YTD December 2024/2025



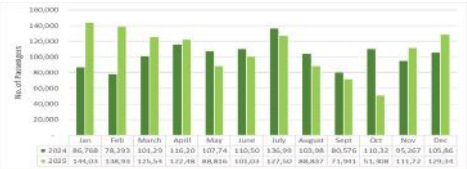
By the third quarter of this year (July to September), geopolitical and economic conditions in the key source markets, namely the United States, led to further contraction of arrivals. In the last quarter of 2025, arrivals were impacted in October due to the passage of Hurricane Melissa but additional airlift from the USA and Canada resulted in an increase in arrivals in November and December. Mr. Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant of Experience Turks and Caicos, said December’s increase in stayover arrivals is an encouraging indicator of the sustained interest in the Turks

Strong December Performance Signals Continued Demand for the Turks and Caicos Islands

Almost two million visitors recorded in 2025

and Caicos Islands as a premier destination. “While we note and continue to monitor geopolitical shifts that affect us, Experience Turks and Caicos is focused on increasing marketing initiatives in our primary source markets. We have spent the last two years investing in groundwork such as crucial travel advisor training to assist them in selling the destination more effectively. In the next fiscal, we will be building on those initiatives with co-op activities with partners as well as out of home advertising to increase visitation to our destination,” he said. In Cruise, the preliminary count of passenger arrivals for the month of December 2025 was 129,346, a 22 percent increase over last December. This growth follows the berthing of 11 additional ships in Grand Turk this month. From January to December, the cruise sector continued to outperform the same period last year, as the 1.3 million total cruise passengers recorded, marks a five per-

cent Year-on-Year increase.



The cruise sector experienced significant growth in the first quarter of 2025, with passenger arrivals surpassing last quarter by 53 percent. In the second and third quarter however, several cruise lines adjusted their itineraries as vessels were pulled from the fleet or from the Caribbean region, which resulted in fewer passengers. Arrivals dropped seven percent and 10 percent in the second and third quarters, respectively. Double digit growth was recorded in the last two months of Quarter 4. This growth however, was not sufficient to outweigh the drop in arrivals experienced in October, following the cancellation of cruise calls due to the passage of Hurricane Melissa. Despite the late-quarter rebound, arrivals for the final quarter of 2025 closed six percent below the same period in 2024.



# STAGGERING CRIME DROP HAILED

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam has hailed the significant success in the fight against crime in the Turks and Caicos Islands, revealing that major crimes fell by an extraordinary 40 percent in 2025.

The governor's announcement came during her address at the opening of the 4th Northern Caribbean Security Summit at the Shore Club Resort on Thursday.

In 2025, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, under the supervision of Fitz Bailey, took out several top criminals, who were out to create havoc and instability in the country. Among the criminals who were neutralized was feared Andral Percival, who was said to have been responsible or approximately a dozen murders, including the double killing of a pair of twin brothers in Kew Town.

Percival was also said to have rendered dozens of persons in the Blue Hills area homeless, after setting fire that spread rapidly, in what the authorities described as a diversionary tactic as the police closed in on him.

The governor pointed out that the TCI is not immune to transnational organised crime groups, who she said have been exploiting irregular maritime routes to traffic firearms, narcotics and human beings throughout the Northern Caribbean.

"Here in the Turks and Caicos Islands, we have made significant progress over the past year in confronting this activity and the criminality it fuels," the Governor said. "Major crimes declined by an extraordinary 40% in 2025."

She attributed the decline to strengthened national coordination and investment across the country's security architecture, thanking the Premier, members of the National Security Council and Cabinet for their unified approach.

"This outcome reflects substantial investment across our security architecture," she said, highlighting enhancements in intelligence, investigations and tactical capability within the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, expanded training and technology within the TCI Border Force, and improved maritime and civil con-



Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands Hon. Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, and Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands Hon. Washington Misick marches into the Northern Caribbean Crime Summit at the Shore Club Resort in Providenciales.

Photo: Vivian Tyson

tingency readiness by the TCI Regiment.

## Regional Threats and Haiti Instability

Governor Daniel Selvaratnam also pointed to widening regional security threats, particularly instability in Haiti.

"Instability in Haiti remains a persistent region-wide risk," she warned. "Escalating gang violence continues to drive large-scale irregular migration and associated criminality, as malicious actors prey on vulnerable individuals in desperate circumstances."

She noted that the dissolution of Haiti's Transitional Presidential Council has introduced a new level of uncertainty, placing pressure on Prime Minister Alix Didier Fils-Aimé to deliver both a UN-mandated gang suppression force and

credible elections.

"While we hope for success, prudence demands that we continue to prepare for the worst-case scenarios," she added.

## Joint Operations and Migrant Interdictions

The governor revealed that throughout 2025, joint security efforts led to the interdiction of more than 1,800 irregular migrants within TCI's maritime domain. Intelligence-led operations on land targeted organised immigration networks and gang activity, resulting in hundreds of apprehensions and the disruption of criminal infrastructure.

The Governor emphasized that enforcement operations also focused on informal settlements, dismantling operational footholds used by criminal groups.

"These actions collectively strike at the full ecosystem that enables irregular migration and associated organised crime, driving meaningful and measurable security outcomes," she stated.

She underscored that the next phase would focus on ensuring operational successes translate into sustained justice outcomes through stronger investigations, prosecution and sentencing.

## Regional Cooperation Praised

Governor Daniel Selvaratnam commended regional and international partners for their support, citing tactical surge assistance from the Barbados Police Service and the Jamaica Constabulary Force, maritime air surveillance support from US Customs and Border Protection, collaboration with the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, and embedded liaison officers from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

She also heaped praise on Police Commissioner Fitz-Bailey and local law enforcement officers.

"Their resolve, professionalism and unwavering willingness to step forward in moments of great risk are the driving force behind our progress," she said. "They embody the very best of public service."

## OPBAT Summit Focus

Welcoming delegates to the OPBAT Summit, the Governor reaffirmed the Turks and Caicos Islands' commitment to regional security collaboration. She noted that this year's summit theme, "Dismantling Illicit Maritime Activities through Enhanced Cooperation," reflects the evolving threat. "The criminal networks we face are agile, multi-commodity and unconstrained by jurisdiction. Our operational responses must be equally adaptable," she said. She added; "Our success will be judged not by our discussions, but by the outcomes we deliver – stronger borders, more resilient institutions and, above all, safer communities for the people we serve."

"As hosts, the Turks and Caicos Islands reaffirm our unequivocal commitment to this partnership... Let's seize this opportunity to send a unified message that the Northern Caribbean's organised crime and hostile actors will find no safe harbour."



# TCI – Towards a More Vibrant Fishing Industry!

*An Op-Ed by Paladin*

Invest Turks and Caicos has launched a new Fisheries Pilot Programme to help local fisher-folk transition from survival-based practices to sustainable, profit-generating businesses. Eighteen participants across the islands are receiving up to \$50,000 each in funding, along with technical training and business coaching to improve record keeping, financial management, and operations. The pilot is backed by \$1 million in Cabinet-approved funding and aims to strengthen food security while growing the sector responsibly.

The programme kicked off in South Caicos and continues across the islands through early 2026. Grand Turk Fishermen were entreated to join in and revamp the industry there.

A former Premier of the Turks and Caicos Islands had commissioned a study for Deep Drop Fishing of RED SNAPPER off of South Caicos. The Report came back with some interesting findings. That with a proper Industry established and Managed, TCI could be DEBT FREE in 18 months to 2 Years. How, by creating a Seasonal Fishing Strategy using boats similar to the ones in New England or smaller?

For years now I have been told that South Caicos is the Fishing Capital of these Islands, yet when I go there all of the SMALL BOATS (SKIFS) are usually tied up at the dock or anchored close by?

Readers as YOU well know nothing, I propose is an absolute recommendation. However, some of the information can be used to “start the conversation” of creating a PROPER FISHING INDUSTRY in South Caicos. One which would break the shackles of reliance on Providenciales an allow this island to be developed by the people that LIVE there.

With that being said I present a Five-Year Plan that could begin this journey for South Caicos to Financial Independence, allowing everyone there to be employed on island and in fact become rather wealthy, because after FIVE YEARS they own the boats and have the Training and Certificates to run the entire operation.

**Five-Year Plan for a Seasonal Red Snapper Fishery, South Caicos**

The proposed fleet would consist of five 40 ft New England Trawlers with a total purchase price of \$700,000, structured with 50% down and the remaining 50% paid over five years. The market strategy would allocate 70% of the catch for export at \$12 per pound and 30% for the local market at \$7.50 per pound.

The capital structure for vessel purchase includes a total cost of \$700,000, with a cash down payment of \$350,000 and a financed balance of \$350,000 to be repaid over five years. Repayment would come from a percentage of net revenue from all five boats. This structure is intentionally conservative and ensures the fleet can operate comfortably even in low catch seasons.

The vessels would be 40 ft New England trawlers equipped with twin Cummins diesel engines, deep drop electronics, hydraulic haulers, insulated fish boxes, and standard safety gear. Deep drop gear would include electric reels, bandit rigs, circle hooks, 2–3 lb weights, bait supply, and ice storage. The cost per vessel for equipment is estimated at \$15,000 to \$25,000, totaling between \$75,000 and \$125,000 for five vessels.

Each vessel would carry one Captain and one to two Deckhands, creating a total workforce of 15 to 20 Turks Islanders. A structured training pipeline would ensure 100% local captains and crews by Year 5. Training would focus on deep drop technique, navigation and seamanship, engine maintenance, HACCP fish handling, safety at sea, business operations, and cooperative governance. This is a capacity building fishery designed to transfer ownership and skills.

Fishing would take place on deep drop grounds less than one mile off South Caicos at depths of 200 to 300 ft, targeting Red Snapper (*Lutjanus spp.*). Typical deep drop yields for a 40 ft vessel are estimated at 150 to 300 lbs per trip, with three to five trips per week during a 12 week seasonal window. A conservative output per vessel would be calculated at 200 lbs multiplied by four trips per week multiplied by 12 weeks, equaling

9,600 lbs per season. For the five vessel fleet, this equals 48,000 lbs per season.

Under the dual market revenue model, 70% would be exported at \$12 per pound and 30% sold locally at \$7.50 per pound. Seasonal revenue at 48,000 lbs multiplied by 10.65 equals \$511,200 per season. Under a higher yield scenario, if vessels average 300 lbs per trip, total production would reach 72,000 lbs and revenue would equal 72,000 times 10.65, or \$766,800.

Seasonal operating costs per vessel would include fuel estimated at \$6,000 to \$12,000, crew wages at \$20,000 to \$40,000, ice at \$3,000 to \$6,000, bait at \$2,000 to \$5,000, maintenance at \$5,000 to \$10,000, and insurance at \$3,000 to \$6,000. Total operating cost per vessel would range from \$40,000 to \$75,000, bringing the total for five vessels to between \$200,000 and \$375,000.

Under a conservative scenario, revenue of \$511,200 minus operating costs of \$300,000 at mid range would produce a net of \$211,200. An annual loan repayment example at 25% of net would be \$52,800, totaling \$264,000 over five years. Even in the slowest scenario, repayment is comfortable.

Under an expected scenario, revenue of \$580,000 minus operating costs of \$275,000 would produce a net of \$305,000. Annual repayment at 25% would equal \$76,250, totaling \$381,250 over five years.

Under an aggressive scenario, revenue of \$766,800 minus operating costs of \$250,000 would produce a net of \$516,800. Annual repayment at 25% would equal \$129,200, totaling \$646,000 over five years. The five year payoff is easily achieved under expected conditions and dramatically exceeded under strong catch seasons.

Under the ownership transfer model, during Year 0 to 1 mixed crews would operate while local deckhands begin structured training, with 20 to 25% of net revenue allocated to loan repayment. During Years 2 to 3 Turks Islanders would be promoted to co captains, revenue share would increase for local crew, and the loan balance

would be reduced significantly. By Year 4, the majority of captains and engineers would be Turks Islanders and cooperative governance training would intensify. By Year 5, boats would be fully paid off and ownership transferred to a Turks Islander cooperative or individual captains, with investors retaining an optional minority stake in processing and export operations. This creates a locally owned, locally operated, sustainable fishery.

Shore side infrastructure needed would include an ice plant capable of producing 5 to 10 tons per day, cold storage in the form of a 20 to 40 ft reefer container, a dockside unloading area, basic processing for gutting and scaling, fuel supply, a maintenance workshop, and export logistics through air freight or reefer consolidation.

You know what is coming readers, the suggestion that ALL of the monies spent by the TCIG does not have to come from the Government. There are THREE MODELS that I suggest, that can be used; one I prefer that will help empower any Turks Islander that is willing to take a chance.

