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**Woman Killed, Three
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PG4



**CARNIVAL
CORPORATION
CELEBRATES 20
YEARS IN TCI PG7**

300 NEW JOBS

**\$150M Beaches Turks & Caicos Treasure
Beach Development Adds 500 Beds, 101 Keys**



>>> STORY ON PG5, 16-17

BEWARE OF VITAMIN IV AND IV DRIP THERAPY

The Health Regulation Authority (HRA) is issuing an important public health advisory regarding the growing trend of vitamin IV and IV drip therapy services being offered across the Turks and Caicos Islands. While marketed as wellness treatments for energy, beauty, and immune support, these procedures carry significant medical risks that the public needs to understand.

"IV therapy is a medical procedure, not a beauty treatment or wellness trend," said Romaine Missick-Smith, CEO of the Health Regulation Authority. "Inserting a needle into someone's vein and infusing substances directly into their bloodstream carries real risks, including infection, allergic reactions, organ damage, and even life-threatening complications. These risks exist regardless of whether the service is offered in a spa, hotel, or medical facility."

SERIOUS HEALTH RISKS IDENTIFIED

The HRA has identified several categories of serious health risks associated with IV therapy:

Infection risks include bloodstream infections (sepsis), local site infections, and phlebitis. Contaminated equipment or improper sterile technique can introduce dangerous microorganisms directly into the bloodstream, potentially causing life-threatening sepsis.

Adverse reactions range from mild allergic reactions to severe anaphylaxis requiring emergency care. High doses of vitamins, particularly fat-soluble vitamins that accumulate in body tissues, can cause vitamin



toxicity and organ damage. Electrolyte imbalances from IV therapy can result in irregular heartbeat, muscle weakness, confusion, and seizures. Procedure complications include vein damage and scarring, air embolism (air entering the bloodstream), fluid overload particularly dangerous for people with heart or kidney disease, and tissue damage when IV fluid leaks into surrounding tissue. "Many people don't realise that the convenience and 'wellness' marketing of IV therapy doesn't change the fact that it's an invasive medical procedure," CEO Smith added. "The risks are real and can be serious, especially when performed by unqualified individuals or in environments that don't meet proper medical standards."

REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

Under the Turks and Caicos Islands law, any facility offering IV therapy must be licensed by the Health Regulation Authority and meet strict safety standards. These requirements include:

- Valid HRA healthcare facility license
- Licensed healthcare professionals administering treatments
- Proper infection control protocols and sterile equipment
- Pre-treatment medical assessments
- Emergency equipment and response protocols

"We are seeing an increase in unlicensed providers offering IV therapy in hotels, homes, and other non-clinical settings," said CEO Missick-Smith. "This is illegal and puts people at serious risk. We urge anyone con-

sidering IV therapy to verify that the facility holds a valid HRA license and that qualified medical professionals are performing the procedure."

PUBLIC EDUCATION CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED

The HRA is launching a comprehensive public awareness campaign to educate residents and visitors about the risks of IV therapy. Educational materials, including fact sheets and social media content, will be distributed across all islands and made available at healthcare facilities, hotels, and community centers.

The campaign encourages individuals to ask important questions before receiving IV therapy, including verifying facility licensing, practitioner credentials, medical assessment procedures, and emergency preparedness protocols.

REPORTING UNLICENSED PROVIDERS

The HRA urges the public to report any unlicensed or unsafe IV therapy providers. Signs of concern include providers who cannot show an HRA facility license, treatments offered in homes or hotels, practitioners who refuse to share credentials, no medical assessment before treatment, or concerns about hygiene and sterility. "Public cooperation is essential in protecting community health," CEO Missick-Smith emphasised. "If you encounter a provider who cannot demonstrate proper licensing or who makes you uncomfortable about safety practices, please contact us immediately. We take all reports seriously and will investigate."

VENDOR REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR MADE IN TCI – GRAND TURK 2026

The Department of Trade, Industry, and Fair Competition is pleased to announce the inaugural Made in TCI Grand Turk 2026, scheduled to take place on March 9, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Lester Williams Park, Grand Turk.

This exciting event aims to promote and celebrate locally made goods and services across a wide range of categories, highlighting the innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurial spirit within the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Vendor Registration is Now OPEN! Register early to secure your spot! Businesses interested in showcasing their products and services are invited to apply. Vendors must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- The business must be Turks and Caicos Islander owned or controlled;
- The business must be a legally registered entity with a valid and current TCI Business License;
- Produced or manufactured goods must be wholly processed

using materials from the Turks and Caicos Islands, or partially processed using at least 60% locally sourced materials;

- Services must be provided within the Turks and Caicos Islands and represent a significant portion of the overall business operations.

Participation in Made in TCI Grand Turk is free of charge for all approved vendors. However, booth space is limited, and interested applicants are encouraged to register early.

Take full advantage of the boost in passenger traffic from the two cruise ships arriving that day!

To apply, please complete the official registration form via the following link:

Made in TCI 2026 - Grand Turk Exhibitor Registration Form – Fill out form

For additional information regarding vendor registration, please contact the Department of Trade, Industry, and Fair Competition: Phone: (649) 338-3703; Email: tradetci@gov.tc.



Managing Director

Job Overview: To lead and direct the operations and financial activities of a five-star luxury resort, maintaining the highest level of guest service and owner satisfaction. Ensure the selection and ongoing direction of resort team members to achieve the highest level of integrity, job satisfaction, morale and team spirit. The position ensures the Resort's operation meets the Company's target customer needs, ensures employee satisfaction, and focuses on growing revenues and maximizing the financial performance of the department. Develops and implements property-wide strategies that deliver products and services to meet or exceed the needs and expectations of the customer and property employees and provides a return on investment.

Essential Functions:

- Strategic Planning and Decision-Making: Developing and implementing the company's overall strategic direction and ensuring alignment with organizational goals.
- Leadership and Management: Leading the executive team, motivating employees, and fostering a positive organizational culture.
- Financial Oversight: Overseeing budgeting, financial planning, and ensuring the organization's financial health and stability.
- Business Development: Identifying growth opportunities, building relationships with clients, partners, and stakeholders to expand the organization.
- Operational Management: Ensuring efficient day-to-day operations and resource management across departments.
- Representation: Acting as the spokesperson for the organization, representing it in industry forums, public events, and with government bodies.
- Risk Management: Identifying potential risks and implementing measures to mitigate them.
- Monitoring Performance: Setting performance metrics, reviewing progress, and implementing corrective actions as needed.
- Ensuring Corporate Governance: Upholding ethical standards and ensuring compliance with legal and regulatory requirements.

