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# Fortis \$8million Solar Microgrid Ground-Breaking

On Friday, July 14, the Twin-Islands of North Caicos and Middle Caicos witnessed the Groundbreaking an \$8million Fortis TCI Solar Plus Battery Microgrid project at the Fortis Plant on North Caicos. Many residents from the two islands came out to witness the event





# Mutilated Body Fished From Sea Still Unidentified



Acting Police Commissioner Rodney Adams

Authorities in the Turks and Caicos Islands are investigating the discovery of a mutilated body found in the waters off Grace Bay Beach on July 13.

The body, tragically missing its head, was recovered by officers from the Marine Branch and Scenes of Crime Unit shortly after 9:50 a.m. Following the recovery, Conservation Officers also arrived at the scene.

As the investigation into the circumstances surrounding the incident is underway, the identity of the deceased remains unknown. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force is actively working to determine the cause of death and any potential leads that may help identify the victim and shed light on what happened.

In light of the distressing nature of the incident, the acting Commissioner of Police, Rodney Adams, has strongly urged the

public to refrain from sharing or circulating graphic images of the body on social media platforms.

Commissioner Adams expressed concern over the insensitivity and trauma that such content can cause to the victim's loved ones and others who may come across it online. He urged individuals to show empathy and respect for the deceased and their family, emphasizing that the incident involves a human life that has been lost. As the investigation continues, authorities are appealing to anyone with information related to the incident to come forward and assist in their efforts to identify the deceased and uncover the circumstances surrounding the tragic discovery.

Anyone with relevant information is encouraged to contact the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force to aid in their ongoing investigation.

## Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam Presides Over First Cabinet Meeting



Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam (front left), is captured standing beside Premier Hon. Washington Misick. Deputy Governor, Her Excellency Anya (standing immediately behind the new governor) headed the executive for the past three months after the departure of former governor Nigel Dakin. Sharing in the photo op are other minister of the Washington Misick administration

14, warmly welcoming newly appointed Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam.

The meeting marked an important moment for the TCI as Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam assumed her new role, replacing former Governor Nigel Dakin, who concluded his tenure in April.

Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam's swearing-in ceremony took place on June 29, and her presence in the cabinet meeting signifies the commencement of her official duties as the highest-ranking representative of the British Crown in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

In her capacity as Governor, Daniel-Selvaratnam holds a crucial position in the governance of the Turks and Caicos Islands, serving as the link between the territory and the United Kingdom. Her role includes upholding the constitution, overseeing the implementation of laws, and ensuring good governance in the region.

The appointment of Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam comes with the hopes of fostering a prosperous and harmonious future for the Turks and Caicos Islands. All members of the Cabinet were present.

Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams headed the government for the past three months after Dakin's departure.

# DMO, Tourist Board Court Showdown!



Garland... "We have instructed counsel to proceed with filing the application for us of both the dissolution of the Tourist Board and the implementation of the process with which the government has moved forward with the DMO."

The opposition Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM) has taken the Washington Misick government to court after filing a judicial review to bar the administration from dissolving the Tourist Board, while asking the Court to appraise the procedural fairness of the Destination Management Organization's (DMO) Implementation.

The Opposition's Appointed Member Hon. Alvin Garland made the revelation during a news conference on Thursday at the Blue Haven Resort Conference Room.

Garland told the media that the implementation of the DMO has been an ongoing concern for the Turks and Caicos Islands' residents, of which the opposition has been addressing since it was first brought to parliament.

He said there was not a clear or proper understanding as to how government intends to proceed with the DMO's implementation. However, Garland pointed out that the opposition was displeased with the speed that government was trying to implement it and getting rid of the Tourist Board.

"In the last session of the House of Assembly, the government had presented certain bills in relation to the dissolution of the Tourist Board. Again, we have not been given ample opportunity to peruse the legislation or to have any kind of consultation with our party supporters, and particularly our constituents of the various constituencies within the Turks and Caicos Islands," Garland lamented.

"They had presented to us this legislation three

days prior to presenting it to House of Assembly for first reading. In addition to that, not giving the sufficient time as required under the Standing Orders of the House of Assembly.

The motion to proceed to have all three readings at that one session, myself, along with the leader of the opposition (Hon. Edwin Astwood) vehemently objected to that. We made our position clear. We raised the pertinent standing orders that were relevant to the motion. Those submission were put forward by myself and the leader of the opposition throughout the debate."

However, Garland said the opposition was disappointed when Speaker of the House Gordon Burton, permitted all three readings of the bill to proceed, concluding with its passage.

"We said then, and we continue to believe that it was not a fair process, not just to the Opposition in the House of Assembly, but also to Turks and Caicos Islanders, who have their concerns as to how government must proceed with this process," Garland reasoned.

He continued: "We made that clear, and we protested by not participating in the debate of the bill, and as a result, we have not taken a decision that in the interest of justice, and to ensure that the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands get a fair opportunity of this process of which the government has elected to proceed on the implementation the DMO, and by extension the dissolution of the Tourist Board, we have instructed counsel today to proceed to serve notice to file a judicial re-

view.

"So, we are now proceeding with our judicial review against the dissolution of the Tourist Board and also in relation to the process in which the government has proceeded with the implementation of entering into (the DMO). We do know if it is a contract or whatever, but we need to know and to get a fair and proper understanding of what arrangement that the government has with the set-up of the DMO.

"And so, we have instructed counsel to proceed with filing the application for us of both the dissolution of the Tourist Board and the implementation of the process with which the government has moved forward with the DMO.

He pointed out that the Constitution clearly states that all decisions of the government or on behalf of the government must be lawful, rationale, proportionate and procedurally fair, stating that the judicial review was based on whether government's decision reasonable, procedurally fair, or proportionate.

"So, the grounds that we are filing on in relation to the dissolution of the Tourist Board is that we believe that there was no proper, or any consultation conducted as it relates to the government proceeding with the dissolution of the Tourist Board, and thereby bringing the legislation.

"In addition to filing on the grounds of procedural fairness, we also believe that the House of Assembly, in ruling that the motion should be carried in allowing the bill to proceed to three readings in one sitting was an injustice and infringement to the Opposition. The Standing Orders state that from the first reading to the second reading there must be seven days before the bill can proceed to the second reading. Under the Standing Orders there are some exceptions to that, and those were raised during the debate on the floor. But we can still say that the rules as it stands, the speaker should not have allowed that bill to proceed to three readings," the opposition's appointed member further argued.

Garland said the opposition also believes that there was not proper or any procurement process by the government in moving forward with the DMO.

"And as it pertains to government moving forward with entering into some kind of arrangements, we don't know if it is a contract, if it is a PPP (Public Private Partnership). We still do not have any proper understanding as to what arrangement it is that the government is proposing or entering into with this proposed DMO," Garland pointed out.

In the meantime, Opposition Leader Hon. Astwood noted that it was never their position to recommend that no improvement should be done to the Tourist Board. However, he said instead of dissolving it, it, improve on its ability to deliver more.

"We never said we were going to leave the Tourist Board as is. I said I was excited that the Tourist Board would be getting all the fixups, all the knowledge, skills and abilities, all the diversification, all the expertise being put in the Tourist Board...the remodeling, redoing the offerings. So, we were exciting about the face of the tourist board...not changing, not shutting down, but enhancing the Tourist Board," Astwood said.

# Revaluing the Guyana dollar

ExxonMobil and its partners estimate Guyana's oil reserves to be more than 8 billion barrels.

Recently I found myself immersed in an enlightening discourse with an academic mentor in which we delved into the future of Guyana's economy.

The premise of our discussion was simple. The question was asked: With Guyana's newfound oil wealth, isn't it time for the nation's economists and Government to consider the potential revaluation of the national currency? But before we explore this further, let's glance at the history of the Guyana currency.