That Model is fairly straight forward. TCIG can Partner with some Group that knows fishing and also “offer” SHARES locally, in this New Fishing Industry Venture. Ownership in the development of Industry in the country being very important and preferred to just being employed once the Industry has already been created and Managed by non Islanders.

Empowerment and not Employment + Nation Building



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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You can email us at  
[contact@newslinepci.com](mailto:contact@newslinepci.com) or  
[viviantyson@newslinepci.com](mailto:viviantyson@newslinepci.com)

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department





**DATE OPEN:** February 9, 2026  
**POSITION:** Chef De Partie

**START DATE:** ASAP  
**PROPERTY:** West Bay Club

**Job Overview:** The Chef de partie reports to the executive and Sous chefs and will quickly amass an in-depth familiarity with the kitchen's operations so that they may fill in for the sous chefs when needed and assist them in resolving any problems that may arise on the job. A chef de partie must possess the ability to quickly and authoritatively delegate job tasks to a large staff. They must also be able to draw upon their considerable experience as a culinary chef who has worked in many different roles and settings in order to effectively coach and mentor junior chefs.

**Main Duties & Responsibilities:**

- Responsible for the day to day running of any given section.
- Ensure consistency of food quality and presentation.
- Attend briefing for special functions if required to do so.
- Maintaining the cleanliness of all fridge and freezer, stock control
- Assisting with the ordering on a daily basis, whilst keeping in mind stock usage,
- Menu planning and business levels.
- Training of line Cooks on section, delegation of tasks to line cooks.
- Constantly advising Chef on needs and ordering requirements.
- Communicate with other cooks and help each other keep motivated and focused.
- Follow basic HACCP and "first in first out" rule.
- Take ownership of organizing walk-in cooler and freezer on a daily basis.
- Take part in any training required.
- Able to take control of any given tasks and maintain a high team spirit.
- Keep recipe folders in good order and up to date if and when necessary.
- Help to prevent waste of food of any kind and over-production to mis-en-place.

**Skills and Qualifications**

- Excellent verbal and written communication skills
- Organizational skills
- In-depth knowledge of the standards of cooking, grilling techniques and making sauce
- Ability to work under pressure and in a fast-paced environment
- Ability to quickly learn new recipes and new cooking procedures
- Time management skills
- Ability to work efficiently and cooperatively in a team environment
- Ability to solve problems quickly

**Qualified Belongers need only apply**  
**Salary Range:** \$9.00 per hour

Interested persons can contact our Human Resources Department no later than February 27, 2026.  
 @ (649) 946-8550 Ext. 7500

Email: [humanresources@thewestbayclub.com](mailto:humanresources@thewestbayclub.com)  
 Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies

# Stranger Danger Awareness School Visits

Officers from the North Caicos Police Station, on Thursday, February 12, conducted a series of Stranger Danger Safety Awareness presentations across North Caicos and Middle Caicos, reaching students at Doris Robinson Primary School, Adelaide Oemler Primary School, and Lighthouse Christian Academy.

The sessions were delivered to students from Kindergarten one through Grade Six and were led by acting Sgt. Crystal Stubbs, with support from Insp. Winston Diamond and Constable Travis Robinson.

The presentations focused on educating students about personal safety, recognizing potentially dangerous situations, and understanding how to respond appropriately when approached by strangers. Age-appropriate discussions and practical guidance were used to empower stu-



dents with the knowledge and confidence needed to make safe choices. At the conclusion of each session, all students received a Stranger Danger Safety Card, designed to travel conveniently with them. These cards serve as a quick-reference guide, reinforcing the key safety messages shared

during the presentations. The RT&CIPF remains dedicated to working alongside educators, parents, and community partners to ensure our young people are informed, protected, and supported. Parents and guardians are also reminded to have ongoing conversa-



tions with their children about the dangers of interacting with strangers and the importance of reporting anything that makes them feel unsafe.





Minister of Innovation, Technology and Energy Hon. E. Jay Saunders presents a member of the public with a small token, during the launch of the e-Pay System, Downtown Providenciales, on Friday, 13 February 2026.



Members of the public visiting the Ministry of Innovation, Technology and Energy's launch of its e-Pay System Downtown Providenciales.

# e-Pay Technology is Here

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Ministry of Innovation, Technology and Energy has officially unveiled its long-anticipated e-Pay System at the Turks and Caicos Islands Treasury, a digital platform that allows members of the public to pay government fees online without physically visiting the Treasury.

The system, launched on Friday, 13 February 2026, at the Treasury in Providenciales, enables residents to settle receipts immediately through an electronic payment portal, cutting out the need to stand in line.

The nationwide rollout means that once a government receipt is issued, whether at the DMV or another department, payments can be made on the spot using the new digital platform. Residents will no longer need to leave one office to travel to the Treasury to complete transactions. The system forms part of the Government's broader push to digitize services and modernize public access.

Minister of Innovation, Technology and Energy, Hon. E. Jay Saunders, described the launch as a transformative moment for the Turks and Caicos Islands. Speaking with journalists, a visibly pleased Saunders said the system would "make a big difference" by eliminating long Treasury lines. He noted that even contacts overseas had congratulated him after seeing news of the launch.

lated him after seeing news of the launch.

"They said when it launched in their country, it was a huge game changer for them," he explained. "I'm expecting it's going to be the same thing in Turks and Caicos. It's going to be a game changer for us," he said, adding that people would quickly realize there is no longer any need to visit the Treasury unless collecting a cheque.

Saunders emphasized that beyond convenience, the initiative represents a significant step in the Government's wider digital transformation agenda.

"We're digitizing Government. We're making Government more accessible to the people," he said. "In 2026, the idea of spending half an hour in a Treasury line is outrageous, let alone half a day. There's no need to be standing in line."

The Minister stressed that the launch is nationwide and will particularly benefit residents in the Family Islands such as Salt Cay, South Caicos, Middle Caicos and North Caicos, as well as Grand Turk. While Treasury services exist in some of those islands, residents often still encounter delays or limited hours.

"Now there's no need to come to Providenciales to go to the Treasury," Saunders explained. "If your driver's licence renewal falls on a weekend or holiday, you don't have to wait until the Treasury opens. You can pay right there."

Addressing concerns about accessibility for senior citizens or persons less familiar with technology, Saunders said the traditional Treasury service will remain in place. Cashiers will still be available, and residents can seek assistance at their local District Commissioner's Office. He also revealed that payment kiosks will soon be rolled out to provide additional support.

"You'd be surprised, many seniors are already using Facebook and WhatsApp," he said. "But even for those who aren't comfortable with technology yet, the Treasury isn't going away. Over time, as more people become accustomed to using digital services from a young age, it will become second nature." During beta testing, the Treasury processed more than \$300,000 through the platform. Saunders expects that figure to rise dramatically following the official launch.

"Over time, it's going to be in the hundreds of thousands, millions of dollars," he said. "As people start utilizing it, they're going to run all their government services through it."

He revealed that the Ministry is already working with developers to integrate the payment system directly into government service applications. In the near future, residents renewing a driver's licence or vehicle licence will be able to complete the entire process, including payment, within a single application, eliminating the need to gen-

erate and manually pay a separate receipt.

"When that happens, most of the Government's revenue will start to come through the payment platform," he said. "We'll be generating millions and tens of millions of dollars."

Reflecting on the significance of the launch, Saunders described the day as a milestone for his ministry.

"For me, it's a tick in the box," he said. "This is a big deal because people will feel the effect of it immediately. But there's a lot of cool technology coming down the road."

Among future initiatives, Saunders outlined plans for enhanced digital land and survey services, including up-to-date satellite imagery with 3D capabilities, allowing prospective property owners to view boundaries and visualize building designs. He also spoke of expanding access to police records at ports of entry and implementing a national ID system that will integrate with government services.

"This is the first step," he said. "We're not just going to play catch-up. We're going to lead."

Saunders added that before the end of the current government term, residents will see a wave of technological advancements, including artificial intelligence integration across public services.

"For the man on the street, the most important thing is that it will allow them to live their best lives," he said.



# Shore Club and COMO Parrot Cay Crowned 2026 Champions at 16th Annual Chocolate Lovers Showcase

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The 16th Annual Chocolate Lovers Showcase delivered another unforgettable evening of culinary creativity, elegance, and generosity, with The Shore Club and COMO Parrot Cay emerging as the 2026 champions of one of Providenciales' most anticipated annual events.

Held on the first Saturday in February on the grounds of the Palms Resort, the Chocolate Lovers Showcase remains a signature highlight on the Turks and Caicos Islands' social calendar. Each year, the event brings together residents, visitors, chefs, sponsors, and volunteers for a night that blends indulgence with impact, all in support of youth development across the country.

This year's showcase featured an impressive array of savory and sweet chocolate creations, expertly prepared by some of the island's most talented culinary teams. Guests were treated to imaginative dishes that demonstrated chocolate's remarkable versatility, from rich, cocoa-infused savory offerings to decadent desserts designed to delight the senses.

The atmosphere was lively yet refined, with guests enjoying tastings while engaging in friendly competition through silent and live auctions. The evening reflected not only culinary excellence but also a shared spirit of community and compassion.

As voted by attending guests, top honors were awarded in two major categories.

In the category of Best Savory Chocolate Creation, The Shore Club came away winners, with COMO Parrot Cay claiming the second spot, a recognition for their outstanding and innovative savory presentations.

For Best Sweet Chocolate Creation, COMO Parrot Cay secured the top spot. Pelican Bay Restaurant, whose dessert offerings captivated guests, earned second spot.

The Salvation Army Advisory Committee, led by businessman



COMO Parrot Cay culinary team celebrate their win at the Chocolate Lovers Showcase



The Shore Club Culinary team collects their trophy at the Chocolate Lover Showcase at the Palms Resort

Todd Foss, expressed sincere appreciation to the event's main sponsors, Royal Jewels, The Regent Palms, and Grace Bay Car Rentals, whose generous support played a pivotal role in the success of the 2026 showcase. Gratitude was also extended to

the additional sponsors, donors, participating chefs, volunteers, and guests whose contributions made the evening truly special. The organisers also thanked the collective generosity, noting also that 100 percent of the funds raised will be donated directly to

The Salvation Army TCI and the Brighter Futures Centre. These organizations continue to play a vital role in supporting the development, empowerment, and well-being of young people throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.



# Destination Turks & Caicos 2026 Launches, Celebrating the “Latitude of Luxury”

The Turks and Caicos Islands’ signature destination publication, Destination Turks & Caicos Magazine, is now in circulation with the launch of its 2026 edition.

Available in guest rooms, villas, resorts, key tourism touchpoints throughout the islands, and select private FBOs across the United States, the magazine introduces this year’s theme, “The Latitude of Luxury.”

The theme is both literal and symbolic. Positioned on the map as one of the world’s most sought-after destinations, Turks and Caicos Islands sits firmly within a latitude synonymous with luxury. The Latitude of Luxury affirms what the destination has always embodied – that luxury here is not aspirational, but inherent, shaped by geography, culture, and a clear sense of identity.