Requirements and Qualifications

- Master's degree in Hospitality/ Tourism Management or Business Studies or equivalent certified qualifications preferred
- At least 10 years five-star resort/international management experience in Senior Level Hotel Operations
- Minimum of 5 years of direct related experience as a General Manager for a five-star luxury property
- Must have pre-opening experience in a luxury hotel
- Strong Rooms or Food & Beverage background
- Luxury Brand Hotel Chain experience a must
- Delivers business results through effective management of planning, forecasting, improving yield, budgeting, cost management and all aspects of business
- Energetic, positive visionary leader, dedicated to motivating and developing team members
- Ability to balance many priorities, resolve problems and meet owners and guest expectations
- Exceptional communication and customer service skills and live the standards of our organization

Competencies

- Business Acumen.
- Great organization & planning skills.
- Effective Communication & Confidentiality
- Consultation
- Strong Connection & Collaboration skills
- Critical Evaluation
- Ethical Practice
- Values Diversity
- Global & Cultural Awareness
- Learning & Development Expertise
- Leadership & Navigation
- Relationship Management

Salary Range: \$US 150,000.00 - \$US 166,000.00 per annum

Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labor & Work Permit Board Zone 2

Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes to our Human Resources Department via

Email: humanresources@rockhouserestort.com or hand deliver applications at our office on #1 International Drive, Providenciales.

Positions marked with an * are currently being held by a work permit holder. Deadline for submission: March 15, 2026



This photo shows the two vehicles in a kissing position after colliding along the Leeward Highway on Friday.

Woman Killed, Three Children Injured in Leeward Highway Crash

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

A fatal two-vehicle collision along Leeward Highway late Friday morning left one woman dead and three children injured, while traffic along one of Providenciales' busiest roadways was backed up for more than a mile as emergency crews responded to the scene. The Traffic Enforcement Unit of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF), which is currently investigating the circumstances surrounding the crash, said that shortly after 11:00 a.m., the Police Control Room received reports of a serious traffic accident in the vicinity of Central Square on Leeward Highway. Emergency responders were immediately dispatched to the location, and when personnel from the Fire Department and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived on the scene they concluded that four people had sustained injuries, including one adult female and three children. However, authorities confirmed that the female adult succumbed to her injuries at the scene. The three injured children ages 3,

7, and 8, were transported by ambulance to Cheshire Hall Medical Centre, where they are receiving medical treatment, and at press time it was not immediately clear what were their conditions. The accident involved a dark SUV and a white pick-up truck. Both vehicles sustained heavily frontal damages. The accident left debris scattering across the roadway and fluids leaking onto the asphalt. It is not immediately clear whether the woman and the children were in the same or separate vehicles. Emergency crews worked around the wreckage as police secured the scene and began their investigation. It is not clear whether the accident was caused by one of the motorists who attempted to turn into the Central Square shopping complex. The crash caused major disruption along Leeward Highway, deep into the afternoon, with traffic backed up for more than a mile in both directions at one point. At press time the police were yet to identify the deceased. However, a news release from the police

stated that investigations into the cause of the collision remain ongoing, and authorities say further updates will be provided as more information becomes available.

Denyse Renne, the Information Officer for the Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force told NewslineTCI that the crash resulted in the first road fatality for the year.



This Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force-released photo shows the pickup truck with extensive frontal damage from the accident

\$150 Million Treasure Beach Village adds 300 Jobs to TCI Economy

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The \$150 million Treasure Beach Village at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort Villages and Spa officially opened on Saturday, February 28, marking a major expansion of the internationally renowned all-inclusive family resort and creating approximately 300 new jobs for residents of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The new development adds 101 luxury suite “keys” and more than 500 beds to the property, further expanding the resort’s capacity and strengthening its position as one of the Caribbean’s leading family tourism destinations.

Treasure Beach Village, which local and long-time employee Tanya Swann will be the Executive Assistant Manager, introduces a collection of upscale accommodations designed primarily for families and group travelers.

The suites range from one-, two-, three- and four-bedroom layouts, offering spacious living areas and enhanced amenities. All suites come with butler service, representing an elevated level of personalized luxury within the Beaches brand.

The new village also includes a movie theatre among its amenities, adding to the wide range of entertainment options available to guests staying at the resort.

With the addition of Treasure Beach Village, Beaches Turks and Caicos now consists of five distinct villages; Caribbean Village, French Village, Italian Village, Key West Village, and the newly opened Treasure Beach Village. The expansion significantly enhances the resort’s footprint and reinforces its reputation as one of the Caribbean’s most comprehensive all-inclusive family resorts.

Chairman of Sandals Resorts International Adam Stewart described the Turks and Caicos Islands as “an absolute gift to the world” during remarks at the opening ceremony.

“The beauty of this archipelago, its people, its natural environment and its ability to perform on the world stage across multiple industries, is extraordinary,” Stewart said. “Today we are talking about hospitality, but Turks and Caicos truly stands among the best in the world.”

Stewart also reflected on his family’s long-standing admiration for the islands, noting that stories about the natural beauty of Turks and Caicos were shared long before the Sandals brand established operations in the



Premier Hon. Washington Misick (fourth from left) joins other members of the Cabinet to celebrate newly appointed Executive Assistant Manager for the new Treasure Beach Village at Beaches TCI, Tanya Swann (fifth from left). Sharing from are: Hon. Shaun Malcolm; Hon. Kyle Knowles; Hon. Otis Morris; Hon. Rachel Taylor; Her Excellency Deputy Governor Anya Williams and Hon. Zhavargo Jolly.

territory.

According to Stewart, the Beaches resort in Providenciales has experienced remarkable growth since its early beginnings.

“It started with a small hotel and with the vision of our founder (the late Gordon ‘Butch’ Stewart) and his unwavering belief in the capacity of Caribbean nationals,” he said. “It has grown from about 150 rooms to nearly 900 keys and more than 1,000 rooms.”

Today, Sandals Resorts International employs approximately 20,000 people across the Caribbean, with about 97 percent of the workforce made up of Caribbean nationals, Stewart added.

The development of Treasure Beach Village forms part of the company’s “Sandals and Beaches 2.0” initiative, which focuses on modernizing resorts while deepening investment in Caribbean destinations and communities.

“This is a commitment to the future of the Caribbean, to the islands where we operate, to our staff and to our customers,” Stewart said. “We are going to keep making it better.” Stewart also revealed that the new village represents only the beginning of additional investment planned for the resort.

Over the next five years, Sandals Resorts International intends to invest more than \$250 million in further upgrades and improvements across the Beaches Turks and Caicos property.