The Guyanese dollar emerged in 1839 as a localised version of the British Guyanese pound, initially pegged to the British pound on a one-to-one basis. With the decimalisation of British Guiana in 1955, the Guyanese dollar was valued at GY\$2 to £1. However, post-independence in 1966, multiple factors, such as political instability, nationalisation of key industries, and escalating external debt, began to weigh heavily on the economy. By the late 1980s, Guyana was one of the countries with the lowest per capita income in the Western Hemisphere, virtually on the brink of bankruptcy.

The financial strain and mounting debt triggered a substantial devaluation of the Guyanese dollar. The People's National Congress (PNC) Government in 1989 introduced an Economic Recovery Programme (ERP), which included a notable devaluation of the Guyanese dollar from its official rate of GY\$10 to US\$1 to a rate of GY\$125 to US\$1. This devaluation was part of a broader reform package intended to liberalise the Guyanese economy. The Guyanese dollar has experienced further devaluation since then, albeit at a slower rate, with the current exchange rate hovering around GY\$210 to US\$1.

However, Guyana's economic landscape changed in 2015 when Guyana discovered extensive offshore oil reserves. ExxonMobil and its partners have estimated these reserves at more than 8 billion barrels of oil equivalent, a substantial amount for a country of less than 800,000 people. Oil production commenced in December 2019, marking a transformative period for Guyana's economy. While the COVID-19 pandemic triggered negative growth in many nations in 2020, Guyana's economy expanded, largely driven by its burgeoning oil sector. This economic boom set Guyana apart from its South American and Caribbean counterparts, which experienced economic contraction.

Organisations like the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank predict substantial growth for Guyana. Despite global economic pressures due to the pandemic, Guyana's economy grew by 47.2 per cent by the end of 2022, as per the IMF reports. The World

Bank forecasts a growth of 34.3 per cent by the end of 2023. Further, econometric models suggest a promising gross domestic product (GDP) trend, potentially reaching around US\$14.70 billion in 2023 and US\$15.20 billion by 2024.

Yet the question of whether it's time to revalue the Guyanese dollar is intricate, hinging on numerous macroeconomic factors, the state of the national economy, and the international financial markets. Currency revaluation is a deliberate adjustment to enhance a country's official exchange rate relative to a chosen currency or baseline, such as the US dollar.

It's important to remember that currency revaluation is a nuanced decision, fraught with potential risks and impacts on the economy. These implications can span trade, debt service, inflation, foreign direct investment, and the overall economic well-being. Still, the decision to revalue shouldn't rely solely on the inflow of revenue from oil exports. A comprehensive evaluation of several factors is crucial, such as the revaluation's impact on the broader economy, the country's monetary policy, inflation, competitiveness of other sectors, and the overall stability of global and regional economies.

The ramifications of a currency revaluation are varied and widespread, permeating different sectors of the economy and influencing the daily lives of its citizens. In Guyana's context, with a population of approximately 800,000 people, a revaluation of the Guyanese dollar would potentially affect every societal sector. On the other hand, the revaluation of the dollar could have a potentially positive impact on the lives of the population. Let's examine a few of these.

\* Costs of living and purchasing power: A revaluation could modify the purchasing power of the currency. A stronger currency could make imports cheaper, potentially decreasing the cost of everyday items like food, clothing, electronics, and vehicles. If these items constitute a significant part of the local market, living costs could be substantially reduced.

\*Employment and Economic Sectors: Revaluation could also influence employment and various economic sectors. If Guyana is a major exporter, a stronger currency could make its exports more expensive on international markets, potentially impacting demand and jobs in these sectors. However, sectors relying heavily on imports, such as retail or manufacturing that use imported inputs, could benefit from a stronger currency, leading to growth and job creation.

\*Savings and investments: For those with savings or investments, revaluation could potentially increase the real value of these assets. This could mean that citizens who have been frugal and financially prudent might find

their purchasing power considerably increased. It would also incentivise more people to save or invest, knowing that their financial assets would likely appreciate in value. An upvalued currency could make the country more attractive for foreign investments, stimulating the economy, possibly leading to increased employment and improved infrastructure. As a result, Guyana could witness enhanced social mobility and economic growth, with the potential to transform its standing on the global stage. Furthermore, attracting foreign investments could lead to the transfer of technology and skills, contributing to the country's long-term economic development and diversification.

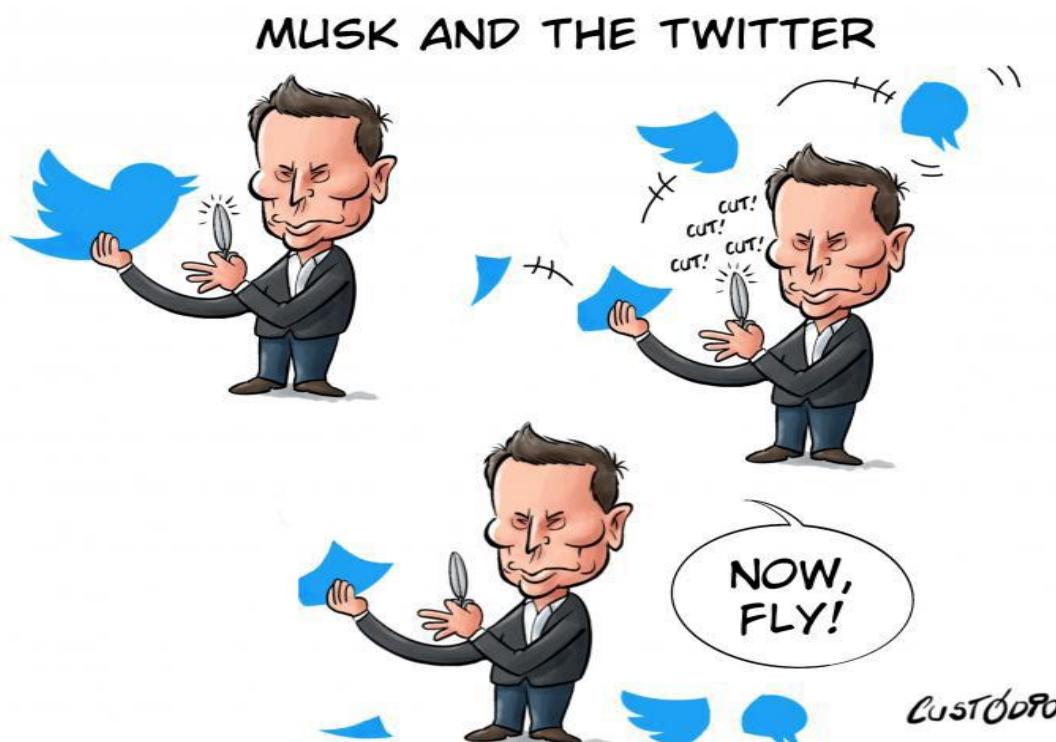
\*Cost of travel: A stronger currency could make foreign travel more affordable for citizens, thereby increasing their purchasing power in other countries. Consequently, travellers may experience a higher standard of living while abroad, allowing them to enjoy a wider range of services or experiences that were previously cost-prohibitive. This could be particularly beneficial for those who travel regularly for business or leisure, as it can significantly reduce their cost of living overseas, making international relations and transactions more feasible and affordable. Additionally, it could also incentivise more citizens to explore international travel, thereby promoting cross-cultural exchanges and global understanding.

\*Inflation and interest rates: The effects of revaluation on inflation and interest rates are also significant. A revalued currency could reduce inflationary pressures by making imports cheaper, potentially stabilising prices in the economy. This could lead to lower interest rates, making borrowing cheaper for businesses and individuals and possibly stimulating economic activity.

While some of these changes could bring immediate prosperity, others could pose challenges. Certain sectors could suffer from reduced competitiveness in international markets, leading to job losses. Hence, any currency revaluation decision should be cautiously considered and managed to balance these potential benefits and drawbacks.