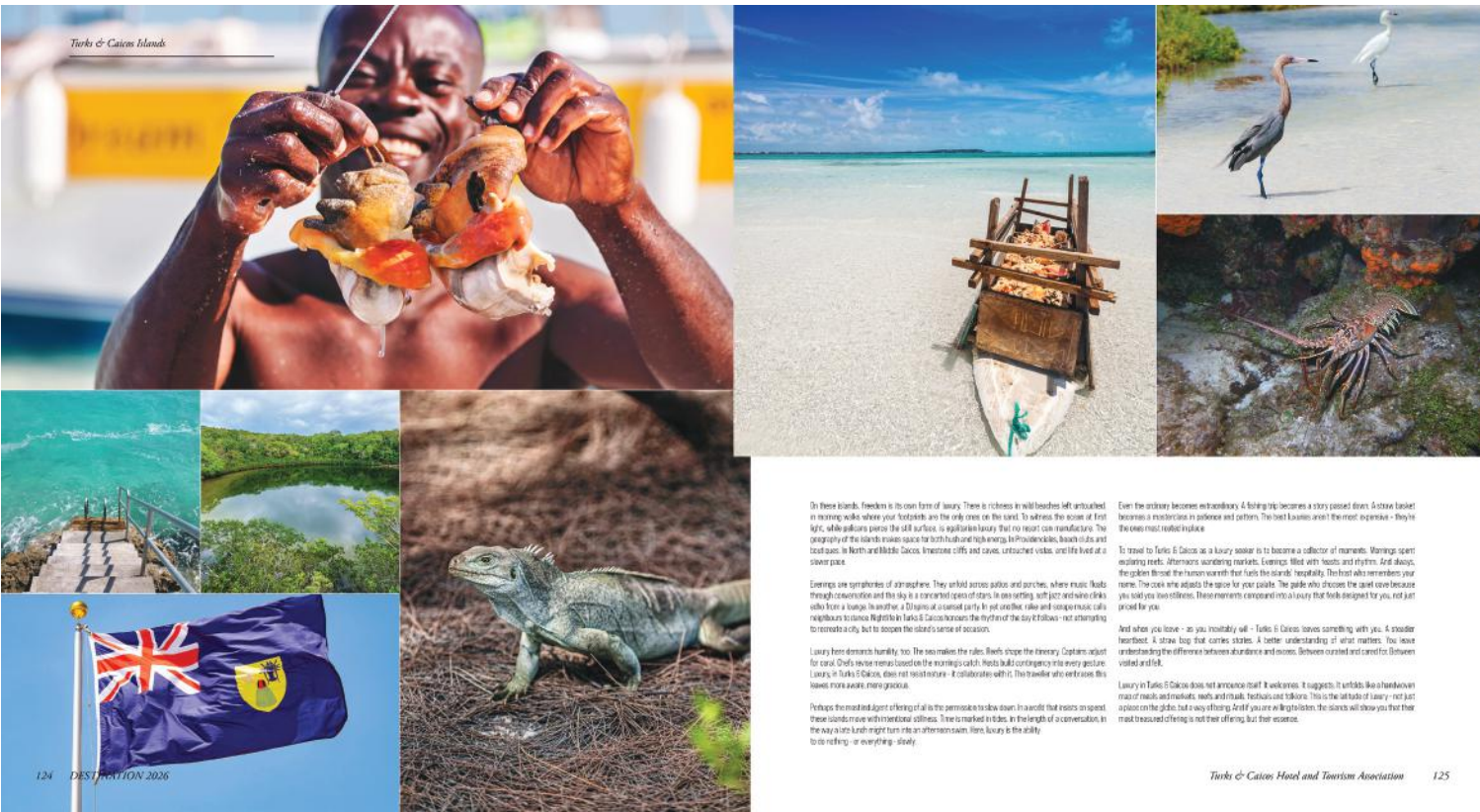
More than a travel guide, Destination Turks & Caicos is an oversized luxury publication, editorial in both form and intent. Produced as a Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) member publication, the magazine is designed to be read, revisited, and retained, presenting the destination through elevated storytelling and imagery that reflect luxury rooted in authenticity and connection - not show or scale.

The 2026 cover offers a powerful visual expression of the theme. Shot at golden hour on Salt Cay - often described as “the island time forgot” – the image features local model Clay Ewing and was creatively produced by Spotlight Communications, led by photographer Andre Kerr.

The cover reflects the essence of The Latitude of Luxury; elegance without noise, romance without performance, and a place defined by history, stillness, and time. Inside the magazine, each section unfolds as part of a cohesive narrative spanning culture and identity, dining, wellness, weddings, activities, shopping, and business. Feature articles anchor each section through a unifying lens, with all editorial content penned by local writers, grounding the magazine in an authentic cultural perspective.

“The Latitude of Luxury is about giving language to what already exists here,” said S. Omega Simmons, Head Writer and Co-Editor of Destination Turks & Caicos. “This edition reinforces that true luxury in Turks and Caicos is lived through our people, our pace, and our places.

For the sixth consecutive year, we are proud to feature stories written by local writers. We firmly believe these narratives are best told by those whose lived experience and cultural



understanding bring depth, nuance, and authenticity to the destination.”

Alongside the magazine’s flagship oversized publication, a compact companion edition is designed for ease of use while exploring the islands, ensuring guests have answers in hand when deciding where to eat, what to do, and how to explore.

Beyond its on-island presence, Destination Turks & Caicos 2026 extends its reach through inflight placement aboard a local carrier, private aviation environments within the United States, and key destination marketing engagements.

A digital edition available for down-

load further expands global access and visibility for advertisers and partners.

“Destination Turks & Caicos plays a critical role in how we market the destination,” said Karen Whitt, Marketing Chair of the Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association.

“The magazine reflects the strength of our tourism product and supports strategic marketing by showcasing our members and the incredible experiences that define Turks and Caicos.”

The 2026 edition was shaped through ongoing collaboration between the magazine’s editorial and creative teams. Editorial leadership is provid-

ed by Co-Editors S. Omega Simmons and Nicholette Thomas, with creative direction and design by Erin Patrick of Erin Patrick Designs.

Photography is captured entirely within the Turks and Caicos Islands by destination-based photographers who are members of the Turks & Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association.

The publication is developed under the leadership of Stacy Cox, CEO of the TCHTA, as part of the Association’s ongoing destination marketing and member visibility efforts. The digital edition of Destination Turks & Caicos 2026 is available at [www.turksandcaicoshta.com](http://www.turksandcaicoshta.com).





**DATE OPEN: February 9, 2026**  
**POSITION: Houseman**

**START DATE: ASAP**  
**PROPERTY: West Bay Club**

**Job Overview:** We are looking for a professional Houseman able of attending to our facilities with integrity and attention to detail. The goal is to create a clean and orderly environment for our guests that will become a critical factor in maintaining and strengthening our reputation.

- Main duties:**
- Perform a variety of cleaning activities such as sweeping, mopping, dusting and polishing
  - Ensure the common areas are cared for and inspected according to standards
  - Protect equipment and make sure there are no inadequacies
  - Notify superiors on any damages, deficits and disturbances
  - Deal with reasonable complaints/requests with professionalism and patience
  - Check stocking levels of all consumables and replace when appropriate
  - Adhere strictly to rules regarding health and safety and be aware of any company-related practices

**This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2.**  
**Qualified Belongers need only to apply**  
**Salary Range: \$8.00 per hour**

**DATE OPEN: February 9, 2026**  
**POSITION: Accounting Clerk**

**START DATE: ASAP**  
**PROPERTY: West Bay Club**

**Job Overview:** The Accounting Clerk is responsible for supporting the Finance Department through accurate and timely processing of financial transactions, with a primary focus on Accounts Payable and Inventory Accounting within a hospitality environment. This role plays a critical part in maintaining financial integrity, cost control, and operational efficiency across all departments. The ideal candidate will have hands-on experience in hospitality accounting, strong attention to detail, and a solid understanding of vendor management, inventory controls, and financial documentation.

- Main duties:**
- Process vendor invoices promptly and accurately in accordance with company policies and approval procedures
  - Monitor, record, and reconcile inventory transactions for food & beverage, housekeeping, maintenance, and operating supplies
  - Assist with daily revenue postings and verification across all outlets (rooms, F&B, events, spa, and ancillary services)
  - Assist with month-end close activities, including journal entries and account reconciliations
  - Maintain well-organized financial documentation for internal and external audits
  - Maintain accurate and organized accounts payable records for audit and reporting purposes

- Requirements:**
- Diploma or Associate Degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field (Bachelor’s degree preferred)
  - Minimum of 1–3 years of accounting experience
  - Prior experience in a hotel, resort, restaurant, or hospitality environment is strongly preferred
  - Ability to manage multiple priorities and meet tight deadlines.
  - Strong working knowledge of Accounts Payable processes and inventory control systems
  - High level of integrity and confidentiality when handling financial information.

**Qualified Belongers need only apply**  
**Salary Range: \$10.00 - \$13.00 per hour**

Interested persons can contact our Human Resources Department no later than February 27, 2026.  
@ (649) 946-8550 Ext. 7500  
Email: [humanresources@thewestbayclub.com](mailto:humanresources@thewestbayclub.com)  
Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies



Oh, I GET IT!  
HA HA HA HA!

WHAT DO YOU GET, CHUCKIE?

THAT JOKE WE HEARD ON THE TV! IT WAS FUNNY!

THAT WAS YESTERDAY.

YOU'RE JUST GETTIN' IT NOW?

-GIARRANO ROBERTS- BUTTERBEG

SO? I'M PROBABLY JUST OLDER AND WISER.

THAT MUST BE IT.

SCRAM! LEAVE ME HOUSE FER GOOD!!

VERY WELL, SIR... I SHALL GO!

NOW!

AN' GIT A JOB, YA MOOCHER!

TSK! TSK! WHAT A NASTY SUGGESTION!

DAD, CAN I GET A WEEKLY ALLOWANCE?

SURE, BUT YOU'LL HAVE TO EARN IT!

WHAT CAN I DO RIGHT NOW?

MY HAND IS TOO BIG FOR THIS COOKIE JAR!

SAY NO MORE!

ISN'T THIS A BEAUTIFUL VALENTINE? IT SAYS, "I LOVE YOU...I LOVE YOU"

I THINK I'LL GIVE IT TO THE LITTLE RED-HAIRED GIRL

SHE'LL PROBABLY LAUGH RIGHT IN YOUR FACE

AT LEAST I'D BE NEAR HER!

GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS

WELCOME TO GARFIELD'S BOOK CLUB

WHAT IS TODAY'S BOOK?

WHO CARES!

WHAT MATTERS IS THAT IT'S HOLLOWED OUT...

AND THERE'S A DONUT INSIDE

NOW THAT'S SOME GOOD READIN' THERE!

NEWSLINE<sup>TM</sup> COMICS

I SHOULD BE GIVEN AN AWARD FOR KEEPING MY MOUTH SHUT WHEN THERE IS SO MUCH TO BE SAID.

Eric Scott

And Jesus walked on water and said unto himself, "The toilet overfloweth."

WHAT'S YOUR JAM?

Hard Rock

Waymo® P1.5 3 P1.0.0 2-11-26

Old-School Rap

Neo-Soul

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GAH!

THUMP

GAH!

THUMP

OF COURSE YOU CAN'T MIMIC ANY OF MY POSITIVE TRAITS!

OF COURSE I CAN'T MIMIC ANY OF YOUR POSITIVE TRAITS!



NEWSLINE  
Heritage

# JUNKANOO

Junkanoo is one of the most enduring cultural traditions in the Turks and Caicos Islands, rooted in African heritage and shaped by the territory's history of enslavement, migration, and community life. While the festival is most widely associated with The Bahamas, Junkanoo has long been practiced in the Turks and Caicos Islands and remains an important expression of cultural identity and continuity.

The origins of Junkanoo date back to the era of slavery, when enslaved Africans were allowed limited periods of celebration during the Christmas season. These gatherings provided rare opportunities for cultural expression and allowed African rhythms, dance, masking, and music traditions to survive under colonial rule. Across the wider Caribbean, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, these practices gradually evolved into organised street performances tied to Christmas and New Year celebrations.

In the modern Turks and Caicos Islands, Junkanoo is primarily celebrated on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, with major parades held in Providenciales and Grand Turk. Organised Junkanoo groups perform to the sounds of goatskin drums, cowbells, whistles, and brass instruments, wearing colourful, handcrafted costumes made from materials such as cardboard, crepe paper, foil, and wire. Groups compete in categories including music, costume design, choreography, and overall presentation, attracting large crowds of residents and visitors.

A defining feature of Junkanoo in the Turks and Caicos Islands is its strong community and family-based foundation. Preparation often begins months in advance, with multiple generations contributing to costume-making, instrument construction, and rehearsals. This collective effort strengthens social bonds and ensures the transmission of cultural knowledge from one generation to the next.

Beyond entertainment, Junkanoo serves as a living symbol of resilience, freedom, and cultural survival. As the islands continue to modernise, the tradition remains a powerful reminder of the past and a vibrant expression of the living heritage that continues to shape the identity of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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# NATIONAL YOUTH AWARDS 2026 CELEBRATES EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENT

The Department of Youth Affairs proudly hosted the second biennial National Youth Awards on Saturday, 7 February 2026, bringing together Cabinet Members, dignitaries, awardees, students, parents, well-wishers, and members of the media for a grand black-tie ceremony dedicated to celebrating the outstanding achievements of young people across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

With an audience of over 200 attendees, the formal event shone a national spotlight on youth who continue to make exceptional contributions within their communities and respective fields. A total of 31 awards were presented to deserving young individuals and organisations in recognition of their talent, leadership, service, and innovation.

The evening featured a number of distinguished highlights, including a flawlessly executed Flag Parade by the TCI Cadet Corps, musical performances by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force Band and the Provision Band, and a captivating saxophone performance by Youth in Performing Arts Award winner, Mr. Deangelo McLeod. The ceremony was expertly guided by hosts Ms. Shakiah Lewis and Mr. Ashley Brooks, whose professionalism and charisma ensured a smooth and engaging programme.