Once those enhancements are completed, the resort will feature

approximately 30 restaurants and food-and-beverage outlets, expanding the already extensive dining options available to guests and further reinforcing the resort’s position as one of the largest family vacation destinations in the region.

Premier: Treasure Beach a New Benchmark for Development

Premier Hon. Washington Misick, who delivered the main address at the opening ceremony, said the \$150 million Treasure Beach Village represents a new benchmark for development within the Turks and Caicos Islands tourism sector.

The Premier congratulated Stewart for continuing the legacy of his father, Gordon “Butch” Stewart, founder of Sandals Resorts International, and praised the company’s ongoing commitment to expanding opportunities throughout the Caribbean.

Misick said the decision to deepen Sandals’ investment in the Turks and Caicos Islands demonstrates strong confidence in the country’s future and reflects the stable and predictable environment the government seeks to maintain for responsible investors.

Tourism, he noted, remains the backbone of the Turks and Caicos Islands economy, driving foreign investment, supporting entrepreneurship, strengthening public revenues and creating meaningful career opportunities for residents.

However, the Premier emphasized that the success of the tourism industry should not be measured only by visitor arrivals or hotel occupancy

levels.

“It must also be measured by its impact on people, on communities and on the environment,” Misick said.

He noted that the government is committed to advancing policies that promote sustainable tourism, ensuring that development protects the country’s natural resources, respects cultural identity and aligns with national priorities.

Misick also highlighted the importance of employment opportunities created by the tourism industry.

Beaches Turks and Caicos, according to Premier Misick, remains one of the largest private-sector employers in the country, with approximately 2,000 employees across the resort system. A significant portion of the workforce includes Turks and Caicos Islanders, including status holders, British Overseas Territory citizens living in the territory and permanent residents.

At the same time, the Premier acknowledged the contributions of workers from across the Caribbean and beyond who help deliver world-class service within the country’s tourism sector.

Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly said the government remains focused on ensuring that national infrastructure and development planning keep pace with the continued growth of the tourism industry. He pointed to the government’s Sustainable Tourism and Spatial Planning Policy, which will guide future expansion, including issues such as development density, environmental protection and the distribution of tourism investments across the islands.

Tourism Minister Jolly: Continued Ensures TCI remains competitive

Also speaking at the event, Tourism Minister, Hon. Jolly said the country’s strong tourism base and long-standing partnerships with investors such as Beaches and Sandals allow the government to take a more strategic approach to development.

“We can strengthen infrastructure, upgrade planning frameworks, improve roads and airports and be intentional about what comes next,” Jolly said.

He added that continued investment by established tourism partners helps ensure the Turks and Caicos Islands remains competitive in the global tourism market while creating opportunities for residents and protecting the natural beauty that defines the destination.

“The Work Before Us: Why Turks and Caicos Must Finally Choose Continuity Over Abandonment”

An Op-Ed by Paladin

Tarfon’s reminder has followed me across continents and decades: *“It is not your duty to finish the work, but you are not at liberty to neglect it.”*

It is a simple sentence, yet it carries a national-sized responsibility. It tells us that no one individual can fix a country, but every person is obligated to contribute to do its repair. It tells us that progress is not a miracle, but a discipline. And it tells us that the worst sin is not failure, but neglect.

For twenty years I have moved in and out of the Turks and Caicos Islands, watching governments rise and fall, watching the British impose direct rule, watching promises made and promises abandoned. Through all of it, one truth has remained unchanged: **we have never committed to the work.** Not the long-term work. Not the generational work. Not the kind of work that outlives political cycles and survives the next election.

We have lived in fits and starts. We have lived in abandonment. And the cost is now visible on every island.

Grand Turk: A Capital in Name, Not in Investment

Grand Turk should be the cultural and administrative heart of the archipelago. Instead, it is a museum of unfinished buildings, derelict structures, and missed opportunities. The island’s natural beauty still shines, but it shines through neglect rather than because of stewardship.

A capital city cannot inspire pride when half-built shells line its streets. A capital cannot attract investment when its waterfront is left to decay. A capital cannot lead when it is not even maintained.

A national cleanup, demolition of unsafe structures, and financial assistance for residents to complete long-stalled buildings would transform Grand Turk al-

most overnight. A proper Fish Fry—timed for cruise passengers by day and locals by night—would restore life to the waterfront. These are not luxuries... they are the bare minimum for a functioning capital.

South Caicos: The Fishing Capital Without a Fishing Economy

South Caicos should be the engine of our marine economy. Instead, it is a fishing capital without a fishing industry. The island has the talent, the waters, and the heritage—but no processing plant, no export strategy, no integrated supply chain.

A single company—properly supported—could supply every restaurant and grocery store in the country and export to Europe and Asia. The question is not whether it is possible. The question is why it has never been prioritized.

North & Middle Caicos: Breadbasket Islands Without Bread

We call North and Middle Caicos our “breadbasket,” yet there is no large-scale farming, no crop rotation, no apparent agricultural strategy, and no established food security plan. Pineapples, sugar cane, cotton, livestock—these are not fantasies. They are viable industries that once existed here and could again.

Imagine bespoke TCI-grown cotton feeding a boutique textile industry. Imagine livestock farms producing local milk, eggs, cheese, and butter. Imagine natural fertilizer restoring soil health and reducing import dependence.

Food security is not a slogan. It is a national obligation.

Providenciales Airport: Millions Spent, Still Obsolete

We have spent millions on an airport that became outdated within months of reopening. In a world where throughput modeling is simple and widely available, how does this happen?

Why do our Ministers travel the world, see modern airports, and return home without demand-

ing the same—scaled to our size and budget?

Why is there still no separation between domestic and international terminals? Why is eminent domain treated as taboo when it is a standard tool of national development? Why is the government funding the next redevelopment alone instead of partnering with experienced airport operators and offering shares to the public?

Airports are not monuments. They are infrastructure. And infrastructure must be built for the future, not for the ribbon-cutting.

Blue Hills Beach: A Lost Opportunity

Blue Hills should be a vibrant three-mile stretch of local restaurants, shops, and cultural experiences. Instead, it is a patchwork of underdevelopment and questionable shoreline construction. Why are condos allowed on the shoreline while local entrepreneurs struggle to secure space? Why has no master plan ever been created for this iconic coastline?

Blue Hills could be the soul of Providenciales. Instead, it is an afterthought.

Docks & Maritime Infrastructure: A Country Cannot Function on One Dock

South Dock has been a national embarrassment for decades. In 2007, a company proposed building five 200m docks with proper dredging and Panamax cranes. Nothing happened.