It's about time we start an earnest dialogue on the subject, aiming for our own regional equivalent of the United Arab Emirates, in terms of wealth.

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

# 'Abolish Appointed Members System'



Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood

If the opposition Peoples Democratic Movement (PDM) has its way, the process of appointing members of the public to the House of Assembly would be a thing of the past.

At a news conference on Thursday (July 13), Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood agitated for the abolishment of the government's appointed member, the opposition's appointed member the governor's appointed members, to the House and instead replace with the addition of more electoral district.

In fact, he advocated for Salt Cay and Middle Caicos to having their own elected member of parliament restored, instead of pinning those islands to other electoral districts of other islands.

In the past, Salt Cay had its own electoral district. However, as time went on, and the numbers on that tiny island dwindled, it ostensibly lost its electoral district status.

Since then, Salt Cay is pinned to the constituency of Grand Turk South.

Middle Caicos as late as 2008, had its own elec-

toral district – the last to hold that seat was Jeffry Hall. However, during the Interim administration from 2009 to 2012, some islands, including Middle Caicos, lost electoral districts. Middle Caicos is pinned to North Caicos.

Grand Turk had four seats – North Back Salina, South Back Salina, which also included Salt Cay, West Road, and Overback. South Caicos had two seats, likewise North Caicos. One seat was added to Providenciales, as the Blue Hills seat was cut into two, to create the Blue Hills constituency and the Wheeland constituency.

But the opposition leader is calling for the electoral districts to increase as part of the constitutional reform that both the opposition and government are pursuing.

"The Office the Opposition is closely working with the Government, looking at the recommendations from the people. Those townhall meetings that were conducted just before COVID-19, during that time, looking at all the recommendations.

"But we need to go a step further, we are saying

that we should do away with all appointed members to the House of Assembly. And guess what, our Opposition's Appointed Member (Hon Alvin Garland) is one of them who fully agrees with that. Even though he is an appointed member, he fully agrees that we should do away with all appointed members to the House of Assembly, that would make four seats available...four districts," Astwood asserted.

"And we are recommending that we give to Salt Cay and Middle Caicos back their electoral districts. Some people may argue that Salt Cay and Middle Caicos barely have any people. Yes, that is one criteria, but there are cultural differences. Yes, Salt Cay is in the Grand Turk (electoral district), Middle Caicos is in the North Caicos (electoral district)...why can't they have a representative in the House of Assembly?" Astwood asked rhetorically.

He added: "And so, that is what we are also pushing, that appointed members go away – the government's appointed member, the opposition's appointed member and the two governor's appointed members go away, and everyone in the House of Representatives is elected... that is one of the recommendations that we are also pushing in the constitutional reform."

Astwood said the opposition is also pushing for a police commission that would oversee the operations of the police force, instead of the governor's office. He said the commission should be made up of past police commissioners, inspectors justices of the peace, and so on.

"Other overseas territories have that. And so, that body would be looking over the operations and functions of the police force," he argued.

Astwood also used the opportunity to rehash extract from his welcoming speech to Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam. He stated: "Her Excellency, I believe that it is time now for our people to rise together. Its time now for my people to fight together. It is time now for my people to build together. If we are to ensure the present and future prosperity of the people of our country.

"I sincerely welcome you (Governor Daniel Selvaratnam) here today in this formal capacity. There are many amongst us who are ready for the Master /servant relationship between the UK and the TCI to come to an end.

"I believe that it is now, more than at any time in our history, that we, as leaders, must prepare our people for Self Determination. The time has come to express our full confidence in our people to lead our country as an independent nation.

"We know that this will not happen overnight, but the process must begin, and begin now. Education of our people on independence, promoting love for self and love for country. Promoting working together and going into business together. Promoting unity.

"I will continue to be committed to getting our people ready, and after that, present the choice to them... after we have everything in place... after our people are ready, we want to present the choice to them to stay and continue being a colonized people, or to determine our own destiny.

"With the PDM, you have a wonderful destiny ahead I ask you to join this movement...join the PDM."

# NESTING BIRD AWARENESS



The Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR) is reminding residents and visitors of the Turks and Caicos Islands that the summer seabird nesting season is underway.

Many species of gulls, terns, noddies, and other seabirds nest on the cays and remote beaches from May through August yearly. DECR notes that all birds and their nests and eggs are protected in Turks and Caicos Islands under the Wild Birds Protection Ordinance, specifically:

Section 3 (1) "Any person commits an offense against this Ordinance who – (a) Wilfully kills, wounds, or takes, or attempts to kill, wound, or take any wild bird; (b) takes, removes, injures or destroys any nest or egg of any wild bird."

This includes disturbing nesting sites by landing on seabird cays, walking through nesting areas, and allowing pets onto seabird cays or into nesting areas. Breeding seabirds can be highly sensitive to human activities at or near their nesting sites.

Disturbance can affect nesting success and have longer-term impacts on colonies. Eggs are fragile and easily broken, eggs and small chicks can die if left unattended, and adult birds can abandon their nest resulting in breeding failure if disturbance is persistent.

Most of the remote cays on which seabirds nest are Protected Areas under the National Parks Ordinance (see list at end of article); those seabirds and their nests are also protected from disturbance by that Ordinance.

Many of the remote seabird nesting cays are classified as Sanctuaries, for which landing without written permission from DECR (including landing on the beaches) is prohibited.

Seabirds may also nest in open areas on other islands, especially on beaches and dunes. Many species of seabirds do not make nests and keep their well-camouflaged eggs and chicks directly on sand or rock, which makes walking through a nesting area very dangerous to the eggs and chicks.

If you enter an area where seabirds are flying closely and noisily overhead, it is important to leave the area immediately. Do not attempt to throw objects or sand at the birds. They will not leave their nests. It is also crucial that eggs or chicks, even if seemingly abandoned, are not removed from the wild. As visitors to their habitats, and stewards of their ecosystem, it is our responsibility to minimise disturbance in this crucial time of their life cycle.

DECR Director Lormeka Williams explains: "Seabirds come to land only once per year to reproduce, and even seemingly small disturbances can ruin a nesting year. We are only beginning to understand the vital ecological role of nesting seabirds to the health

of our coral reefs and their fascinating domino effect whereby the perfectly balanced nutrient load from their nesting areas promotes not only increased fish presence, but also the health of large pelagic fish such as sharks."

Dr Rhiannon Auston of University of Liverpool has been working on seabird research in collaboration with DECR and the Turks and Caicos National trust for several years.

Dr Austin states: "Seabirds are important components of healthy marine ecosystems. Many species are marine top predators that eat huge quantities of fish and roam over large stretches of the oceans to find food. Therefore, they link offshore and near-shore ecosystems, and playing important roles in nutrient cycling and maintaining healthy reefs."

Follow seabird research in TCI on social media: @tciseabirds

Cays within Sanctuaries, where landing without written permission is prohibited, include the following: Caicos Bank: French Cay, Seal Cay, Seal Pup Cays, White Cay, Pear Cay, Indian Cay, Shot Cay, and Bush Cay.

On the Turks Bank, the prohibited areas are: Long Cay and Big Sand Cay. Other cays that are protected as National Parks or Nature Reserves include: Caicos Bank- Chalk Sound Cays, Little Water Cay, Mangrove Cay, Lizard Cay, Bird Cay, Star Island, Fort St George Cay, Grouper Cay, Stubbs Cay, Three Mary Cays, East Bay Cays, Guana Cay, Middleton Cay, Horse Cay, Iguana Cay, Small Moxey Bush, Dove Cay, Long Cay, Six Hills Cays, Fish Cays, and Little Ambergris Cay.

On the Turks Bank: Gibb's Cay, Round Cay, Penniston Cay, Pear Cay, and Martin Alonzo Pinzon Cay (East Cay).