Each awardee received a handcrafted trophy designed by local artisan Mr. Stanford Handfield, reflecting the culture, creativity, and dedication embodied by the nation's youth. Throughout the evening, video features showcased the various initiatives and programmes spearheaded by the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, highlighting continued investments in youth development across the islands.

The ceremony was further honoured by remarks from Her Excellency the Governor, the Honourable Premier, and the Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Honourable Rachel Taylor, each commending the awardees and reaffirming the Government's commitment to empowering young people.

In her address, Honourable Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, stated: "Tonight, we celebrate the extraordinary talent, resilience, and dedication of our young people. These awardees represent the very best of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and their achievements remind us that when we invest in our youth, we invest in the future of our nation. The Government remains steadfast in its commitment to creating opportunities that empower every young person to thrive."

2026 National Youth Award Recipients:



The recipients who won awards at the National Youth Awards 2026



L-R Honourable Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education and Recipient of the Young Professional Awards – Arnelle Taylor-Hall

- Youth in Education – Mia-Lionelle Henry
- Youth in Sports (Senior) – Deajah Smith
- Youth in Sports (Junior) – Carmelo Cartwright
- Youth in Entrepreneurship – Wayne Gardiner
- Youth in Art and Culture – Tinell Garland
- Youth in Performing Arts – Deangelo McLeod
- Youth in Literary Arts – Jeffca Forbes
- Youth in Religion – Onilia Richards
- Environmental Stewardship Award – Luis Serpas
- Youth in Health and Wellness – Maya Saunders
- Youth in Media – Zoya Faessler
- Youth Influencer – Ashad Bain
- Youth in Agriculture – Tevin Ramsey
- Young Professional – Arnelle Taylor-Hall
- Youth in Community Service – A'Janae Robinson
- Youth in Innovation and STEM – Myah

- Audae Simpson
- Youth in Cosmetology and Barbering – Harolyn Forbes
- Youth Ally – Charvis Ferguson
- Personal Triumph – Jermaine Williams Jr.
- Young Artisan / Skilled Trade – Imran Hoza
- Youth in Tourism – Compton Clarke
- Unsung Hero – Kenson Odena
- Premier's Award – Chelsea Been
- Youth Organisation – Key Club
- Corporate Award – Graceway Communities
- Stalwart in Youth Development (Provinciales) – Roxann Wake Forbes
- Stalwart in Youth Development (North Caicos) – Reniko Taylor
- Stalwart in Youth Development (Middle Caicos) – Brianna Forbes
- Stalwart in Youth Development (South Caicos) – Camiko Lewis
- Stalwart in Youth Development (Grand Turk) – Shakiah Lewis
- Stalwart in Youth Development (Salt Cay) – Enrique Dickenson



Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, The Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands

Unity Through Excellence Award – Bereniece Dickenson Martinez

The Department of Youth Affairs has extended sincere gratitude to all partners, sponsors, volunteers, performers, presenters, and supporters who contributed to the planning and successful execution of this national event. Appreciation is also extended to those who tuned in via social media and radio broadcasts. Members of the public who were unable to attend are invited to re-watch the full live broadcast on the Turks and Caicos Islands Government Facebook Page. The official National Youth Awards Booklet may also be accessed online for detailed information on nominees and award categories at: <https://online.pubhtml5.com/kvhar/sgga/>.

The National Youth Awards continues to stand as a beacon of inspiration, encouraging young people throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands to pursue excellence, serve their communities, and realise their full potential.



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><b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581</div> <div><b>Christ is the Answer Ministry,</b> George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030</div> <div><b>One Nation Empowerment Center</b> Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.</div> <div><b>Touch of Love Ministries International Center</b> Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731</div> <div><b>Abundant Life Ministries International</b> P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755</div> <div><b>Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk,</b> Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289</div> <div><b>Bethany Baptist Church,</b> Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118</div> <div><b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b> Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854</div> <div><b>Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk</b> Tel:946-1866</div> <div><b>Calvary Baptist Church,</b> South Caicos. Tel:946-3212</div> <div><b>Harvest Bible Chapel TCI,</b> Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc.</div>	<div><b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240</div> <div><b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b> Providenciales Tel:941-3438</div> <div><b>Roman Catholic Church,</b> Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136</div> <div><b>Faith Tabernacle Church of God,</b> Providenciales, Tel:946-4073</div> <div><b>New Testament Church of God,</b> Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175</div> <div><b>New Testament Church of God,</b> South Caicos Tel:946-3631</div> <div><b>Methodist Church,</b> Grand Turk Tel:946-2352</div> <div><b>Healing Waters Ministries,</b> Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867</div> <div><b>House of Prayer Church of God,</b> Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309</div> <div><b>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses,</b> Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727</div> <div><b>Mount Mariah Baptist Church,</b> Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205</div> <div><b>New Beginning Harvest Ministry,</b> Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759</div> <div><b>New Testament Church of God</b> Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402</div>	<div><b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624</div> <div><b>Paradise Baptist Church,</b> Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349</div> <div><b>Revival Faith Center,</b> North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349</div> <div><b>Salem Baptist Church,</b> Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565</div> <div><b>Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries</b> International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181</div> <div><b>St. Monica’s Anglican Church</b> P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499</div> <div><b>Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh</b> Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales</div> <div><b>United Pentecostal Church,</b> Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852</div> <div><b>Wesleyan Methodist Church,</b> 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: <a href="mailto:contact@newslnetci.com">contact@newslnetci.com</a></i></div>
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# Highlights of the 2025 Edition of the Chocolate Lovers Showcase

The 2025 edition of the Chocolate Lovers Showcase, which was held at the Palms Resort in Grace Bay, on Saturday, February 8, did not disappoint, as the hotels and restaurants that participated, brought out the creative culinary imaginations. As usual, the event was supported by a wide cross-section of the community. The following are highlights of the event.









# An Exclusive Evening of Art Raises \$151,000

Set against the refined elegance of The Shore Club, the 11th Annual An Exclusive Evening of Art Exhibition and Fundraiser unfolded as a dazzling celebration of art, philanthropy, and community spirit.

This year also marked the successful debut of a Pre-Show VVIP access experience, offering early guests an intimate preview of the collection and setting the tone for an extraordinary evening.

The event achieved a remarkable milestone, raising \$151,000 in support of the Edward Gartland Youth Centre and over \$87,000 for participating artists, marking one of the most successful editions in the event’s history.

A record number of guests gathered for an unforgettable night defined by sophistication and creative brilliance. The exhibition featured exceptional works from distinguished local and international artists, complemented by breathtaking, show-stopping pieces from the Centre’s student artists, a powerful reminder of the transformative role of art in young lives.

Guests were further wowed by vibrant performances from members of the Youth Centre, alongside a soulful musical set from alumni DeAngelo McCleod of Soulful D, adding an emotional and celebratory dimension to the evening.

The Art Show Committee, in collaboration with Finishing Touch, curated an exhibition of exceptional calibre, raising the bar for artistic presentation and experience. The atmosphere reached its crescendo during a thrilling live auction masterfully



Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (left) share a photo with artist Eleanor McKnight



The leveling of art displays was dazzling

orchestrated by Sotheby’s & Auctioneer, Phyllis Kao, New York Vice President whose commanding presence energized the room. Spotlight moments included





From left - international visual artist Bradley Theodore; Roxann Wake-Forbes - Executive Director of the Edward Gartland Youth Centre; Joe Zahm of Turks and Caicos Sotheby's International; former premier and local business Galmo Williams; and Phyllis Kao - auctioneer extraordinaire.



Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sport and Culture, appears to be sold on this piece of art display



The Turks and Caicos Islands culture was also on display

headline works from internationally celebrated artist Bradley Theodore Harvey and artists Romello Williams, Fay Ninon, Eleanor McKnight, and Agile Levin, whose pieces captivated collectors and commanded centre stage in an electric exchange of bids.

"This year's art auction was driven by the star power of native son and internationally renowned artist Bradley Theodore Harvey and the

refined powerhouse Phyllis Kao from Sotheby's New York City, who ran an electric live auction and with Bradley elevated the entire evening," said Joe Zahm, President of Turks and Caicos Islands Sotheby's International Realty. The Youth Centre Director reflected on the significance of the evening, sharing, "We are beyond thankful for the unwavering support of our sponsors, artists, community, visitors, volunteers and

everyone involved. This truly allows us to continue making a positive impact in the lives of our youth and the community at large."

The event's impeccable presentation was made possible through the generous partnership of Gilley's Enterprises, The Shore Club, Turks and Caicos Islands Sotheby's International Realty, and Finishing Touch. Special thanks are extended to Wymara Resort and Villas, West Bay Club, Beach Enclave Long

Bay, Seven Stars, Salterra, and Amanyara for their generous support through donated stays for the auction. As the evening drew to a close, one sentiment resonated clearly, art remains a powerful catalyst for connection and change. Organizers now look ahead with anticipation and invite patrons to save the date for January 30, 2027, when the next edition promises to once again redefine elegance, creativity, and impact.



# 24th Annual Inter High School HIV and AIDS Debate Highlights Youth Leadership in Ending Stigma

The 24th Annual Inter High School HIV and AIDS Debate was held on January 28, 2026, at the Salvation Army Brighter Futures Community Centre, bringing together students from across the Turks and Caicos Islands for an engaging and thought-provoking competition focused on strengthening the national HIV response. The program opened with a prayer by Ms. Saneka Setram, coach of the Majorie Basden High School, followed by welcome remarks from Dr. Camelia Clarke, Director of the Health Promotion and Advocacy Unit, who emphasized the importance of youth engagement in reducing stigma and strengthening HIV awareness. Deputy Permanent Secretary, Ms. Renessa Williams, then delivered remarks on behalf of the Ministry of Health and Human Services and officially declared the debate open.

The proceedings were guided by Moderator Mrs. Cheryl Ann Francis Forman, and supported by a panel of judges that included:

- Ms. Daniela Carroll, Head Judge and Education Officer in the Department of Education,
- Dr. Raven Saunders, Deputy Chief Medical Officer in the Ministry of Health and Human Services
- Hon. Willin Belliard, Member of Parliament and partner at Williams and Belliard Attorneys at Law representing the judiciary, and
- Mr. Giovanni Delancy, HIV advocate and Board Member of the TCI Health and Wellness Foundation.
- Mr. Leonardo Glasgow, Assistant Director /Enforcement, serving as Timekeeper to ensure smooth and timely proceedings. This year's moot challenged students to examine a critical issue in public health:

"Be it resolved that stigma is the greatest disruption to transforming the HIV response."

Teams presented well researched arguments that demonstrated their understanding of the scientific, social, and structural factors that influence HIV outcomes, noting that stigma, defined as the negative labels, fear, and



L-R Dr. Camelia Clarke; 3rd Place Winners Clement Howell High School; Mr. Andre Clarke, Advertising and Promotion Officer, Building materials Do It Center



L-R Dr. Camelia Clarke; Best Speaker Tianna Kerr, Alpha Christian Academy; and Mr. Giovanni Delancy (HIV Advocate).



discrimination directed toward people living with or affected by HIV, remains a major barrier to testing, treatment, and open dialogue.

They also highlighted that in addition to stigma, other disruptions such as misinformation, limited access to services, gaps in education, and broader social and economic challenges continue to affect progress in transforming the HIV response.

#### Participating Schools

- Helena J. Robinson High School
- Marjorie Basden High School
- Louise Garland Thomas High School
- Alpha Christian Academy
- Raymond Gardiner High School
- Clement Howell High School

#### Results

- 1st Place: Helena J. Robinson High School
- 2nd Place: Alpha Christian Academy
- 3rd Place: Clement Howell High School
- The title of best speaker was awarded to Tianna Kerr of Alpha Christian Academy for her exceptional delivery, clarity, and persuasive ability.

#### Sponsors

The Ministry of Health and Human Services extends sincere appreciation to the following sponsors whose support helped make this event possible:

- Business Solutions for sponsoring the second-place prize
  - Building
  - Materials Do It Center, for sponsoring the third-place prize
- Special thanks are also extended to all participating schools, teachers, and coaches for their commitment to preparing students and for their continued contribution to youth empowerment, health education, and national development.



L-R Dr. Camelia Clarke; 2nd Place Winners Alpha Christian Academy; Hon. Willin Belliard



L-R Dr. Camelia Clarke; 1st Place Winners Helena J. Robinson High School; Dr. Raven Saunders



L-R Dr. Camelia Clarke, Ms. Alrisa Gardiner, Mr. Leonardo Glasgow, Ms. Renessa Williams, Dr. Raven Saunders, Giovanni Delancy, Ms. Daniela Carroll.