Today, we still rely on a single dock that only functions at high tide on one side. No modern country can operate this way. Maritime infrastructure is not optional—it is foundational.

Roads: Twenty Years of Avoidable Mistakes

Providenciales’ roads were built without proper engineering oversight, and we have paid the price ever since. In twenty years, no government has brought in experts to redesign the network,

expand Leeward Highway, or complete Millennium Highway’s four-lane plan.

Roads are the arteries of a nation. When they fail, everything slows—commerce, tourism, emergency response, daily life.

The Real Issue: We Have Never Defined “The Work”

Rabbi Tarfon’s wisdom applies perfectly to the Turks and Caicos Islands:

We are not required to finish the work. But we are absolutely forbidden to neglect it.

Our problem is not lack of talent, lack of money, or lack of opportunity. Our problem is the absence of a **Development Plan**—a real one, with a 5-year and 10-year horizon, with defined goals, assigned responsibilities, and continuity across political cycles.

A plan that tells every Minister, every civil servant, every business owner, every laborer:

Here is the work. Here is your part. Here is how we build a country together.

Without such a plan, we will continue to drift. With one, we can finally begin the work that generations before us hoped to see.

Turks and Caicos does not need perfection. It needs commitment. It needs continuity. It needs the courage to define the work and the discipline to keep going.



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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



The Hon. Premier Charles Misick, Cabinet Members and Carnival executives join celebration of Grand Turk's 20th anniversary



Damian Rudich (left) presenting ship model gifts to Finance and Administration Manager South Base, Grand Turk Vishal Kakkannad (centr) and Director of Destination Operations of Grand Turk John Huber

CARNIVAL CORPORATION CELEBRATES 20th ANNIVERSARY OF GRAND TURK CRUISE CENTER

Carnival Corporation celebrated the 20th anniversary of Grand Turk Cruise Center Wednesday, March 4, marking two decades of partnership, shared growth and memorable vacation experiences in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Since its inaugural visit in 2006, Carnival Cruise Line and Carnival Corporation's family of world-class cruise lines have brought more than 14 million guests to Grand Turk. Coupled with its natural beauty, cultural heritage, and the hospitality of the community, the destination has earned its spot as one of the company's most popular ports of call in the Caribbean.

"Grand Turk holds a special place in our history and in our future," said Christine Duffy, president of Carnival Cruise Line. "Our guests love visiting this beautiful destination and we're grateful for this partnership which has brought so many benefits to this community for the last 20 years."

The milestone was commemorated with a special anniversary event hosted by Carnival Cruise Line at the Grand Turk Cruise Center while Carnival Celebration was in port. Damian Rudich, vice president of global operations at Carnival Corporation, was joined by Turks and Caicos leaders including Premier Charles Wash-



Premier Hon. Washington Misick displays a model ship presented to him representatives of Carnival Corporation

ington Misick, Deputy Premier Jamell Rayan Robinson and Deputy Governor Anya Williams, as well as community stakeholders and local business partners, to recognize the strong collaboration that has defined the company's presence on one of Carnival Corporation's exclusive Caribbean destinations.

During his remarks, Rudich also announced that April 18 will officially be declared Grand Turk Cruise Center Community Day, featuring a special day of events at the Cruise Center to thank and celebrate the community for 20 years.

The ceremony included a ship model gift to community leaders, symbolizing two decades of shared success and a continued commitment to collaboration in the years ahead.

"To Carnival, thank you for two decades of partnership and investment, and for working with us not only in the celebrating years, but in the planning years when wise decisions secure long-term success," said Premier Misick. "And to the people of Grand Turk, thank you for your hospitality, your resilience and your pride. This anniversary belongs to you as well, because you have

lived the transformation, you have contributed to the success and you will help shape what comes next."

Over the past 20 years, the Grand Turk Cruise Center has supported local businesses, transportation providers, tour operators, retailers and hospitality partners, while welcoming millions of visitors to experience the island's culture and natural beauty. Carnival Corporation remains committed to working closely with the local community to ensure the destination continues to thrive for years to come.

Known for its crystal-clear waters and relaxed island atmosphere, Grand Turk gives guests an array of options to experience. Guests can unwind on powdery white-sand beaches, explore the historic streets, snorkel along the coral reef wall or choose from a variety of locally operated shore excursions that showcase the destination's natural beauty and culture.

Carnival Cruise Line continues to feature Grand Turk on a wide variety of Caribbean itineraries sailing from multiple U.S. home-ports, giving guests each year the opportunity to experience this premier destination. For additional information on Carnival Cruise Line's upcoming sailings to Grand Turk, visit carnival.com.



Mr. Jason Cotton, the Caribbean Development Bank's Acting Deputy Director of Economics, delivers a review of the Caribbean Region's 2025 performance and the economic outlook for 2026 at the Bank's Annual News Conference in Bridgetown, Barbados, on Tuesday, March 3, 2026.

Caribbean economies recorded slower growth in 2025 amid intensifying global uncertainty, climate shocks, and fiscal pressures, according to Caribbean Development Bank (CDB/the Bank) findings shared Tuesday at the Bank's Annual News Conference.

Presenting a review of the Bank's 2025 performance and the economic outlook for 2026, Jason Cotton, Acting Deputy Director of Economics, noted that growth across the region decelerated last year as external conditions became less supportive and downside risks materialised.

Excluding Guyana, regional growth

Caribbean Economies Face Modest Growth in 2026 Amid Global Uncertainty: CDB

slowed to 0.6% in 2025, down from 1.4% in 2024. When Guyana is included, overall growth reached 4.7%, reflecting that country's continued double-digit expansion, albeit at a slower pace than in the previous year.

"Small, open economies remain highly exposed to external shocks," Cotton said. "What is more concerning in this moment is the persistence of uncertainty and the narrowing room for policy error."

Climate Shocks and Sectoral Divergence

Economic performance varied widely across the region. Among commodity exporters, Suriname experienced accelerated growth driven in part by continued oil-related investment, while Trinidad and Tobago recorded muted expansion.

Service-exporting economies saw slower growth as tourism momentum eased. In Jamaica, Hurricane Melissa compounded earlier damage from Hurricane Beryl, resulting in a second consecutive year of economic contraction.

Inflation moderated, in line with global trends, falling to an average of 3.4% across the region, down sharply from its 2022 peak of 9.7%. Labour market conditions improved in several countries, with declining unemployment and rising workforce participation, although disparities persist among youth and women.