## Barbados In Talks With Inter-Caribbean Airlines To Increase Flights



In a bid to boost regional travel to Barbados and stimulate the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) market, the Barbados Government is in talks with Turks and Caicos carrier Inter-Caribbean Airways. The move comes as the absence of LIAT, a former regional airline, has led to higher inter-regional travel costs.

Tourism and International Transport Minister, Ian Gooding-Edghill, revealed in Parliament that the government has taken the step of reducing the air-

port service charge from US\$35 to US\$20 for a six-month period. The reduction aims to make travel to Barbados more affordable for CARICOM travelers and thereby attract more visitors from the Caribbean region.

The minister emphasized the importance of catering to the price-sensitive CARICOM market and expressed confidence that the reduction in the airport service charge would encourage more regional travelers to choose Barbados as their destination.

To support the increased influx of travelers, the Barbados government is actively engaging with regional airlines, such as Air Antilles and Inter-Caribbean, to expand the number of weekly flights to the island. Minister Gooding-Edghill expressed satisfaction with the load factors from both airlines, indicating an up-swing in arrivals from within the CARICOM region. Inter-Caribbean Airlines has played a crucial role in the efforts to boost tourism in Barbados. CEO Lyndon Gardiner shared that the airline has been in a partnership with Barbados since 2020 and is committed to its continued growth and expansion. Currently, Inter-Caribbean operates over 100 flights per week to Barbados, with approximately 34 flights servicing the country daily. The airline maintains a fleet of five planes based on the island.

Moreover, Inter-Caribbean Airlines is looking to further expand its operations by entering new territories. It plans to explore winter flights to these new markets and is in the process of securing the necessary permits to commence servicing them.

In the meantime, the Barbados transport minister said that the temporary reduction in the airport service charge is scheduled to end on December 14, allowing travelers a window of opportunity to take advantage of the more affordable travel options to Barbados.

The collaborative efforts between Inter-Caribbean Airlines and the Barbadian government are expected to not only increase tourist arrivals but also enhance connectivity within the CARICOM region.

# Clement Howell High Placed Second In Regionally-Held National Tourism Debate



The team of Antwan Butler, Esther Joseph and Kajé Williams

The Turks and Caicos Islands, represented by the Clement Howell High School placed second in the regionally staged National

Tourism Debate held in Montego Bay, Jamaica on 3.

The team of Antwan Butler, Esther Joseph and Kajé Williams was only bested by eventual Champions St. Lucia.

Schools from three different nations used the Zoom platform to compete in a series of debates leading up to the final. Defending champions, The Bahamas, did not participate in this year's event. Wolmers High School for Girls from Jamaica and Leon Hess from St. Lucia both sent representatives.

The finals saw the Turks and Caicos Islands team, coached by Ms. Keisha Carter, proposing the motion "This house believes that intra-regional trade offers very little support to tourism". But although the Turks and Caicos team made a 'fiery' presentation, St Lucia claimed first place, by opposing the motion - "This house believes that visa-free travel should be allowed to all countries within the commonwealth".

St. Lucia won with 660 points, just ahead of Turks and Caicos Islands (606), demonstrating the intensity of the competition and a slim margin of victory. Sandals Resort, the event's sponsor, provided each team's

coaches with a free weekend stay at any of their properties in the Caribbean.

Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor, reacting to the commanding performance by the national champions, stated: "We understand the importance of steering young creative minds into the tourism and hospitality industry and the expansion of such youth programs affords this opportunity.

"As organizers of this event, supported by the Ministry of Tourism, we are achieving the expected synergy and stirring the critical conversation among the youth. Congratulations to Team TCI."

Conveying her congratulatory remarks, Hon. Josephine Connolly, Minister of Tourism stated declared: "Such collaborative efforts foster capacity building and increase awareness of the interrelationships that exist because of tourism. Our youth are truly a part of the process and events such as these will only attract them to the industry." The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Tourism will continue to support this initiative and congratulates all participants including, students, teachers, coaches and officials of both Ministries.

## T.I. Summajam Billed To Be The Best Ever



is billed to probably be the most exciting in years.

The series of events will take place between July 19 and 22. The highlighted performances this year will come from Pro-Vision Band Boys; Elroy Simmons; Tess Charles; DJ Shakes; Prime Dee Jays; DJ RIG and; DJ Blow.

The event will kick off on Wednesday, July 19 at 6p.m. with a motorcade and parade of the Miss Grand Turk and Miss Teen Grand Turk Pageant contestants. On Thursday, July 20, the Miss Teen Grand Turk, which starts at 7p.m., will be held.

On Friday, July 21, beginning at 7p.m., The exciting Miss Grand Turk Pageant will be held. The winner automatically gets to represent Grand Turk in next year's Provo Day Festival. The festival will climax on Saturday July 22, with the Parade of Nations Motorcade, followed by the Talent and Culture Showcase.

The participants in the Parade of Nations will assemble at the Emancipation Square/Clock Tower at to witness the Horse Race from St. Thomas Church ending at Kishco Parking Lot. Following the race, each country will join in the Motorcade in alphabetical order from the Clock Tower, along Pond Street, onward to Moxey Folly, and climaxing at the Parade

Grounds for the Carnival Like Extravaganza, which includes cultural sports, dance, music, or showcase their country's best features on stage via a number of activities.

The T.I. Summa Jam, which dates back from 1995, strictly focuses on discovering, recognizing, promoting, encouraging local talent, and "Keeping the Vibe Alive" in the island of Grand Turk, which the organizers dub as the birthplace of TCI culture and entertainment. This year's event will honor what it calls some of the country's cultural pioneers especially in the field of entertainment. The honorees are Crystal "Tess" Charles; Barbaralee Johnson; David Bowen; Huntley "Super P The Entertainer" Forbes Jnr; Lynnette Thomas; Cheryl Ann Forman; Catherine Ann Forbes; Angela Freites; Valerie Jennings (posthumously); Joseph Robinson; and Stanley "Hitchie" Astwood.

TCI and Caribbean dishes will be on sale throughout the evening with the night culminating with performances from local artists. We trust you will accept our invitation and participate in this annual "Sharing of Nations" event where our cultures are showcased. For more information, please call Rita Gardiner @ (649) 231-0312.

The much-anticipated T.I. Summajam perennially held in the country's capital Grand Turk

# Digicel TCI Celebrates 17 Years With Fun, Frolic And Food

Digicel Turks and Caicos celebrated its 17th year in the Turks and Caicos Islands with a plethora of activities at its headquarters along Leeward Highway on Friday, July 1.

The day's activities include a live band, a parade of nations of different nationalities represented in the TCI, sumptuous foods for the public and fun for the children.

"It is our pleasure to celebrate not only with our team and staff, but to celebrate without customers," declared Addison Stoddard, CEO of Digicel TCI.

He pointed out that Digicel has grown leaps and bounds over the near 20 years that it has hammered its stakes in the TCI telecommunications market, boasting that over the period the regional telecommunications provider has seen its network grow from a 2 Generation provider to now Long-Term Evolution (LTE) delivery, which also caters to internet.

"We have made a long journey. We have seen our network grow from just offering 2G services to 3G services, now to LTE. And of course, we now have our fancy fiber network, to bring internet and connectivity to the homes of every Turks and Caicos Islander," Stoddard said.

He added: "But not only that, we have spread our wings and offer great business services, where we can provide services to government and companies alike. And of course, we are now venturing into 'smart home' – security for your home, which is, of course, critical at this time.

"So, we have really morphed and grown into not just a provider of mobile services, but a provider of connectivity services. Of course, we are better together, and 17 years of being better together is where we are at today."

For its 17th anniversary operating in the TCI, Digicel is offering a great deal of goodies, including a Graceway Supermarket Shopping Spree. To be eligible for the shopping spree, customers must activate a 30-day Prime Ultra Bundle, which is valued at \$46.