## Rebirth Paving Company LTD,

located at Industrial Park, Providenciales,  
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# Clinical research brings new hope to cancer patients

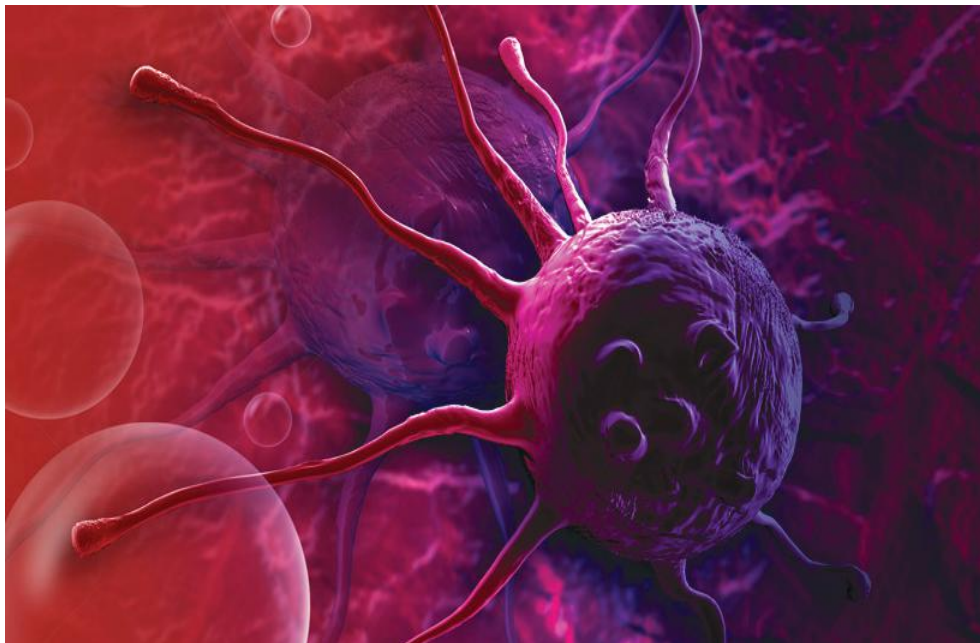
Clinical research is opening new pathways of hope for cancer patients worldwide by expanding access to innovative, science-driven therapies rooted in precision medicine.

As the global cancer burden continues to rise, with more than two million new lung cancer cases, over 300,000 brain tumour diagnoses, and approximately 500,000 pancreatic cancer cases reported annually, the need for more targeted and effective treatment strategies has never been greater.

Cancer remains one of the most significant health challenges globally, with nearly 20 million new cases diagnosed and approximately 9.7 million deaths each year, making it the second leading cause of death worldwide and highlighting the urgent need for better treatments.

Traditional therapies such as chemotherapy often yield response rates of just 25 to 30 per cent across many solid tumours, underscoring the limitations of one-size-fits-all approaches to treatment.

Clinical research in precision medicine, however, is transforming this landscape by tailoring treatments to the specific genetic and molecular profiles of patients' cancers, significantly improving outcomes. For example, precision approaches have increased five-year survival rates in some breast cancer pa-



tients to around 90 per cent, and more than 2.5 million patients worldwide now benefit from targeted therapies annually.

In addition, genomic profiling and targeted therapy trials have demonstrated meaningful improvements in progression-free survival, compared with standard care, giving patients renewed hope through more effective, individualised treatment options.

Through clinical trials, patients may

gain access to investigational therapies tailored to their specific cancer, often prior to formal FDA approval and before such treatments become widely available. For some patients, participation in clinical research can represent a pivotal moment in their fight against life-threatening disease.

"Clinical research is not a last resort, it is often the best opportunity for patients to access the most advanced therapies available today," said Dr Luis E. Raez,

medical director and chief scientific officer at Memorial Cancer Institute. "For aggressive cancers such as lung, brain and pancreatic tumors, clinical trials can offer targeted treatments that may significantly improve outcomes and quality of life."

Physician-led research initiatives increasingly focus on precision medicine, using molecular and genetic insights to better understand how cancers develop, respond to treatment, and recur.

Research led by Dr Atif Hussein is advancing molecular profiling in brain tumors, supporting earlier diagnosis and more personalised treatment strategies. Dr Ashwin Mehta, medical director of Memorial's Integrative Medicine Programme, is also evaluating blood samples to detect tumoral DNA, helping identify cancer recurrence among survivors. Complementary tumour-banking initiatives co-led by Dr Mark Block are identifying genetic markers across diverse populations, supporting more personalised and equitable cancer care. Patients may access these clinical research studies through Memorial Cancer Institute in the United States, where multidisciplinary teams integrate research directly into patient care.

Collectively, these efforts highlight how clinical research is translating scientific discovery into meaningful progress for cancer patients worldwide.

## Weight loss struggles? *Fix your mind, not just your diet*

For many persons, weight loss feels like a constant cycle of effort, frustration, and disappointment. New diet plans are tried, gym memberships are started, and calorie counts are memorised, yet results often fall short or do not last.

According to Dr Rivane Chybar-Virgo, a leading behaviour-health specialist, the missing piece in many weight-loss journeys is not the food itself, but the mindset behind eating.

"Weight loss is not just about what you eat. It is about how you think, how you cope with stress, and the habits you've formed over time. If the mind isn't addressed, the weight almost always comes back," she said. Many people approach weight loss as a short-term challenge rather than a lifelong shift in habits.

"Crash diets and extreme restrictions may produce quick results, but they do not address the behaviours that caused weight gain in the first place. When the diet ends, old habits often return, and so does the weight," Dr Chybar-Virgo said.

She points to emotional eating, stress, poor sleep, and unresolved psychological triggers as common saboteurs of even the best nutrition plans.

This holistic view is increasingly supported by public health authorities, especially as non-communicable diseases (NCDs) continue to drive illness and death in Jamaica. According to the Ministry of Health and Wellness (MOHW), approximately one in three Jamaicans lives with hypertension, and one in eight lives with diabetes conditions closely linked to obesity and lifestyle habits. It is also estimated that half of Jamaicans are overweight or obese, making healthy weight management a critical public health priority. Globally and regionally, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) highlights that NCDs account for most deaths in the Americas and are fuelled by risk factors such as unhealthy diet, physical inactivity, tobacco use, and harmful alcohol consumption.

"An unhealthy mind-body pattern can intensify inflammation, stress responses, and metabolic imbalance. Addressing mindset is part of addressing NCD risks," Dr Chybar-Virgo said.

### SUSTAINABLE HEALTH GOALS

Weight management, she emphasises, is deeply connected to mental and emotional health. Chronic stress triggers hormonal responses, especially elevated cortisol, that drive cravings for high-energy, sugary, and

fatty foods.

"When stress is high, the body goes into survival mode. In that state, it is much harder to lose weight, no matter how disciplined you think you are being," she said.

Negative self-talk also undermines long-term success.

"Many people speak to themselves in ways they would never speak to a loved one. That inner dialogue: 'I always fail,' 'I have no willpower,' actually weakens motivation and resilience," Dr Chybar-Virgo said.

Instead of focusing solely on the scale, Dr Chybar-Virgo encourages individuals to shift towards sustainable health goals. "Weight loss should not feel like punishment. It is about learning how to care for your body and mind consistently," she said.

Signs of progress, she notes, include better energy, improved sleep, reduced cravings, and enhanced mood outcomes that often precede measurable weight changes.

According to Dr Chybar-Virgo, lasting change starts with self-awareness. "Ask yourself why you eat when you are not hungry. Is it stress? Boredom? Habit? Once you identify the trigger, you can choose a different response," she said.

She also stresses the need for patience.

"Healthy weight loss is not linear. There will be setbacks, and that is normal. The key is not giving up when progress slows," she said.

Dr Chybar-Virgo highlights that weight management is rarely successful in isolation.

Support systems, whether family, friends, healthcare providers, or therapists, make a significant difference. Accountability and encouragement help people stay consistent, especially during difficult periods, she said.

Professional guidance can also help individuals navigate complex relationships with food and body image, particularly for those managing chronic disease.

As Jamaica continues to grapple with high rates of obesity and NCDs, Dr Chybar-Virgo believes it is time to change the narrative around weight loss. "We need to move away from shame-based conversations. Weight loss is not about moral failure or success, it is about understanding behaviour, biology, and mental health," she said.

Ultimately, she added, the most powerful transformation happens from the inside out. "When you fix your mindset, healthier choices follow naturally. Lasting weight loss starts in the mind, not just on the plate," Dr Chybar-Virgo said.



# Sean Paul and Keyshia Cole’s Give it Up to Me returns to the charts after 20 years

Twenty years after it was first released, Sean Paul and Keyshia Cole’s #3 Billboard Hot 100 hit When You Gonna (Give it Up to Me) has re-entered multiple charts around the world. Driven by a TikTok dance craze, the song has found a new lease on life while connecting with a new generation of music lovers. Since the start of 2026, the track has gained significant momentum across streaming platforms, fueled largely by TikTok discovery. The song has generated over 40 million new streams worldwide since January 1, signalling a powerful resurgence driven by a new generation of listeners alongside longtime fans. On TikTok, the record has circulated

widely through content referencing Avatar: Fire and Ash, as well as 2000s-era nostalgia edits pairing the song with throwback visuals, film clips, and pop-culture moments from the era. Since January, the sound has been used in more than 1.5 million user-created videos, amassing over 1.3 billion cumulative views. Recent weekly data shows sustained engagement rather than a single viral spike, with activity peaking at 480,000 creations and 548 million views in recent periods. This renewed cultural traction has been translated directly to chart performance. As of February 4, the song sits at Number 114 on Spotify’s Global Top 200



Keyshia Cole and Sean Paul

Weekly, with notable territory placements including Number 16 in Germany, Number 66 in the United Kingdom, and Number 131 in France. The most active markets currently include the United States, Germany, the United Kingdom, Russia, and France. Originally released in 2006 via Atlantic Records and VP Records, the song appeared on the Step-Up movie soundtrack and was the fourth single from Sean Paul’s The Trinity album. The track peaked at # 3 on the Billboard Hot

100, #17 in Australia, #30 in Austria, #14 in Belgium and made the Top ten in Canada, Finland, Netherlands, Russia, Switzerland, and on the Billboard Rhythmic Airplay, Rap Singles and R&B/Hip-Hop Songs charts. Currently, the song has charted at #53 on the UK Singles chart (it peaked at #31 in 2006), #26 in Austria, #12 in Greece, #130 on Billboard’s Global 200 chart, #71 in Ireland, #17 in Lithuania, #52 in Norway, #39 in Poland, #6 in Romania and #46 in Sweden.



Gramps Morgan

As Reggae Month activities intensify, the music’s influence is being felt far beyond its signature sound. Rooted in resistance and social consciousness, reggae continues to serve as a vehicle for justice. Embracing that tradition, Gramps Morgan has joined forces with Gassy Dread — the recording identity of Antigua and Barbuda Prime Minister Gaston Browne — on a new single titled Reparations. The song is slated for release this Friday and confronts the enduring impact of colonialism across the Caribbean. Morgan explained that Reparations extends beyond entertainment, noting that its release during both Reggae

Month and Black History Month underscores reggae’s long-standing role in liberation movements. “I believe it (the issue of reparations) is a conversation that must continue to be had. There have been many times people in our society have brought this conversation, and as a musician, I am just doing my part for Africans and the diaspora of the Caribbean in the Americas,” he said. “This message is not new, but I think it is important for us as artistes to bring up this conversation from time to time so that we never forget the spirit of our ancestors and what they’ve been through and the fact that they must be justly compensated.”

# Antigua’s prime minister and Gramps Morgan release new single

Morgan added that positioning the song within the 2026 Reggae Month theme is intentional, emphasising that the “Rhythms of Resilience” represent more than remembrance — they are a call for justice and equity moving forward. “I pray that people can be re-awakened to the issue once again, especially in the Caribbean and those in America. This is a call for something long asked for, and I pray that it may gather the attention of the United Nations so we can revisit this conversation, and there’s no better time to do that than in Black History and Reggae Month,” he said. “Several of our nations have been through trauma, and we were able to heal through the passage of time, but I’m hoping that this message will reach all who had a hand in the transatlantic slave trade, countries like Spain, the Netherlands, the UK, and Portugal, so they can revisit this conversation and let it touch their hearts.” Reflecting on the collaboration, Morgan spoke highly of Prime Minister Browne, describing him as both gifted and purpose-driven. He noted that working with the Antiguan leader was seamless and inspiring. “It was very easy working with the Prime Minister of Antigua. I was impressed that he wanted to tackle a project like



PM Gaston Browne uses moniker ‘Gassy Dread’ on ‘Reparations’

this. It just shows that everyone in the world wants justice and that there’s still good out there in this world, and there’s nothing wrong with having this conversation or touching on this topic,” he shared. “The Prime Minister of Antigua is a true visionary and great songwriter. It was a pleasure to collaborate with him, and it just shows you how much talent there is in the Caribbean.” Reparations was co-written by Gaston Browne and Gramps Morgan, with production handled by Justin ‘Juss Buss’ Nation.