Fiscal Pressures Re-emerge

Fiscal consolidation stalled in several of the Bank's 19 Borrowing Member Countries. Excluding Guyana, the regional primary surplus narrowed to 1.3% of GDP as expenditure growth outpaced revenues. When Guyana is included – reflecting significant capital spending – the regional primary surplus narrowed further to 0.2% of GDP.

While the regional central government debt-to-GDP ratio declined slightly to 46.6%, vulnerabilities remain. Nine countries continue to record debt levels above 60% of GDP. In few instances, fiscal responsibility frameworks enabled orderly adjustment to climate shocks through escape clauses.

2026 Outlook: Modest Growth, Elevated Risks

Looking ahead, the Bank projects modest growth for 2026. Excluding Guyana, regional GDP is forecast to expand by 1.1%. Including Guyana – where growth is projected to exceed 20% – regional growth is expected to reach 6.2%.

Prospects among other commodity exporters remain closely tied to commodity prices and production trends. Service-exporting economies are anticipated to grow modestly, supported primarily by tourism and construction activity. Inflation dynamics will be shaped by developments in global commodity markets. However, global uncertainty, geopolitical tensions, climate-related

shocks, and fiscal vulnerabilities – particularly in highly indebted countries – continue to cloud the 2026 outlook.

Development Imperatives: Building Resilience by Design

Against this backdrop, CDB underscored several development imperatives for the region:

- Strengthening implementation capacity to ensure development plans and financing translate into results;
 - Diversifying economies to reduce overreliance on single industries and foster private-sector-led growth;
 - Building resilience by design, through climate-resilient infrastructure, improved disaster-risk financing, and adaptive social protection systems;
 - Safeguarding debt sustainability through stronger fiscal institutions and wider adoption of fiscal responsibility frameworks; and
 - Investing in people, equipping citizens with skills and expanding decent work opportunities to unlock productivity and inclusive growth.
- "Resilience is built through credible policy choices, stronger institutions, disciplined execution, and investment in our people, and regional solidarity," Cotton said. "If we rise to meet this moment, we will shape a more stable, inclusive, and sustainable Caribbean future."

Tourism Regulations Department to Develop TIDES Certificate Digital Public Portal

The Department of Tourism Regulations is developing a portal to make the process of acquiring your TIDES certificate and Accommodation License easier.

A fully digitised public portal platform is being developed in collaboration with Patterson Pope, specialists known for developing high-density digital systems across many government entities, including the Department of Agriculture. The project has a proposed launch date of August 2026.

Once implemented, tourism ambassadors will benefit from enhanced digital application forms, a dynamic form that responds to data inputs, ensuring that applicants are only

prompted to complete fields relevant to their specific application, friendly reminders for required data submissions, real-time progress notifications and fully automated alerts will notify users when approvals are granted and when documents are processed, eliminating uncertainty and improving communication between the department and its clients.

This smart functionality will reduce errors, minimise incomplete submissions, and create a smoother user experience. Currently, the project is still in early development; other phases will include staff training and user trials, during which users will be invited to provide feedback.

Director Avi Adams, remarking on the initiative, said the following: "This new system is a huge benefit for the stakeholders and the government at large. This will allow the department to streamline processes in an easier, more efficient way, while enabling the government to access more strategic reporting to assist the country's policymakers." Commenting on the Digitisation project, Honourable Zhavargo Jolly said: "This initiative represents a significant milestone in our ongoing efforts to digitise our regulatory processes. We're committed to improving the ease of doing business within the tourism sector in the Turks and Caicos Islands. It is a

meaningful and essential step forward as we continue to build an efficient, responsive, and well-regulated tourism industry that supports sustainable growth and national development."

This digitisation effort reflects the Department's continued commitment to service excellence within the tourism sector better support industry stakeholders, strengthen regulatory compliance, and enhance the ease of doing business in Turks and Caicos.

The department looks forward to rolling out these digital enhancements and will provide further updates as implementation progresses.



Minister for Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly and Minister for Education Hon. Rachel Taylor

A'Navia Mantock declared Winner of Tourism Youth Congress Runoff

Travel Product Development.” Adhering to strict judging criteria, both students utilised mandatory audio-visual aids to enrich their 3-minute speeches, impressing the judges with their level of preparedness, relevant content and presentation skills. The competition intensified during the second round with a high-pressure mystery question. Tasked with stepping into the role of a tourism investigator, the students were given three minutes to prepare and one minute to present their findings on the following scenario:

“Imagine you’re a tourism detective investigating why visitor numbers have dropped in your destination. What’s your top suspect and what’s your plan to solve the case?”

Both students delivered compelling arguments; however, it was Miss Mantock who stood out to the judging panel. Following careful deliberation based on criteria including clarity, persuasiveness, and delivery, Miss Mantock was declared the winner of the runoff.

Commenting on the event, Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly stated:

“I am immensely proud of both A'Navia and Trenea for their exceptional performances. Their passion for our tourism industry and their innovative ideas for its future are truly inspiring. A'Navia has proven herself to be a formidable advocate for our islands, and I have every confidence that she will represent the Turks and Caicos Islands with distinction at the regional level. I wish her the very best as she prepares to take on the Caribbean at the CTO Youth Congress.”

As the winner, Miss Mantock will now go on to represent the Turks and Caicos Islands at the Caribbean Tourism Organisation’s (CTO) Youth Congress, where she will compete against young tourism advocates from across the region.

The Ministry of Tourism extends its congratulations to both participants for their dedication and outstanding representation of their respective schools.

In a compelling display of oratory skill and tourism expertise, Miss A'Navia Mantock of the H. J. Robinson High School emerged victorious over Miss Trenea Wilson of the Marjorie Basden High School at the highly anticipated Tourism Youth Congress Runoff. The event took place on Tuesday, 24th February 2026, at Conference Rooms at Ports of Call, Providenciales. The two young tourism advo-

cates went head-to-head in a rigorous two-round competition, demonstrating profound knowledge and innovative thinking regarding the future of the industry. The format challenged the participants to excel in both prepared and impromptu scenarios.

For the first round, the competitors delivered their prepared presentations on the critical topic of “Multigenerational



Work Part-time on your Time!

WE ARE HIRING PART-TIME TEAM MEMBERS!

COME TO OUR SPECIAL JOB FAIR

Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 8:00am

Key West Service Gate

Come and be a part of the World’s Best Team! The Caribbean’s Leading Luxury-Included Brand® offers an opportunity for highly motivated, flexible and enthusiastic persons with exceptional skills to join our team.