## NEWSLINE COMICS

SO, WHAT DO YOU WANT FOR CHRISTMAS?

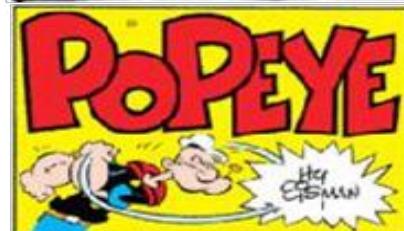


Image: Adriana Rapolla | Flickr

# BROWN Pelican

**NEWSLINE**  
The Department of Environment, Planning & Conservation

Turks & Caicos is home to the Caribbean brown pelican. It is also the national bird of the TCI. They are easily identifiable by their skin pouch under the their bill. They use this pouch as a sort of 'fishing net' to swoop down and catch fish. The brown pelican was listed as endangered in the '70s because of pesticides. However, they were removed from the list when a lot of the harmful pesticides were banned.

# ALMI Hosts Samaritan's Purse's 'The greatest Journey' Graduation

On July 1, 30 children from Abundant Life Ministries International (ALMI) graduated from the Samaritan's Purse's 12-week children's Bible course known as the 'The Greatest Journey.' The course taught the children the creation story, why sin entered into the world and how Jesus came and died so that mankind can have forgiveness and everlasting life. The event was attended by Minister of Tourism Hon. Josephine Connolly, who is also the minister in charge of Religion. Pastor Wilbert Jennings of Kingdom Dominion Ministries International, and also the representative for Samaritan's Purse in the Turks and Caicos Islands was the guest speaker for the event. At the graduation, the children received certification of participation, a Bible, trophies and other gifts. The classes were divided into two groups – ages four to seven, and ages 8 and upwards. Skylar Francis was voted the valedictorian for the junior age group, while Kassidy Hamilton was voted the valedictorian for the senior age group. The following are photo highlights of the event.





# C&W Communications officially launches 'JUMP'



The Hon. Mia Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, shakes hands with Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, C&W Communications following the launch of JUMP. They are joined by (from left) The Hon. Kirk Humphrey, Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs; Desron Bynoe, Country Manager, Flow Barbados; and Rodney Taylor, Secretary General, Caribbean Telecommunications Union.



The Hon. Kirk Humphrey, Minister of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs, signs a memorandum of understanding with Desron Bynoe, Country Manager, Flow Barbados to officially launch JUMP in Barbados.

A plan to deliver all-important internet connections to low-income Caribbean households has been unveiled as part of a private-public partnership between telecoms operator C&W Communications and some Caribbean countries.

Aptly called JUMP, the initiative aims to help bridge the digital divide and foster greater digital inclusion in a region that today still has less than 65% broadband penetration with 27 million users from a total combined population of 44 million.

In partnership with local governments, C&W Communications, the op-

erators of Flow, Flow Business, C&W Business and BTC, will provide qualifying households with a subsidized high-speed internet connection, a free laptop computer and relevant training for individuals and families. So far, the governments of Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica, St Lucia, and The Bahamas have committed to JUMP and more than 2,700 households have already been connected. "There is a widening gap between those who have access to online opportunities and those who do not, so JUMP has been created to ensure the benefits of digital technologies are

available to as many people as possible. It is here to help transform lives and empower previously underserved communities," said Inge Smidts, Chief Executive Officer, C&W Communications.

She was speaking at the official launch of JUMP in Barbados at Sandals Royal.

"In the Caribbean, some of the barriers to internet use and adoption include general lack of awareness, affordability, the absence of digital skills, and inadequate infrastructure. JUMP aims to address all these issues in a comprehensive way, and we are proud to deliver this initiative that will have an immediate impact in the communities we serve," added Smidts.

The Honourable Mia Amor Mottley, Prime Minister of Barbados, endorsed JUMP and welcomed the initiative in Barbados.

"The digital divide is a large, multi-faceted issue that requires holistic solutions, and a successful strategy requires building innovative partnerships, so we must co-create solutions in partnership to ensure no citizen is left behind," she said.

"There is a role for each of us to play, and we are optimistic that JUMP will provide an opportunity for everyone to bring their energy, commitment and collaboration on the mission of uplifting our region."

In Barbados, C&W Communications has partnered with the Ministry of People Empowerment and Elder Affairs to provide low-income households that qualify for the programme with a subsidised home internet package, a compatible device (laptop/tablet) and digital literacy training. Smidts said JUMP is C&W's long-term commitment to the communities it serves.

"We aim to eliminate barriers and to ensure that every individual and family, despite their financial situation, can benefit from the digital world. We firmly believe that connectivity is not a luxury; it is a fundamental right that should be accessible to all, and we plan to connect 1,000 households in Barbados before the end of the year," she said.

"We believe this investment will change lives, unlock the potential of economies, and truly enable progress. Our core social mission is to connect everyone to the digital world, regardless of their income or where they live, and we are committed to harnessing our resources and capabilities to narrow the digital divide," she said.



# FEATURED CHURCH

This week on NEWSLINE's Life-Line Featured Church, we turn the spotlight on Christ is the Answer Ministries. Christ is the Answer Ministries, located at George Alley off Aviation Drive (the Street Opposite Mackey's Tires), Providenciales, is pastored by Bishop Dr. Sherlock Padmore. The church has provided weekly opportunities for worship. On Sunday at 7p.m. Sunday Service. Bible Study is held on Tuesdays at 7pm. For further information on how to attend church services, contact 241-8030.

## CHRIST IS THE ANSWER MINISTRIES



## LIFE LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk**  
Tel:946-1866

**Calvary Baptist Church,**  
South Caicos  
Tel:946-3212

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

**Roman Catholic Church,**  
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

**Methodist Church,**  
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

# The REVENGE Dress

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

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

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



## Choose Items You Can Actually Wear.

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

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

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

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

# TCI 2022/23 Chevening Scholar Attends Chevening Farewell Event



Gessie Herilien indulge in a photo op in front of the Chevening backdrop

Mrs Gessie Herilien, a recipient of the prestigious Chevening Scholarship for the academic year 2022/23, bids farewell as she concludes her transformative educational journey in the UK.

She is set to return to her home country, Turks and Caicos, in the coming weeks, equipped with valuable knowledge and experiences gained during her time as a Chevening Scholar.

Throughout her time as a Chevening Scholar, Gessie has exemplified academic excellence, dedication, and a commitment to making a positive impact in her community. She is studying her LLM – Master of Law in Financial Technology and Regulation at University of East London where she has gain extensible knowledge on finance products and services such as mobile payments, crowdfunding, crypto assets, private digital currencies, stable coins, and decentralised finance.

She has collaborated with fellow scholars and interacted with renowned faculty members. Her dissertation is focused on "digital transformation and researching how the TCI can become a Prominent FinTech leader in the FinTech industry."

Upon her return to Turks and Caicos, she aims to apply her newfound knowledge and

skills to address pressing challenges facing her country and contribute to a more transformative financial services through the use of technology.

She plans to collaborate with local organizations, government bodies, and educational institutions to implement innovative solutions, drive positive change to help bolster the economic conditions of these islands.

As Gessie bids farewell to her fellow Chevening Scholars and the academic community in East London, she expresses her heartfelt gratitude to the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, the Chevening Secretariat, and all those who supported her throughout her Chevening journey. She acknowledges the invaluable opportunities, cross-cultural exchanges, and lifelong connections she has gained during her time as a Chevening Scholar.

The Chevening Scholarship, funded by the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office, offers outstanding individuals from around the world the opportunity to pursue a fully funded master's degree in the United Kingdom. It aims to foster global leadership, promote cross-cultural understanding, and create lasting networks among scholars.