# Allies split with Trump over Bad Bunny criticism

Donald Trump’s allies are split over his criticism of Bad Bunny’s Super Bowl performance, with some Republicans lavishing praise on the half-time show. The artist, who is from the US territory of Puerto Rico, used his headline slot at America’s most-watched television event of the year to emphasise Pan-American unity in a dance-filled spectacle that celebrated Latin culture and was sung entirely in Spanish. Writing on his Truth Social platform on Sunday, Mr Trump said the show was “absolutely terrible”. “One of the worst, EVER! It makes no sense, is an affront to the Greatness of America, and doesn’t represent our standards of success, creativity, or excellence,” the US president said. “Nobody understands a word this guy is saying, and the dancing is disgusting, especially for young children that are watching from throughout the USA, and all over the World. This ‘show’ is just a ‘slap in the face’ to our Country.” There had been speculation for weeks that the singer, whose real name is Benito Antonio Martínez Ocasio, would use the event to make a political statement. The 31-year-old chose not to tour within the United States following Mr Trump’s immigration crackdown, apparently fearing for the safety of his largely Latino fanbase. And at the Grammy Awards on Feb 1, he de-

clared “ICE out”, referring to the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents that have become the face of the administration’s mass deportation campaign. However the show, which was watched by 142.3 million people and featured a real wedding, dancing palm trees and Lady Gaga, wrapped without controversy. “Bad Bunny had the biggest stage in the world and could’ve made it political. He didn’t. He chose unity & love,” said Emily Austin, a conservative influencer. Breaking with Mr Trump, she added: “You can celebrate different backgrounds and still love this country.” Alexis Wilkins, the girlfriend of FBI director Kash Patel, said the Republicans needed to “unite” and “get on better messaging” after they missed the moment. Quote tweeting a post from the Democrats showing the singer in front of the Puerto Rican and American flags, Ms Wilkins added: “This branding is fantastic and allows all Dems to get behind it. Also — super aesthetic.” On Monday, Ms Wilkins appeared to walk back her comments, writing: “An important clarification on my post last night: I didn’t watch Bad Bunny’s performance at all. My point wasn’t the show. “My point was that we can’t give the left an inch of the ground we gained in the last election. They’re clearly going to cosplay as peo-



ple who ‘love America’ and our constitution to pick up moderates and youth votes.” Harrison Fields, Mr Trump’s former press aide, wrote on social media: “Last time I checked, my Puerto Rico-born grandmother was a full American citizen — and she voted for Trump.” Vianca Rodriguez, a former Trump campaign official, told the president: “Way to go alienating your Puerto Rican conservative base,” adding that she “loved” the performance. Meanwhile, Maga-friendly influencer Logan Paul became embroiled in a public spat with his YouTuber brother, Jake, after he said that Bad Bunny was a “fake American citizen”. “I love my brother but I don’t agree with this. Puerto Ricans are Americans & I’m happy they were given the opportunity to showcase the talent that comes from the island,” he wrote on X. Closing his 13-minute show at the Levi’s

Stadium in Santa Clara, the Grammy-winning artist said in English: “God bless America,” before going on to name every country across North and South America. He finished by holding up a football that said: “Together we are America”. In the background, a Jumbotron message read: “The only thing more powerful than hate is love.” Turning Point USA, the group founded by the late Right-wing activist Charlie Kirk, broadcast its alternative “All-American”, country singer-filled half-time show to appeal to those who disagreed with Bad Bunny’s politics. The event, headlined by Kid Rock, was watched by about five million people, according to Mail Online. The show featured a tribute to Kirk and was meant to be broadcast live on X, but owing to “licensing restrictions” had to be streamed on YouTube instead.



### Bookkeeper

**Job Specification:**

The Bookkeeper is responsible for maintaining accurate financial records, preparing financial statements, and ensuring compliance with bookkeeping accounting principles and regulations.

- This role requires attention to detail, analytical skills, and the ability to manage multiple tasks effectively.
- Maintain and update financial records, ensuring accuracy and compliance with bookkeeping and accounting standards
- Reconcile bank accounts and general ledger accounts monthly and prepare financial reports.
- Assist with the annual budgeting process and ongoing forecasts.

**Job Requirements:**

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field preferred; relevant certifications (e.g., Certified Bookkeeper, CPA) a plus.
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in bookkeeping or accounting roles.
- Strong knowledge of accounting principles and practices.

Salary expectations - \$55,000 - \$62,400 per annum

### Cost Controller

**Job Specification:**

- Monitor and analyze operational costs across all departments ensure adherence to budgetary guidelines.
- Prepare and present detailed cost reports for management review, highlighting variances, trends, and potential areas for financial improvement, while offering data-driven recommendations.
- Maintain accurate financial records, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, and general ledger entries.
- Assist with preparing monthly financial statements and reports, ensuring compliance with local regulations and financial policies.
- Assist with developing and maintaining relationships with vendors and suppliers to ensure cost-effective purchasing.
- Maintain organized records of all purchasing transactions and inventory levels, ensuring accurate tracking of costs.
- Train and support staff in cost control and inventory management practices, promoting a culture of financial awareness.
- Ensure compliance with internal controls, financial policies and standard operating policies and procedures.

**Job Requirements:**

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field preferred; relevant certifications (e.g., Certified Bookkeeper, CPA) a plus.
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in bookkeeping or accounting roles.
- Strong knowledge of accounting principles and practices.

Salary expectations - \$55,000-\$65,000

### Accounts Payable

**Job Specification:**

The Accounts Payable Officer is responsible for managing and processing all accounts payable transactions, ensuring timely and accurate payment of suppliers, and maintaining accurate financial records in compliance with accounting principles and company policies.

**Key Responsibilities:**

- Process supplier invoices accurately and in a timely manner, ensuring proper approvals and correct coding to the general ledger
- Maintain and update accounts payable records in compliance with bookkeeping and accounting standards
- Reconcile supplier statements and resolve invoice discrepancies and queries
- Prepare and process payment runs, including Electronic Funds Transfers (EFTs) and other approved payment methods
- Reconcile the accounts payable sub-ledger to the general ledger on a regular basis
- Assist with month-end close processes and prepare accounts payable reports
- Support the annual budgeting process and assist with cash flow forecasting related to payables

**Job Requirements:**

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field preferred; relevant certifications (e.g., Certified Bookkeeper, CPA) a plus.
- Minimum of 3 years of experience in bookkeeping or accounting roles.
- Strong knowledge of accounting principles and practices.

Salary expectations - \$55,000 - \$62,400 per annum

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Dr. Angela Brooks – 1st Vice President



Deajah Smith-Second Vice President



Dixie Smith – Assistant Secretary



Gertrude Saunders Forbers- Assistant Treasurer



Kathy Walkin – Treasurer



Raynae Myers – Secretary



Rita Gardiner - former President, who now serves as Advisor to the Executive Board, providing strategic guidance and institutional support



Rosalie Ingham- President

# TCI Women in Sports Hosts 2026 Annual General Meeting and Elections

The TCI Women in Sports successfully convened its 2026 Annual General Meeting on Saturday 31st January 2026, bringing together members to reflect on the organisation's achievements over the past year and to set its vision and priorities for 2026.

The meeting highlighted a year of impactful programming and national engagement, including youth development initiatives, community outreach, athlete recognition, and participation in international sporting activities such as the King's Baton Relay.

## New Executive Leadership

General elections were held during the AGM, resulting in the appointment of new executive officers:

- President: Mrs. Rosalie Ingham
- First Vice President: Dr. Angela Brooks
- Second Vice President: Ms. Deajah Smith

The wider Executive Board remains committed to continuity and service, with the following officers continuing in their roles:

- Secretary: Ms. Raynae Myers

ers

- Assistant Secretary: Ms. Dixie Smith

- Treasurer: Ms. Kathy Walkin
- Assistant Treasurer: Mrs. Gertrude Forbes

In addition, the organisation proudly recognises the Honourable Rita Gardiner, former President, who now serves as Advisor to the Executive Board, providing strategic guidance and institutional support.

Looking Ahead

The newly elected President outlined several key initiatives for the upcoming year aimed

at

expanding access, participation, and empowerment in sport. Planned activities include

national road races, the Empower Her programme, TCIFA partnerships, and a National Gala.

TCI Women in Sports remains steadfast in its mission to advance opportunities for women

and girls in sport, foster leadership, and strengthen community engagement throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.



# Texas Man Fatally Shoots Daughter After Argument Over Trump

A 23-year-old British fashion buyer was shot to death by her father last year in Texas after they argued about U.S. President Donald Trump, according to an inquest held Tuesday in her hometown of Warrington, England.

Lucy Harrison was fatally shot on Jan. 10, 2025, in the Dallas-area home of her father, Kris Harrison, while vacationing in the United States with her boyfriend, Sam Littler.

According to Littler, his girlfriend was bothered by her dad's gun ownership, and things came to a head the day the couple was supposed to fly home to Britain.

The father and daughter started arguing about Trump at some point, and, according to the BBC, Lucy Harrison asked her dad, "How would you feel if I was the girl in that situation and I'd been sexually assaulted?"

Kris Harrison, who had moved to the

United States when his daughter was a child, reportedly responded that he had two other daughters who lived with him, so it would not upset him that much.

The callous remark prompted his daughter to run upstairs, according to the Independent.

Later on, about half an hour before Littler and Harrison were set to go to the airport, the 23-year-old was downstairs in the kitchen when her father reportedly took her hand and led her into a bedroom on the ground floor.

Littler testified that about 15 seconds later, he heard a loud bang and Kris Harrison screaming for his wife, Heather, according to the BBC.

"I remember running into the room and Lucy was lying on the floor near the entrance to the bathroom and Kris was just screaming, just sort of nonsense," Littler told the court.

Police in Prosper, Texas, investigated the shooting as possible manslaughter, but a Collin County grand jury declined to charge Harrison last June.

Harrison didn't attend the inquest, but his previous visits to rehab for alcohol addiction were put into the public record, as was his written statement that he had relapsed on the day of the shooting by drinking about 550 ml of white wine.

According to Harrison's statement, he and his daughter had been watching a TV segment on gun crime when he asked her if she wanted to see the Glock 9mm semi-automatic handgun that he kept in a bedroom cabinet.

"As I lifted the gun to show her I suddenly heard a loud bang. I did not understand what had happened. Lucy immediately fell," Harrison said in the statement, claiming he did not remember if his finger was on the Glock's trigger.



Lucy Harrison, a 23-year-old British woman, was in the United States visiting her father with her boyfriend.

He also stated that he "fully accepted" the consequences of his actions, adding, "There isn't a day I don't feel the weight of that loss, a weight I will carry for the rest of my life."

Ana Samuel, Harrison's representative at Tuesday's inquest, attempted at the start of the hearing to get coroner Jacqueline Devonish recused, saying the inquest had been conducted "in a manner more akin to a criminal investigation than a fact-finding inquiry."



### Guest Service Expert/Server

Job Specification:

- Take food and drink orders from customers accurately and with a positive attitude.
- Write patrons' food orders on order slips, memorize orders, or enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff.
- Engage with customers in a friendly manner.
- Knowledge of the menu, with the ability to make suggestions.
- Ensure tables are enjoying their meals and take action to correct any problems.
- Collect payments from tables.
- Prepare checks that itemize and total meal costs and sales taxes.
- Help food preparation staff when necessary.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English.
- Must have 3- 5 years experience as a Server.
- Must have good interpersonal skills.
- Must have experience working in busy restaurant environment.
- Must be able to stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - \$9.00 - \$11.00 per hour

### Maintenance Technician

Job Specification:

- Inspecting machinery, equipment, buildings and systems, including heating, ventilation and air conditioning
- Performing routine cleaning and sanitising, including specialist cleaning of delicate or high-value items such as entry systems, security equipment, lifts and escalators
- Completing small repairs such as fixing locks, leaky taps and broken windows
- Checking and maintaining safety equipment such as fire alarms, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors
- Performing grounds maintenance such as mowing lawns, trimming bushes and replacing exterior light bulbs
- Inspecting and troubleshooting problems and issues reported by clients or colleagues
- Maintaining vehicles, tools and equipment required to perform the role effectively
- Following a maintenance schedule to ensure that all routine tasks are completed

Job Requirements:

- Must have 2-3 years working in the Maintenance or Mechanical departments
- Must have a good experience in problem solving and fixing issues as required within the hotel environment, water waste, carpentry, mechanical issues, maintenance and fixtures.