- Room Attendants
- Houseman
- Housekeeping Supervisor
- Laundry Attendants
- Restaurant Server
- Bartender
- Bar Porter
- Cocktail Server
- Cooks
- Stewards
- Watersports Attendant

REQUIREMENTS:

- Updated Resume •Passport/Birth Certificate
- Local Status Document [Belonger Card, Freelance Permit, Residence Permit, Permanent Resident Certificate, Naturalization Certificate]
- Qualifications/Prior experience required*

BENEFITS:

- Healthcare • Education and Training • Staff Transportation• Competitive Salary Packages & Opportunities for Growth & Development

Special arrangements can be made for applicants who are not available on this date.



L-R: Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, Miss A'Navia Mantock, Miss Trenea Wilson and Hon. Rachel Taylor



United Way Turks and Caicos Launches Mobile Library Fundraising Campaign

United Way Turks and Caicos has launched a fundraising campaign to support the creation of a Mobile Library Initiative aimed at expanding access to books and literacy resources for children and families across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The mobile library will travel to schools and communities throughout the islands, providing books, educational materials, and literacy programs designed to encourage reading and support early learning.

"Literacy is a cornerstone of opportunity," said Claudine Ewing, CEO of United Way Turks and Caicos. "Through this mobile library, we hope to bring books and learning resources directly to communities and inspire a lifelong love of reading among our young people."

United Way Turks and Caicos is working in partnership with local businesses, community organizations, and philanthropic supporters to bring the project to life.

"We are proud to support this project because access to education helps build stronger communities," said Lead Sponsors Adam and Donna Schechter of the Schechter Family Foundation.

Funds raised through the campaign will support the purchase and outfitting of a specially designed mobile unit equipped



with books, tablets, and learning materials. The program will also feature storytelling sessions, reading workshops, and community literacy events led by volunteers and educators.

Minister of Education, Hon. Rachel Taylor, welcomed the initiative and encouraged the community to support the effort.

"Literacy is the foundation of any nation," said the Minister. "I love United Way programs because they create opportunities for children to discover the joy of reading while building critical

skills for their future." She also pledged the Ministry's support for the initiative. During the campaign launch, organizers announced that 70% of the fundraising goal has already been achieved. United Way Turks and Caicos is encouraging individuals, businesses, and organizations to support the campaign through donations, sponsorships, and volunteer participation. The organization hopes to officially launch the mobile library by December 3, 2026. "By working together, we can bring literacy and learning directly to our schools

and communities and empower the next generation," added Rex Messam, Vice Chairman of United Way Turks and Caicos.

For more information about the Mobile Library Initiative or ways to contribute to the campaign, contact United Way Turks and Caicos at 649-241-5561 or email info@unitedwaytci.com.



Traffic Flow Restrictions at Walter Cox Drive, Kew Town

The Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development hereby advises the general public that traffic flow restrictions will be implemented along Walter Cox Drive in the Kew Town area as part of traffic management measures in the area.

These restrictions will come into effect on Friday, March 06, 2026, and will remain in place until further notice.

The following restriction will apply:

- Closure of Walter Cox Drive at the intersection of Black Crow Road and Duckyard Road (Eastern side of roundabout in Kew Town). Motorists travelling from the Kew Town and Dockyard communities who wish to access Millennium Highway will be required to use the Downtown route via Airport Road and Parade Avenue. Motorists are also advised to follow all temporary signage and traffic control measures that will be installed in the area.



Walter Cox Drive, Kew Town

The section of the Walter Co Drive which a traffic restriction is currently in effect.

Traffic Flow Restrictions at Suzy Turn Roundabout and Paradise Road

The Ministry of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development hereby advises the general public that traffic flow restrictions will be introduced at the Suzy Turn Roundabout, Leeward Highway and Paradise Road, Discovery Bay as part of traffic management measures in the area.

These restrictions will come into effect on Tuesday, March 02, 2026 and will remain in place until further notice.

The following traffic restrictions will apply:

- Closure of the eastern leg of Suzy Turn Roundabout
- Closure of the median cross-over to Turtle Creek Drive
- Closure of the eastern end of Paradise Road at its intersection with Turtle Creek Drive.

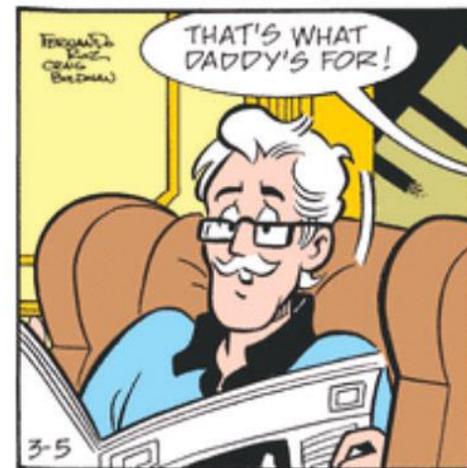
Motorists wishing to transition to the eastbound carriageway of the Leeward Highway will be required to use the Roundabout at Venetian Road. Additionally, Windward Road and Cooper Jack Bay Road will remain open to facilitate access to and from the Paradise Road community.

Motorists are advised to follow all temporary signage and traffic control measures that will be installed in the area.



Paradise Road, Discovery Bay

This photo shows the traffic restrictions in the vicinity of the Suzie Turn Round-a-bout in Providenciales



NEWSLINE TCI COMICS

My neighbors listen to fantastic music...

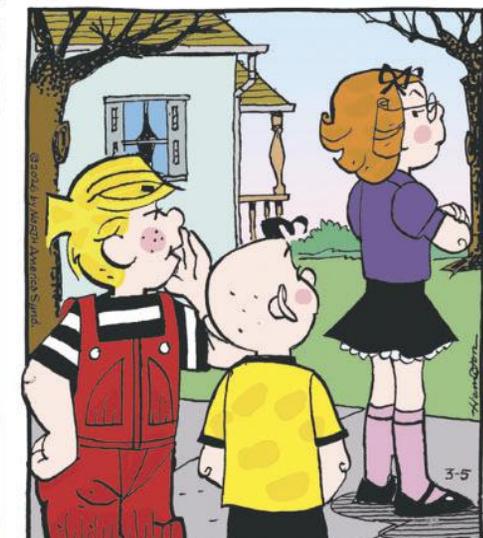
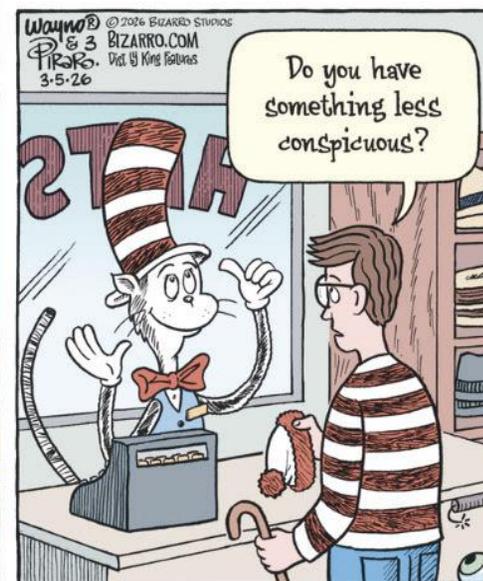


Even if they don't want to.