Gessie Herilien (third from right), along with her fellow Chevening Scholars take a nostalgic photo before departing to their various territories



# 65 Students Sign-up For United Way Summer Enrichment Programme



Mark Fulford (right), Chairman of United Way Turks and Caicos, along with his executive team join the campers in a photo op



Chairman of United Way Turks and Caicos, Mark Fulford (centre), Snjezana Andrews (second from left), United Way TCI Treasurer, and Claudine Ewing (third from left), Executive Director for United Way TCI, join Salvation Army Majors Ernest Gachelin (right), Germanie Gachelin(left) and United Way volunteers for a photo op at the first day of the three-week Summer Enrichment Programme.

Sixty-five students from across Providenciales between the ages of 7 and 12 are participating in the United Way Turks and Caicos Islands three-week Summer Enrichment Programme, which kicked off on Monday (July 10) at the Salvation Army's Brighter Futures Centre.

Claudine Ewing, Executive Director for United Way Turks and Caicos told the news media that the participants came from both private and public schools. She said the programme's total focus is on literacy, and that it is totally free of charge.

For the duration of the camp, the children will be taught Reading Comprehension, Math, Science Experiments and Arts and Crafts. Ewing said the five employed tutors tasked with educating the children over the period are trained teachers, who are currently teaching public primary schools on Providenciales.

"We are focusing on literacy, that's our strong-

hold here, and we figured that last time we did anything for summer was the Reading Buddies Programme," Ewing said. "We try to avoid brain-drain during summer, and with literacy being our passion, (and because of) the good suggestion by our treasurer, Mrs. (Snjezana) Andrews (we have) decided that we are going to go big, and we are going to offer a summer enrichment camp."

She said corporate Turks and Caicos has committed to sponsoring the meals for the entire three weeks, stating also that many persons have undertaken to become volunteer.

"United Way is big on volunteers. And throughout the three weeks, we are going to have our volunteers pop-in, and they can partake in subjects that they are good at, to help along," Ewing further explained.

"Everything is completely free. The only thing the kids are asked to bring is a water jug so that

they can refill their water," she added.

Ewing said one-on-one assessments with the teachers and the volunteers were done on Monday, further explaining that from the second day until the end of the camp, each child would be assigned to his/her proper grade level class.

"We are hoping that if we have a child that is supposed to be in grade two, but is actually at a grade one level, that by the end of the three weeks we would see some progress," she pointed out.

Ewing stated that in September, United Way would be implementing an after-school education intervention programme in government primary schools, which she said would be done in conjunction with the Department of Education, to foster literacy amongst children.

"They (Department of Education) are giving us the guidance on where we need to go to help, because we want to ensure that we are not outside of what the government actually had planned, but we want to help," she reiterated. She said in September United Way Turks and Caicos, which started in 2018, and launched in 2019, will be looking to hire teachers to carry out its education mandate.

In the meantime, Ewing revealed that United way Turks and Caicos is slated to unveil a catalogue of programmes within the next two years, geared at hauling our children from the pit of illiteracy.

"So we encourage the public to come on board, either donate your time or your money...it is going to go to good use," she assured.

"We had two community conversations recently...we had a female and a male, and there were lots of programmes that came out of these conversations that we are going be launching as well, because it was the people's idea, and if it is your idea you are going to want to help," she said.

Declaring the programme open, Chairman for United Way Turks and Caicos Mark A Fulford, said: "It is a joy to see the many smiling faces of all the kids that have signed up and is in actual attendance at day one of the United Way TCI Summer Camp.

"These three weeks have been carefully designed to enrich the lives of the participants of this camp, by enhancing their skills in Reading, Math, Science and Arts & Crafts. My board of directors are elated to be providing the funding for this camp as we are sure that any investment into the youth of this country is a good investment.

"We thank the Parents for their confidence in United Way TCI and for entrusting their precious ones to us for these three weeks. We will ensure that they have lots of fun while learning, and we promise to deliver them back safely and more knowledgeable in the areas of Reading, Math, Science and Arts & Crafts. We want to say a special thanks to the Teachers, volunteers and sponsors who are the real MVP to make this camp a reality!"

# Roan McInnis, a calculated leader in the BTC Finance department



Roan McInnis (left) shares a teaching moment with Angela Duyor, Accounts Clerk at the Finance Office



In order to be successful, you must decide on your passion, maintain your focus and challenge yourself each day, this was one of the guiding principle that Roan McInnis had when he joined the Sandals and Beaches team back in 2003.

This accountant by training started his career at Beaches Ocho Rios in Jamaica. With the necessary professional discipline, Roan, who began as a night auditor, rose in the ranks to become an accountant at that resort.

In January 2009 he joined the team at Beaches Turks and Caicos (BTC). As if he was repeating his career pathway, Roan started out as a night auditor and within two years, found himself in

the finance department as an accounts payable clerk. With a profound commitment to his personal and professional growth, Roan's aim was also to help in the development of those in his circle.

"Joining the team here at BTC has been the best decision that I have made professionally. The opportunity to inspire others has made my journey here more meaningful as I was groomed as a leader by the likes of the Financial Controller Ella Martin. I have vowed to help in mentoring others within the industry," McInnis shared.

When asked about the motivational factors within his profession, the father of four smiled

as he shared that he is intrinsically driven by what he has experienced within the organisation.

"The culture of this company is one where as a young professional, the level of exposure that is provided within each resort is exceptional. I had the chance not only to learn within my area but also to develop in other areas that have allowed me to become a stronger professional," McInnis added.

With the right mindset, Roan admitted that for any young professional seeking to join the industry, BTC is the most ideal place to start. While sharing the benefits of being guided by experienced leaders, he also believes that the opportunity to chart a dynamic career path is very much possible as well.

Said McInnis, "the idea for some people is that the hospitality industry is limited to certain careers, but that is not the case with BTC. There is a diverse list of positions here and many opportunities to transition from one role to the next. Every team member can access online and in person training that is internationally recognised and very practical in delivery. For those seeking to find a rewarding career, this is the perfect place to start as the platform on which to build is available for all."

Alyssia Pickstock, finance manager shared, "Roan is the ultimate team player for us here at BTC. He has been helping to mold younger professionals within the office while ensuring that the knowledge he has is shared with those in and also outside of the department. A mentor for the younger team members, he is truly a champion."

# NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup> & Chill

## Christmas Word Scramble

1. levees \_\_\_\_\_
2. ithlsg \_\_\_\_\_
3. eymrr \_\_\_\_\_
4. eerdirne \_\_\_\_\_
5. satna \_\_\_\_\_
6. lihsge \_\_\_\_\_
7. iksnctog \_\_\_\_\_
8. etre \_\_\_\_\_
9. wenitr \_\_\_\_\_
10. thwaer \_\_\_\_\_

ter 10. wreath

1. elves 2. lights 3. merry 4. reindeer 5. Santa 6. sleigh 7. stocking 8. tree 9. win-

## Brain Teaser

A man stands on one side of a river, his dog on the other. The man calls his dog, who immediately crosses the river without getting wet and without using a bridge or a boat. How did the dog do it?