Salary expectations - \$22,000 - \$35,000 per annum

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### Chef de Partie

Job Specification:

- Responsible for the preparation, cooking, and presentation of dishes within their assigned station. This includes following recipes, maintaining portion control, and ensuring high-quality standards are met.
- Maintain consistency in taste, quality, and presentation of dishes.
- Monitor food costs and minimize waste within their station.
- Assist in menu development and recipe creation, specifically within their area of expertise.
- Supervise and train line cooks and kitchen assistants assigned to their station.
- Assign tasks and monitor performance, providing constructive feedback and coaching.
- Maintain a positive and productive work environment within their team.
- Enforce kitchen safety and hygiene standards within their area of responsibility.
- Manage inventory within their assigned station, ensuring sufficient stock levels of ingredients.
- Monitor usage and report any shortages to the Sous Chef or Executive Chef.
- Maintain cleanliness and organization within their designated station.
- Ensure compliance with all health and safety regulations within their area.
- Contribute to the overall efficiency and smooth running of the kitchen.

Job Requirements:

- Culinary school diploma or equivalent experience is preferred.
- Minimum of 2-3 years of experience as a line cook or in a similar kitchen role.
- Proven ability to cook a variety of dishes within their assigned station, maintaining consistency and high quality.
- Strong knowledge of culinary techniques and food preparation methods relevant to their station.
- Ability to supervise and train a team of cooks.
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills.
- Strong attention to detail and commitment to quality.

Salary expectation - \$14.00 - \$16.00 per hour



# Experience Turks and Caicos and Aquila Host Product Development Workshops to Strengthen Sister Islands Tourism

Experience Turks and Caicos, in collaboration with the Aquila Center for Cruise Excellence, successfully hosted a Product Development Workshop for tourism stakeholders from North Caicos, Middle Caicos, and South Caicos on Wednesday, January 14 and Thursday, January 15, 2026.

The workshop was designed to support tour operators, entrepreneurs, and tourism-related businesses as they adapt to the evolving demands of the global tourism industry. Participants engaged in hands-on exercises and structured sessions aimed at reimagining existing tourism products and developing new, innovative, and sustainable experiences that are market-ready and aligned with current visitor expectations.

Throughout the workshop, attendees were equipped with practical tools and strategies to develop high-impact tourism offerings, strengthen product packaging and pricing, assess market readiness, and enhance value creation. Emphasis was also placed on collaboration, partnership development, and the promotion of sustainable practices to ensure that the Turks and Caicos Islands remain a fresh, competitive, and appealing destination.

More than 20 participants representing tourism businesses across the islands took part in the training sessions.



Participants of the workshop in North and Middle Caicos show off their certificates with ETC's North Caicos Rep Helcyann Selver

"Experience Turks and Caicos has a responsibility to ensure that all communities across the Turks and Caicos Islands benefit from tourism. These workshops are designed to equip local businesses with the essential tools and knowledge needed to maximise the opportunities within the industry, and we look forward to supporting their continued growth," said Mr. Paul Pennicook, Interim CEO Consultant.

Speaking on the importance of the initiative, Candesha Mills the Product Development Manager at Experience Turks and Caicos said: "We are actively working on destination development by

supporting our stakeholders as they re-imagine their products and experiences. Workshops like this are critical to helping businesses identify opportunities for collaboration, create bundled offerings, and develop cohesive tourism experiences that align with emerging trends and evolving visitor expectations."

The workshops were facilitated by Ms. Ambra Attus, who guided participants through strategies for designing distinctive and engaging tourism experiences that resonate with today's travellers. She said: "Product development is where destinations truly define their identity, and these trainings are de-

signed to help operators in North, Middle and South Caicos create experiences that are not only market-ready, but meaningful, high-quality, and rooted in what makes these islands truly special. These sessions reflect a forward-thinking commitment by Experience Turks and Caicos to invest in their people and in the long-term quality of the destination's tourism product. Aquila is proud to be your training partner."

The workshop also featured the Invest TCI MSME Team, who were on site with an information station available throughout both sessions. Stakeholders had the opportunity to engage directly with the team, gain insights into the MSME Programme, and learn more about the range of support services, incentives, and resources available to assist business growth and development. Experience Turks and Caicos commended participants for their commitment to investing in their businesses and contributing to the continued enhancement of the destination's tourism product.

The organisation expressed appreciation for the active participation and innovative ideas shared during the session, which are expected to contribute meaningfully to the sustainable growth of tourism in North and Middle Caicos and South Caicos.

## Join our team

### Sous Chef

**Job Specification:**

- Oversee the preparation of food items according to recipes and established standards.
- Maintain high standards of food quality, presentation, and hygiene.
- Monitor food costs and minimize waste.
- Contribute to menu planning and recipe development.
- Supervise and train line cooks, kitchen assistants, and other kitchen staff.
- Assign tasks and monitor performance.
- Provide constructive feedback and coaching.
- Assist in managing food inventory, ensuring sufficient stock levels.
- Place orders for food and supplies as needed, working with the purchasing manager or chef.
- Maintain proper equipment maintenance and report any issues.
- Schedule kitchen staff effectively, ensuring adequate coverage during peak hours.
- May assist in menu costing and pricing.
- May participate in recipe testing and development.
- May represent the kitchen at meetings or events.
- May assist with special events or catering functions.

**Job Requirements:**

- Associate's or Bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts or related field, or equivalent experience.
- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience as a line cook or in a similar kitchen role, with at least 1-2 years of supervisory experience.
- Strong knowledge of culinary techniques and food preparation methods.
- Ability to manage a team and delegate tasks effectively.
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills.
- Strong attention to detail and commitment to quality.

Salary expectation - \$38,000 - \$48,000 per annum

### Acting Rooms Division Manager

**Job Specification:**

- Lead and manage the front office and housekeeping teams ensuring these departments are provided with support as needed.
- Assist the reservation department, ensuring accurate and efficient handling of room reservations, group bookings, and guest inquiries, and implementing strategies to optimize room revenue and occupancy levels.
- Guest services enhancement
- Develop and implement guest service initiatives and standards to enhance the overall guest experience, including personalized service, VIP amenities, and special touches that exceed guest expectations.
- Housekeeping management
- Manage the housekeeping department, including room attendants, supervisors, and laundry staff, to ensure cleanliness, hygiene, and maintenance of guest rooms, public areas, and back-of-house facilities.
- Quality assurance
- Implement and maintain quality assurance standards for guest accommodations, including room cleanliness, maintenance, and amenities, conducting regular inspections and audits to ensure compliance with brand standards and guest satisfaction.
- Revenue optimization
- Develop and implement strategies to maximize room revenue and occupancy levels, including pricing strategies, distribution channel management, and upselling initiatives, to achieve revenue targets and profitability goals.
- Provide training, coaching, and professional development opportunities to front office and housekeeping staff, ensuring they have the necessary skills, knowledge, and resources to deliver exceptional service and meet performance standards.
- Budget management
- Prepare and manage departmental budgets, including staffing, operating expenses, and capital expenditures, to achieve financial targets and control costs while maintaining service quality and standards.

**Job Requirements:**

- Must have 3-5 years experience as an Rooms Division Manager/Executive Housekeeper/Rooms Operator
- Certificates and advancement qualifications within the Rooms remit
- Must be able to meet deadlines and work under pressure

Salary expectation - \$60,000- \$70,000 per annum

### Assist. Financial Controller

**Job Specification:**

The Assistant Financial Controller assists in managing and directing the financial activities of The Strand Turks & Caicos.

- This role plays a critical part in budgeting, forecasting, financial reporting, and compliance.
- Ensuring compliance with accounting standards and regulations, including GAAP or IFRS reporting requirements.
- Conduct financial analysis to identify trends, financial performance, and operational efficiencies.
- Support the preparation for internal and external audits, ensuring timely responses to auditor requests.
- Oversee the accounts payable and accounts receivable functions, ensuring accurate and timely processing of transactions.
- The ideal candidate will possess strong analytical skills, attention to detail, and a comprehensive understanding of financial principles, along with the ability to support the financial controller in ensuring the accuracy and integrity of financial data.

**Job Requirements:**

- Preferred Bachelor's degree in Finance, Accounting, or related field; CPA or equivalent certification required
- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience in financial accounting, analysis, or reporting, with experience in a supervisory role preferred
- Must possess strong understanding of financial principles, accounting standards, and fiscal policies.
- Proficiency in financial software and databases; advanced Excel skills are essential.

Salary expectation - \$65,000 - \$75,000 per annum

**APPLY NOW!**

Send your resume to: [careers@thestrandtci.com](mailto:careers@thestrandtci.com)

Interested applicants for this position listed on this ad, should also send a copy of your resume to the Labour Department located Downtown, Airport Road, Providenciales



# SAMMY RISING FAST



Rising teenage goalkeeper Samuel snapped up by MLS Outfit The Seattle Sounders FC To Enrol in their Youth Development Programme

Photo: Contributed

**Full Story on PG 32**



# Can Femke Bol Break the 800m Record?

by Paladin

I have always admired the tenacity of a Dutch Athlete named Femke Bol. Her amazing accomplishments on the track over the 400m / 400mH are nothing but impossible magic.

Like all Track Fans I wanted a few more races against Sydney McLaughlin-LeVrone, but alas that is not to be, any time soon.

However, this athlete has set her sights on something NEW and EXCITING, the 800m! When the announcement was made that she is giving 400m a “rest” in favor of a different race, the Track World went “nuts”! I would claim that it is a 50/50 split with opinions on how well she would do moving UP to this longer distance.

Today I sit and write because Femke Bol’s opening Indoor 800m race was nothing but “spectacular”! She crossed the finish at 1:59:07, a Dutch record and one of the best Season openers for women’s 800m ever. Sports Writers and Commentators are ALL amazed that she broke the two-minute barrier on her first try.

Talk soon arose concerning what “may be possible” if Femke Bol can continue to maintain a great training regimen over the Indoor Season and hold it for the Outdoor Season.

So, just for giggles, let’s look at a “progression table” for improvement if Femke Bol does what she clearly can do over a FULL SEASON of racing the women’s 800m:

- Indoor = 6 Races
- Outdoor = 5 Races

Femke Bol’s indoor 800m debut time of 1:59.07 sits well behind the long-standing women’s world records, but it’s still an exceptional opener for an athlete transitioning from the 400/400H. Her performance is confirmed across multiple reports, all citing 1:59.07 as the official mark.

### What the Comparison Shows

- Bol is 3.25 seconds slower than the indoor world record.
- She is 5.79 seconds slower than the outdoor world record.
- For a debut, sub-2:00 is elite—especially for a 400/400H specialist. Her splits (≈57s at 400m, ≈1:28 at 600m) show she paced aggressively and held form well.

### Assumptions for the projection

- Starting PB: 1:59.07 (119.07 seconds)
- Number of 800m races in season: 6
- Improvement pattern (per new PB):
  - Race 2: 1.0% faster
  - Race 3: 0.8% faster
  - Race 4: 0.6% faster
  - Race 5: 0.4% faster
  - Race 6: 0.3% faster



Femke Bol

Comparison to Women’s 800 m World Records				
Category	Time	Athlete	Year	Notes
Femke Bol (Indoor debut)	1:59.07	Femke Bol	2026	Dutch indoor record; first professional 800 m race
Indoor World Record	1:55.82	Jolanda Čeplak	2002	Standing women’s indoor WR
Outdoor World Record	1:53.28	Jarmila Kratochvílová	1983	Long-standing outdoor WR

Projected Race-by-Race Improvement			
Race	% Improvement vs previous PB	Projected time (seconds)	Projected time (min:sec)
1 – Debut	–	119.07	1:59.07
2	1.00%	117.88	1:57.88
3	0.80%	116.93	1:56.93
4	0.60%	116.23	1:56.23
5	0.40%	115.77	1:55.77
6	0.30%	115.42	1:55.42

So under a “marked but realistic” improvement curve, a full indoor season could plausibly take her from 1:59.07 → ~1:55.4. If this hypothetical progression can be accomplished in one Indoor Season, then Femke Bol has a good chance to match or break the women’s World Record over this distance?

Who knows; I have had the enormous, good fortune to attend a “curated” Marathon in Vienna where an athlete named Elliot Kipchoge did something the WORLD is still coming to grips with! He ran 26.2 miles (42.195KM) distance in under ONE HOUR – official time of 1:59:40:02.