Eric Scott

"I am your spirit animal. Now give me an SI!"



"MARGARET DOESN'T LIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE TALK ABOUT HER IN FRONT OF HER BACK EITHER!"

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BirdLife International. (n.d.). *Phoenicopterus ruber* (American Flamingo) species factsheet. Retrieved from <https://www.birdlife.org>

Department of Environment and Coastal Resources (DECR), Turks and Caicos Islands Government. (n.d.). Wildlife and protected areas of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.tc/decr>

National Trust of the Turks and Caicos Islands. (2018). Cultural Heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Turks and Caicos National Trust. Retrieved from <https://turksandcaicosnationaltrust.com>

Turks and Caicos Islands Government. (n.d.). Environment and natural resources of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Retrieved from <https://www.gov.tc>

PINK Flamingo

NEWSLINE
Heritage



The Pink Flamingo is one of the most striking bird species found in the Turks and Caicos Islands. With its bright pink feathers, long legs, and distinctive curved bill, the flamingo is closely associated with the islands' wetlands, salt ponds, and shallow coastal lagoons. Historically, flamingos were found in large numbers across the Turks and Caicos Islands, particularly on North Caicos, Middle Caicos, and Grand Turk. These birds depend on quiet, shallow waters where they feed on small crustaceans, algae, and microscopic organisms that give their feathers their well-known pink colour.

During the early twentieth century, flamingo populations across the region declined due to hunting and disturbance of nesting grounds. As awareness of wildlife conservation grew, protective measures were introduced to safeguard flamingos and their habitats. Wetlands and coastal lagoons in parts of the Turks and Caicos Islands were later included within national parks and protected areas, helping to preserve important feeding and resting sites for the birds.

Today, flamingos remain an important part of the natural environment of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Their presence in salt ponds and wetlands reflects the ecological richness of the islands and highlights the importance of protecting fragile coastal habitats for future generations.

TCI Regiment Returns from Hurricane Melissa Relief Mission

The Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment has returned home following its deployment to Jamaica as part of the Restoration Jamaica mission, supporting humanitarian assistance and disaster relief efforts after Hurricane Melissa.

The powerful storm caused devastating damage across sections of the island, particularly in the southern parishes of St. Elizabeth and Westmoreland, where entire communities were severely impacted. In some areas, homes were destroyed or badly damaged, leaving many residents displaced and still struggling to rebuild their lives in the weeks following the hurricane. The TCI Regiment formed part of the Multi-National Overseas Territories Contingent, which was mobilised to assist with recovery operations in the hardest-hit communities. Working alongside the Jamaica Defence Force Engineer Regiment, the Turks and Caicos contingent brought a range of practical skills to the mission, including construction, roofing, masonry and medical support.

These specialist capabilities allowed the team to assist directly with repairing damaged structures, restoring critical infrastructure and providing much-needed support to residents as recovery efforts progressed.

Members of the Regiment worked in communities across St. Elizabeth, where hurricane-force winds and heavy rainfall caused extensive destruction. In several areas, homes had lost roofs, buildings had suffered structural damage, and vital services had been disrupted. The deployment of the TCI Regiment helped accelerate the early stages of recovery by carrying out repairs and supporting local efforts to stabilise damaged properties.

The Regiment's contribution focused heavily on practical rebuilding work. Teams assisted with roof repairs, reinforced damaged buildings and helped restore structures that are essential for everyday community life. Medical support was also provided during the mission, helping to address immedi-

ate health concerns and ensuring that vulnerable residents received attention where needed.

Following their return home, Her Excellency the Governor met with members of the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment to receive a comprehensive brief-



A house near completion that that TCI Regiment members deployed in Jamaica, constructed.

ing on the mission and the role played by the contingent during the operation. The meeting provided an opportunity for the Regiment to outline the scope of their work and highlight the impact of their efforts on the communities they supported.

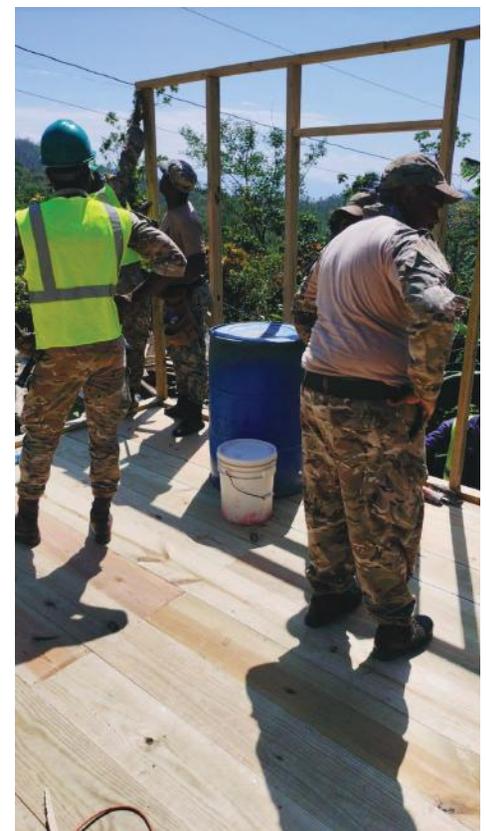
Her Excellency commended the marines for representing the Turks and Caicos Islands with distinction throughout the deployment. She praised their professionalism, resilience and dedication, noting that their service reflected the high standards expected of the territory's defence force.



Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam with members of the TCI Regiment on their return from Jamaica



TCI Regiment in action in Jamaica



TCI Regiment in action in Jamaica

The Governor also highlighted the importance of regional cooperation in responding to natural disasters, noting that hurricanes and other severe weather events often affect multiple Caribbean nations. She said the participation of the Turks and Caicos Islands Regiment in the multinational effort demonstrated the territory's willingness to support neighbouring countries during times of crisis.

According to Her Excellency, the mission also showcased the practical value of the Regiment's training and capabilities. By applying their technical skills in construction, engineering support

and medical assistance, the team was able to make a meaningful difference in communities that were facing significant challenges in the aftermath of Hurricane Melissa.