Answer: The river was frozen

## Governors of TCI

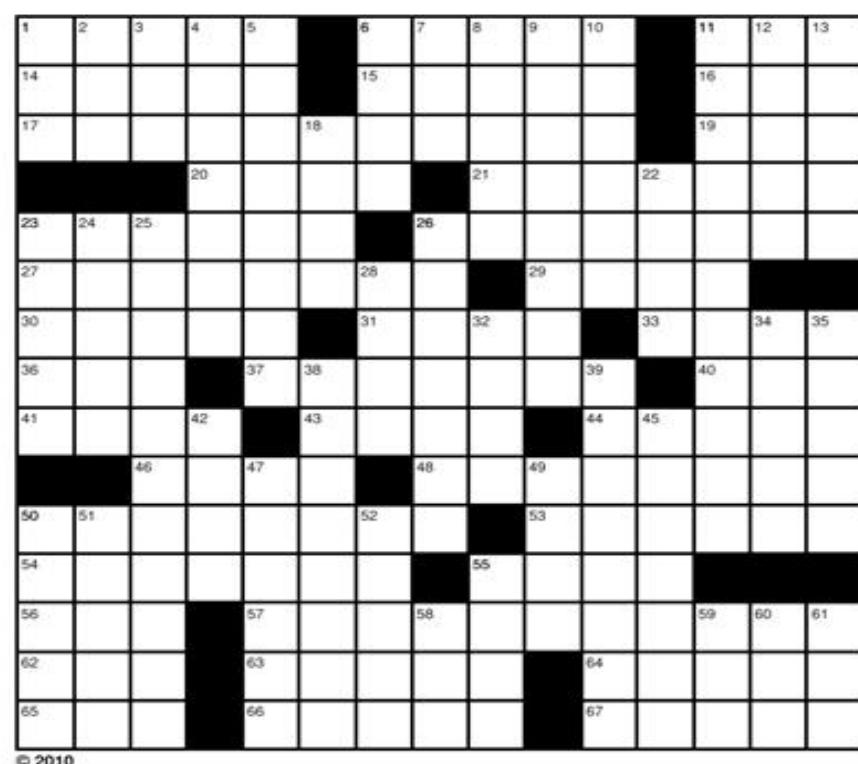
Alexander Mitchell  
Arthur Watson  
John Strong  
Christopher Turner  
Michael Bradley  
Martin Bourke  
John Kelly  
Mervyn Jones  
Jim Poston  
Mahala Wynns  
Richard Tauwhare  
Gordon Wetherell  
Ric Todd  
Peter Beckingham  
John Freeman  
Nigel Dakin

## Building Up Business

### ACROSS

1. A mission to remember
6. Church of Eng. descendant
11. Pigskin org. for 2 seasons
14. Popular fungus
15. Scout rider
16. Take off
17. Furnishings business that might leave you cowed?
19. Hostelry
20. "The Lost Boys" actor Corey (1971-2010)
21. Souvenir from a tropical vacation
23. Winter Olympian Baiul
26. In a safe manner
27. Weight
29. \_\_\_ II (razor brand)
30. Indian princess
31. Ending for silver or pewter
33. Dash device
36. OPEC member with the motto "By the people and for the people"
37. Many poets
40. Doo-wop syllable
41. Part of an equitable division
43. Children's author Blyton
44. Subject of a piratical address
46. "Oh, woe!"
48. Inaccurately designated
50. Ignition specialist
53. Back on board
54. Is beaten by
55. Online qualifier
56. Sound of delight

**Robert Stockton**



57. All-night diner that makes you feel right at home?
62. Buckeyes' sch.
63. Online commerce
64. Altogether
65. Kind of cat or chance
66. They are nothing in music
67. Mid-April concerns

**DOWN**

1. Feedback generator
2. Canterbury can
3. Verb before "thou"
4. Natural gas, mostly
5. Shrub on a southern roadside
6. Dict. info
7. Rented mail dest.
8. Foolish
9. Less lenient
10. Be of like mind
11. Hamburger business that gives you the royal treatment?
12. With 47 down, Regis Philbin catch-phrase
13. Comic Bruce
18. Platinum record certifier
22. Proof word
23. Talk show host who notable endorsed Barack
24. Noted eucalyptus eater
25. Eyewear business fit for a castaway?
26. Beachfront fog
28. English actress Nell
32. Perform a second time
34. Vivacity
35. Composer of "The Seasons" oratorio

This puzzle was created using CrossFire (<http://beekeeperlabs.com/crossfire>)

## J of the JOKE WEEK

A man went into a seafood restaurant and asked for a lobster tail. The waitress smiled sweetly and said, "Once upon a time there was this handsome lobster..."

## SUDOKU

3	2	5	9			7	4
8	4			7	6		
7	9			8		3	
4	6		1				7
9		7	3			8	
	7			4	9		
4	8	7				3	9
7		4	9			8	
	8	6	3			4	

	2	5		6
9	3	6	2	4
7	5	9	3	8
2	3		5	7
9			6	2
	4	3	6	5
6			9	5
3		6	8	4
8	5	4	7	9
3			3	2

# 6 steps to a flat stomach

SUZANNE HILL



WE all want it, really badly, but for many women, getting a flat stomach is as unreachable as finding gold at the end of a rainbow. We'll diet, exercise, starve ourselves and pray, and at the end of the day, that pudge, that flab, that fat, is just stubbornly sitting there, making it impossible to wear certain clothes, to be confident, and to just feel good about ourselves.

But while you may be trying, fitness trainer

Lennox Richards said chances are, your mistake is as simple as eating the wrong things, and at the wrong time.

In fact, he said, there are specific foods that can guarantee a flat stomach, and others that will just bloat you up.

"Incorporating a healthy diet into your routine can contribute to overall weight management and potentially help reduce bloating," he said. Here are some foods he suggests to include in

your diet, that will have your tummy flat in no time.

## Fibre-rich foods

Include plenty of fruits, vegetables, whole grains, and legumes in your meals. These can help you feel full, support digestion, and prevent constipation.

## Lean proteins

Opt for lean sources of protein like poultry, fish, tofu or beans. Protein can help with satiety and support muscle development.

## Healthy fats

Include sources of healthy fats such as avocados, nuts, seeds and olive oil. These provide essential nutrients and can help you feel satisfied.

## Hydration

Drink an adequate amount of water throughout the day to support digestion and prevent bloating.

## Probiotic-rich foods

Incorporate foods like yoghurt, kefir and kimchi, which contain beneficial bacteria that support gut health.

## Mindful eating

Pay attention to portion sizes and eat slowly. Mindful eating can help prevent overeating and promote better digestion.

"Remember, achieving a flat stomach involves a combination of factors, including overall body composition, exercise and a balanced diet," Richards said. "It's important to focus on overall health and well-being rather than solely on appearance."

# Strategies to deal with anxiety

LICHELE PALMER



NOT many people understand how debilitating having anxiety can be, especially when it's written off as a woman just being moody, having issues with PMS, or just being unable to cope with her emotions. And so for a long time many women have dealt with this issue in silence, continually being anxious, unsettled and unhappy, for however long the period of anxiety lasts.

What has been good about this new culture of sharing

everything, opening up, and doing therapy, is that more people are coming forward to describe their experience with issues like anxiety, which are not necessarily considered serious in medical circles. And the suggestions for improving one's life have been many – from therapy to medication, a solution is available.

Atlanta-based mental health counsellor Angela Dacres said dealing with anxiety can be challenging, but there

are strategies that can help.

Here are some tips she noted, specifically for women:

## Self-care

Prioritise self-care activities like exercise, healthy eating, adequate sleep and relaxation techniques such as deep breathing or meditation.

## Support network

Build a strong support network of friends, family, or support groups. Sharing your feelings and experiences with others who understand can provide comfort and reassurance.

## Time management

Organise your schedule and prioritise tasks. Breaking larger tasks into smaller, manageable steps can reduce feelings of overwhelm and anxiety.

## Boundaries

Set clear boundaries in your personal and professional life. Learn to say no to additional commitments when you're feeling overwhelmed.

## Mindfulness techniques

Practice mindfulness to stay present and focus on the present moment. Techniques like grounding exercises or keeping a gratitude journal can help redirect your thoughts.

## Seek professional help

If anxiety persists or becomes unmanageable, consider seeking help from a mental health professional. They can provide guidance, therapy, or medication if necessary. Everyone's experience with anxiety is unique, so it's essential to find coping strategies that work best for you, Dacres said.