At this point in time, all the Worlds Scientist had put forward calculations that prove this

was impossible for the next 5 – 10 years? Elliot did not listen to them; he listened to his body and let it do what it wanted to do.

So, let’s not add to much pressure on to Femke Bol but we have all seen what this Dutch Lady can do with her training! What would an Outdoor Season look like if this improvement progression continues with a more “straight track” and using Race Pacers?

Projection including an outdoor season extension

Let’s extend the same idea to an outdoor season, assuming she carries her indoor gains forward but improvements keep tapering.

Key assumptions

- Indoor final PB: 1:55.42 (from our previous projection, 115.42 seconds)
- Number of outdoor 800m races: 5
- Improvement per new PB (diminishing):
  - Race 1: 0.6% faster than indoor PB
  - Race 2: 0.5% faster than previous PB
  - Race 3: 0.4% faster
  - Race 4: 0.3% faster
  - Race 5: 0.2% faster

Projected Outdoor Race-by-Race Times			
Outdoor race	% improvement vs previous PB	Projected time (seconds)	Projected time (min:sec)
Start (indoor PB)	–	115.42	1:55.42
Race 1	0.60%	114.73	1:54.73
Race 2	0.50%	114.16	1:54.16
Race 3	0.40%	113.7	1:53.70
Race 4	0.30%	113.36	1:53.36
Race 5	0.20%	113.13	1:53.13

So under a “marked but still somewhat realistic” progression, a combined indoor + outdoor year could theoretically take her from 1:59.07 → ~1:53.1.

Apologies to Femke Bol and all her FANS for adding / publishing this type of comparison piece with its inherent pressure. In my defense, after watching her for many years and actually meeting her in the Bahamas at World Relays, I firmly believe that this is eventually possible. Maybe not this FIRST SEASON of both Indoor and Outdoor women’s 800m; for HER this is DOABLE!!



# Salt Rakers Aquatic Club Heads to Nassau for 10th Anniversary Blue Waves Swim Meet

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club is proud to announce its participation in the 10th Anniversary Blue Waves Swim Meet, scheduled for February 13–14, 2026, in Nassau, Bahamas. Representing the Turks and Caicos Islands, Salt Rakers will travel with a team of 16 young swimmers, marking the club’s first international competition of the 2026 season. The Blue Waves Swim Meet is a highly respected regional event

that attracts swim clubs from across the Caribbean and beyond. Celebrating its tenth anniversary, the meet continues to provide a competitive platform for developing athletes to test their skills, gain exposure, and build confidence in a high-level racing environment. For the Salt Rakers swimmers, this meet represents months of disciplined training, early mornings, and unwavering commitment. The opportunity to compete interna-

tionally allows athletes to measure their progress, sharpen race strategies, and gain valuable experience against strong regional competition. For many of the swimmers, this will be their first meet outside the Turks and Caicos Islands. Head Coach Bennett Williams, Assistance Coaches Lincoln Martiin and Bradley Jules noted that participation in events such as the Blue Waves Swim Meet is essential to athlete development, helping

swimmers grow not only in performance, but also in character, discipline, and teamwork. Salt Rakers Aquatic Club extends sincere appreciation to parents, supporters, and sponsors whose continued encouragement makes these opportunities possible. As the team heads to Nassau, they do so with pride, determination, and the shared goal of representing their country with excellence in and out of the pool.



Benneth Williams (centre), Coach of the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club, is photographed with members of the club.

# Thirumalaiyandi Shines at Little Mo Internationals in California

April Thirumalaiyandi delivered a commanding performance at the prestigious Little Mo Internationals, emerging as one of the tournament’s standout young athletes after competing in three highly competitive divisions. The international event, staged at the renowned Barnes Tennis Center in San Diego from February 6–11, 2026, brought together top junior players from around the world. Open to athletes ages 8 through 12, with expanded “Big Mo” divisions for older competitors, the tournament featured singles, doubles, and mixed doubles competitions along with a vibrant lineup of activities including an Opening Ceremony, Parade of Nations, player clinics, and celebratory events. April rose to the occasion on the grand stage. She captured two championship titles, winning both the Doubles and Mixed Doubles divisions, while also battling her way to the Singles final where she secured an impressive runner-up finish. Throughout the week, April demonstrated remarkable consistency, tactical awareness, and resilience. In doubles play, her chemistry with

her partner proved decisive, as they executed sharp net play and strategic baseline control to overpower their opponents. In mixed doubles, she once again showcased versatility and composure under pressure, closing out tight points with confidence. Her singles campaign was equally inspiring. Advancing through a competitive international field, April displayed powerful groundstrokes and strong court coverage to earn a place in the final. Though she narrowly missed the singles title, her runner-up finish capped an extraordinary week in which she reached the podium in every event she entered. The Little Mo Internationals are known not only for elite competition but also for fostering sportsmanship and global camaraderie among young athletes. April’s triple-division success highlights her growing reputation as a formidable junior competitor on the international circuit. With two championship trophies and a singles finalist medal, April leaves San Diego as one of the tournament’s brightest stars, a performance that signals even greater achievements ahead.



April Thirumalaiyandi (left) and her doubles partner show-off their winning trophy.



# GK Foods, Jaguars Secure Impressive T20 Victories In TCI CA T20 Comp.

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

GK Foods and the Jaguars were the big winners as the Turks and Caicos Islands Cricket Association T20 Competition continued at the Downtown Ball Park in Providenciales over the weekend, with both teams delivering commanding performances.

GK Foods produced a clinical run chase to defeat Omar's by six wickets, while the Jaguars followed up with a dominant all-round display to register a 52-run victory over KISHCO.

GK Foods turned in a polished performance to overhaul a target of 93 in just 11.4 overs after restricting Omar's to 92 for 9 from their 20 overs.

After being sent in to bat, Omar's struggled for rhythm from the outset. Tom Fuller and Rohan Hines fell early as the score slipped to 14 for 2. Xavier Scott counterattacked with a brisk 31 off 18 balls, striking five fours and a six at an impressive strike rate of 172.2 to briefly lift the innings.

However, regular wickets stalled any sustained momentum. Garrett Campbell (8), Calvin Aaron (4), and Ramauni Chang (2) were unable to push on, while Ajay Budhai remained unbeaten on 3. Extras contributed a significant 30 runs as Omar's closed at a modest run rate of 4.6.

GK Foods' bowlers shared the responsibility effectively. Ariharan Kuthalingam claimed key wickets, with Rajakumar Kasi and Akhilesh Chaturakintulla also making important breakthroughs to keep the total within reach.

In reply, GK Foods approached the chase positively. Ganesan Kuthalingam struck 23 off 17 balls, and Bharandidharan Thirunavukarasu added 8 off 7 to keep the scoreboard ticking.

Ashok Kumar anchored the innings with an unbeaten 23 off 19 balls, hitting five boundaries, while Ariharan Kuthalingam added a steady 22 off 25 deliveries.

Rajakumar Kasi remained not out on 1 as GK Foods advanced to 96 for 4 at a run rate of 8.2, sealing victory with more than eight overs to spare.

Scott capped an all-round effort for Omar's with figures of 2 for 17 from four overs, while Robert Johnson and Ramauni Chang picked up a wicket apiece.

Ariharan Kuthalingam of GK Foods was named Player of the Match.

## Jaguars Roar Past KISHCO by 52 Runs

The Jaguars complemented GK Foods' success with a commanding 52-run triumph over KISHCO, built on aggressive batting and disciplined bowling.

Batting first, the Jaguars compiled 164 for 9 in their 20 overs at a healthy run rate of 8.2.

Lesson Payne led the way with a dynamic 38 off 27 balls, striking six boundaries. Nuwan Budhinayake matched that total with 38 off 41 deliveries to anchor the middle overs, while Kedar Amsterdam provided impetus with 12 from just 8 balls.

Bradley Singh delivered crucial late acceleration, finishing unbeaten on 32 from 26 balls, and support from Kirtley Charlery, Mark Austin, and Sam Butler helped push the total beyond 160.

For KISHCO, Sentil Thapma was among the more effective bowlers, with Mario Smith and Srikanth Saraswat also contributing to limit the damage.

Chasing 165, KISHCO faltered early and struggled to recover. Wasim Shakh was dismissed without scoring, and wickets fell steadily throughout the innings.

Vinod Panikar (16), Alson Byfield (10), and top-scorer Smijo Devassys (17) offered resistance, while Soneswaran Chinnathambi chipped in with 12. However, the Jaguars' bowlers maintained control, with Sheldon Phillips claiming multiple wickets and Daniel Bourne providing key breakthroughs. Lesson Payne also



Academic and athletic excellence: Harvey accepting his Rookie of the Year award and honours certificate.



Sheldon Phillips of Jaguars collecting Player of the Match Awards.

made an impact with the ball. KISHCO were eventually bowled out for 112 in 17.1 overs, as the Jaguars completed a comprehensive

victory to cap a successful weekend alongside GK Foods. Sheldon Phillips of Jaguars was voted Player of the Match.





Harvey captained the 2023 national team that won silver at the CONCACAF U15 Championships.



With a move to Seattle secured, Harvey is preparing for the next level of competition. Pictured with David Lara.



Academic and athletic excellence: Harvey accepting his Rookie of the Year award and honours certificate.

# Rising Goalkeeper Samuel Harvey Takes Next Step with Seattle Sounders FC

At just 16 years old, Samuel Harvey—who prefers to go simply as Sammy—is already living a football journey most young players only dream about. In the span of 15 months, the international goalkeeper has gone from making a debut at age 14 to earning international headlines, Rookie of the Year honours, and now a place inside Major League Soccer’s elite youth development system with Seattle Sounders FC. For Harvey, this latest step marks a turning point. “Going to the Seattle Sounders is making me realize this is becoming less of a dream and more of a reality,” he said. “Being able to take that next step into what I want to do and excel in my career is a really big jump. But because of all the training and work I put in at SPIRE Academy with coaches Paul and Sean, and through the national program with Coach Aaron—who has been a huge inspiration—I feel ready for whatever challenge comes my way.” Harvey first caught the football world’s attention in September 2024, when he made his senior international debut during the

CONCACAF Nations League at just 14 years old. Despite his team suffering two defeats, the young goalkeeper stood out with fearless performances well beyond his years. The story quickly gained traction, drawing coverage from BBC and Sky Sports and placing Harvey on the radar of professional clubs across Europe and North America. That same year, his rise continued with a trial at English Championship side Queens Park Rangers, followed by a move to SPIRE Academy in Ohio—one of the premier sports performance and education boarding schools in the United States. There, Harvey’s development accelerated. Competing at a high level with SPIRE academy, he earned 2024–25 Rookie of the Year honours while maintaining a 4.0 GPA in the classroom. Over the next 7 months, Harvey continued to impress with Spire FC, earning trials with MLS clubs Nashville SC and Seattle Sounders FC. Ultimately, it was Seattle who made the call—inviting the young goalkeeper into their highly regarded academy system. Sounders FC talent recruit-

er David Lara cited Harvey’s athleticism, professionalism, and maturity as standout qualities that piqued their interest. “It’s a feeling that I get when I feel it’s the right person, and from what I saw in Sammy it’s his hard work. Even in a short time he was able to get better every single day and showed his capacity for learning, and I know our team of goalkeeper coaches are going to continue to shape his game and make him a better goalkeeper.” The move came as little surprise to Harvey’s mentor, Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) national team head coach Aaron Lawrence, who identified Harvey’s potential early. “When I first saw Sammy I saw a prospective great goalkeeper... his size, passion for the sport, and willingness to learn and adjust to whatever the situation stood out. I remember during the long COVID layoff, at 11 years old he was the most consistent keeper in the national programme. He is always present, always asking questions and wanting to do more, always putting the team first. That’s what it takes.”

Lawrence has consistently praised his leadership, work ethic, and mental strength—traits that have already seen Harvey entrusted with captaincy duties at the youth international level. Having joined the Sounders in early January, Harvey who trains primarily with the U18 team, has already been called up for sessions with the second team. He is set to rejoin the Turks and Caicos Islands U17 and U20 national teams as captain in February, leading his country into crucial CONCACAF qualifying matches. Off the pitch, Harvey remains committed to his education. He will complete his 12th year through online learning and plans to pursue a degree in kinesiology with a focus on sports medicine. Still only 16, Sammy Harvey’s journey is far from complete—but with international experience, elite development, and an unshakable belief in his path, he is quickly proving that his rise is no coincidence. For one of the region’s brightest young talents, the future is no longer distant—it’s unfolding right now.