# Trinidad Pushes To Allow Afros, Twists, Plaits Hairstyles In Schools

Government officials are pushing to relax hair codes at schools in Trinidad and Tobago following a recent public outcry over nearly two dozen students who didn't receive their high school diploma because they wore Afros, cornrows and other hairstyles at graduation. Education Minister Nyan Gadsby Dolly called for new rules that would allow students to wear Afros, locks, twists, plaits and cornrows, which are called canerows in the Caribbean in reference to sugarcane. She presented the proposal during a meeting Thursday with legislators, principals and teachers, noting that wigs or dyed hair wouldn't be allowed.

The meeting was held more than a week after a private high school in Trinidad prevented 23 graduating students from walking the stage to receive their diploma because of their hairstyles.

Gadsby-Dolly called the incident "unfortunate and regrettable" shortly after it hap-

pened, writing on Facebook that: "The time for this conversation in Trinidad and Tobago has come."

It was the latest incident in the Caribbean involving a school taking action against students of African descent for their hairstyles. In 2020, Jamaica's Supreme Court ruled that a primary school had the legal right to ban a 5-year-old student from attending class because she wore locks, sparking an outcry. She eventually was allowed to return to school. A year later, Jamaica's Education Ministry warned schools that they weren't allowed to turn away students taking tests because of their hairstyles after it received complaints of such incidents.

The debate has played out elsewhere, including in the United States, with the US Army dropping a ban on locks in 2017.

Then in 2019, California became the first state to prohibit discrimination based on hairstyles

including Afros and braids.

Several days before Trinidad's education minister called the meeting on hairstyles, she stressed the need for reform in the twin-island nation of 1.4 million people where more than 30% are of African descent.

"Let's keep discussing weighty matters; our maturity as a nation depends on it," she wrote on Facebook.

Trinidad's Education Ministry said in a statement that schools must create their own hair rules by October that reflect a national code that is in the works.

The ministry added that the educational environment is dynamic and requires "adjustments to policies to keep pace with accepted changes in societal norms, values and beliefs."

Gadsby Dolly warned that students shouldn't be punished for their hairstyles while a new code is being drafted.

## Schoolgirl in Guyana who accused gov't minister of rape withdraws allegations



Local Government Minister in Guyana, Nigel Dharamlall

Police in Guyana has confirmed that a 16-year-old schoolgirl who had accused Local Government Minister, Nigel Dharamlall, of rape has said she no longer wants to pursue the matter.

Head of the Criminal Investigations Depart-

ment, Assistant Commissioner Wendell Blanhum, in a brief statement said "at this time, I am only able to confirm that the alleged victim has given a 'no further action statement' to investigators in the presence of one of her parents and a representative from the Child Care Agency.

"The file is currently being prepared to be sent to the DPP [Director of Public Prosecutions] for further legal advice," Blanhum added.

Media reports said that on Friday the 16-year-old was taken for a round of forensic interviews with police and other authorities at Blossom Inc, the leading child advocacy body in Guyana.

The reports said afterwards "she was unnecessarily shunted to another advocacy group - Child Link to answer the same questions she had been asked during several rounds of questioning."

Dharamlall, an executive member of the ruling People's Progressive Party, who is on \$1 million bail, has publicly denied all accusations.

Police had arrested the minister, who has since gone on leave to facilitate the probe, when he presented himself at the Brickdam Police Station in the company of his attorney, Nigel Hughes, last week Monday night.

There have been calls from the opposition, as well as several civil society organisations including the Amerindian Peoples Association and Red Thread, for Dharamlall to be removed from public office.

Earlier this week, Attorney General, Anil Nandlall, said the embattled minister is innocent until proven guilty as the DPP called for the police to continue their investigations into the rape allegations.

"Mr Dharamlall as a citizen is accorded certain constitutional and legal safeguards by the highest of our laws - the Constitution. He is accorded certain facilities, he is presumed innocent like every other citizen of this country, and the investigative arm of the State must be allowed, free from any form of pressure, to conduct its investigatory role and functions," Nandlall said on a television programme last Tuesday night.

The Office of the DPP, in a statement, said that it will not be intimidated by individuals who profess to want justice in a criminal matter even while a police file is being given due legal attention.

It had urged the public to desist from politicising an alleged criminal offence, adding "all statements or evidence must be considered before legal advice is given to the Guyana Police Force."

# Beaches Pirates Top Red Hot Challenge

Beaches Pirates are champions of the TCI Red Cross Red Hot Challenge held at the National Stadium last Saturday, July 8, turning back the challenges of 11 other teams, including sister team Beaches Marlins.

Beaches Pirates amassed 162 points to crown themselves champions, besting Amanyara Resort into second place with 120 points, and National security, who edged Beaches Marlins by a single point- 98 to 97 - to round off the top three.

The team competed in numerous events, such as 100m, 200m and 400m events, planking, tug-o-war, egg-tossing, football-tossing, arm wrestling, corn-in-the-hole toss, hula-hoop, three-legged race, and egg-and-spoon races.

Even though it was a fun event, the competition was intense. The track and field events saw some excellent times being posted, with one athlete from Beaches Pirates won his 100m race under 12 seconds. The plank Hula-hoop and planking also generated much excitement, but not as the arm wrestling, created a great deal of stir albeit friendly rivalry.



The Red Cross, this year, managed to attract some of the TCI's internationally competitive athletes, who were assigned to some of the teams. Ifeanyi Otuonye, fresh from his CAC Championships in El Salvador, where he placed fifth in the long jump, was dazzling on the track for National Security.

The Sands ended in fifth place with 69

points, its sister properties The Shore and the Palms came in sixth and 7th position with 63 and 59 points respectively, Property Pirates ended in eighth position on 57, The Source with ninth on 49 points, Waterloo Warriors was 10th on 42 points, Clement Howell Eagles 11th on 23 points, while points, with Marlins and NC Marvels ending in 12th spot with 8 points



# Schools Allowing Academically Underperforming Students To Play Sports



In a recent male 'Male Conversation' forum organized by United Way Turks and Caicos, a disconcerting issue came to light concerning the relationship between sports and academic performance in schools.

It was revealed that some educational institutions were allowing under-performing students to participate in sports primarily for the sake of winning, rather than using sports as an incentive to improve their grades.

Claudine Ewing, the Executive Director for United Way Turks and Caicos, expressed deep concern about this practice. She emphasized the importance of academic proficiency and how it directly impacts a student's future, especially in relation to job prospects. Ewing pointed out that a lack of literacy skills not only hinders job opportunities but also affects one's social life, leading to potential issues.

The primary concern raised during the forum was that the prevailing system in Turks and Caicos allows students with poor academic perfor-

mance to be selected for sports teams, even if they are struggling with basic reading and writing skills. This poses a significant problem as these students might not be able to maintain their sports scholarships abroad, limiting their potential for a better future.

In contrast to the United States, where academic performance is often a prerequisite for participating in sports, Turks and Caicos lacks such standards. This discrepancy raises questions about the efficacy of using sports as an incentive for academic improvement.

Several participants in the forum advocated for using sports as a motivational tool to encourage students to improve their grades. The idea is that if a student is passionate about a particular sport but is not performing well academically, they should be required to bring their grades up before being allowed to participate in that sport.

The forum also discussed the need for a comprehensive approach in supporting the devel-

opment of young athletes, taking into account both their sporting abilities and academic progress. Participants suggested implementing psychological assessments to better understand each individual's strengths and challenges.

United Way Turks and Caicos intends to engage with various community partners, including psychologists who have volunteered their time, to address these concerns effectively. By leveraging sports as an incentive to improve academic performance, they hope to positively impact the lives of young people and reduce the potential for involvement in criminal activities due to limited opportunities.

The forum shed light on the importance of balancing sports and academics to ensure a brighter future for the youth in Turks and Caicos. By using sports as a tool for motivation and focusing on overall development, the community aims to foster well-rounded individuals prepared for success in both their personal and professional lives.



# Beaches Are Red Hot Challenge Champs

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