The Governor added that the Regiment's contribution to the recovery effort in Jamaica served as a powerful example of regional solidarity in action. She noted that the marines' disciplined service and practical expertise helped deliver tangible results for affected families and communities, many of whom are still working to rebuild their homes and restore normal life following the devastation caused by the storm.

Life Line FEATURED CHURCH

Church of God of Prophecy, Blue Hills

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we shine the spotlight on the Church of God of Prophecy, located in Blue Hills, Providenciales. The church is led by pastor Andrew Stone. There are at least six opportunities for worship during the week. On Sunday at 9:30a.m. is Sunday School. On Sunday 11a.m. is Divine Sunday Morning Service. On Sunday at 7:30p.m. is Evening Service. On Tuesday at 7:30p.m. is Prayer Meeting. On Wednesday at 7:30pm is Bible Study, and on Friday at 7:30pm is Youth Ministry. For further about any of the worship opportunities, contact 1 649-941-3438.



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.

Firm Foundation Ministries International
Lee Street, South Caicos.
Telephone: 649-348-3581

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 Grand 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 Propesy,
Lower Bight, Providenciales
Tel: 941-8854

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

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

Harvest Bible Chapel TCI,
Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales.
Tel: 1649 333-2009
Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com.
<https://www.harvesttci.tc>.

Firm Foundation Ministries International
19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket ,
Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240

Church of God of Propesy,
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

Firm Foundation Ministries International
Waterloo Road, Grand Turk.
Telephone: 649-332-624

Paradise Baptist Church,
Five Cays, Providenciale
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@newslnetci.com



HIGHLIGHTS OF BEACHES' TREASURE BEACH OPENING

Beaches Turks and Caicos' newest addition – the Treasure Beach Village – had its official opening on Saturday, February 28, to much pomp and celebration. The event was attended by majority of the Washington Misick's Cabinet, and a host of Sandals and Beaches chain of hotels across the Caribbean, along with its Chairman Adam Stewart. Local tourism officials, including members of the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association (TCHTA) were also on hand to witness the village's grand opening. The following are photo highlights of the event.





HOW INFLAMMATION SHOWS UP IN DAILY LIFE

From fatigue and bloating to hormonal issues

By Monica Uttamchandani
Holistic Health Coach, Turks and Caicos

Inflammation is often discussed in relation to chronic disease, but low grade inflammation affects many people long before any diagnosis appears. It can quietly influence energy, digestion, hormones, mood, and immune health.

Inflammation is the body's natural response to stress or injury. The problem occurs when that response never fully turns off.

Common Signs of Chronic Inflammation

Inflammation does not always look dramatic.

It often shows up as:

- Constant fatigue
- Bloating or digestive discomfort
- Joint pain or stiffness
- Hormonal imbalance
- Brain fog
- Skin issues like acne or eczema
- Frequent colds or low immunity

These symptoms are often dismissed as normal, but they are signals that the body is under ongoing stress.

What Drives Inflammation

Several lifestyle factors contribute to chronic inflammation such as blood sugar instability, high stress and poor sleep, ultra processed foods, excess alcohol, lack of movement, gut imbalance, and hormonal disruption.

Inflammation is closely tied to insulin resistance, cortisol elevation, and gut permeability.



How to Reduce Inflammation Gently

You do not need extreme detoxes or restrictive diets. Focus on daily habits instead.

- Eating whole foods with protein, fibre, and healthy fats, such as fish with vegetables and olive oil or eggs with fruit and seeds, to prevent blood sugar swings that drive inflammation
- Stabilising blood sugar with regular meals, as repeated glucose crashes increase cortisol and inflammatory signalling
- Prioritising sleep and consistent

routines, because poor sleep raises inflammatory markers and weakens immune repair

- Reducing alcohol and sugary drinks, which irritate the gut lining and increase systemic inflammation
- Supporting gut health with fibre and fermented foods, like vegetables, yoghurt, kefir, or sauerkraut, since gut imbalance directly increases inflammatory load
- Managing stress through breathwork or gentle movement, as chronic stress keeps inflammation switched on even without injury

Inflammation Is a Message

Inflammation is not the enemy. It

is information. It tells us the body needs more support, not more pressure.

When inflammation is addressed at the root, energy improves, hormones stabilise, digestion becomes smoother, and overall health becomes more resilient. For more guidance on reducing inflammation naturally, follow @balancedbymonica on Instagram.

Monica Uttamchandani is a certified Holistic Health Coach based in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She also consults in person at The Elephant Rooms in Salt Mills, Providenciales.



HEALTH REGULATION AUTHORITY LAUNCHES PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP SERIES 2026

The Health Regulation Authority (HRA) of the Turks and Caicos Islands is pleased to announce the launch of its Professional Development Workshop Series 2026, a three-day continuing education event designed to strengthen clinical practice, enhance regulatory compliance, and support the delivery of safe, trusted, and high-quality healthcare throughout the territory.

The workshop series will be held March 16 – 18, 2026, at the Atrium Conference Center, Providenciales, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM daily. Healthcare facilities and professionals are warmly invited to attend, with the flexibility to participate in all three days or select individual sessions that align with their professional development needs. Participants will have the opportunity to earn continuing

education credits upon completion. "The HRA is truly excited to offer this professional development series to our healthcare community. Our mandate is not only to regulate, but to actively support healthcare providers in meeting the highest standards of care. These workshops represent our commitment to equipping healthcare professionals with the knowledge and tools they need to deliver safe, high-quality services to every person who walks through their doors. We look forward to providing many more of these invaluable learning in the months and years ahead." Stated Romaine Missick-Smith, CEO, Health Regulation Authority.

Workshop Sessions

Day 1 – March 16: Informed Consent in Clinical Practice — Covering ethical and legal principles of consent,

patient communication, capacity assessment, and proper documentation to support patient-centered care.

Day 2 – March 17: Infection Prevention & Control in General Practice — Exploring practical infection prevention strategies, PPE use, environmental cleaning, and reducing healthcare-associated infection risks.

Day 3 – March 18: Documentation & Record Keeping in Healthcare — Focusing on best practices for clinical documentation, confidentiality, record management, and regulatory readiness.

Who Should Attend

This workshop series is open to:

- Medical Practitioners
- Nurses & Allied Health Professionals
- Dentists & Pharmacists

- Laboratory & Diagnostic Staff
- Registration Information

Registration is limited to one (1) participant per facility initially, with additional spots available should space permit. Registration forms are available online at www.hra.tc/post/professional-development-workshop-series-2026. Completed forms should be submitted to info@hra.gov.tc. For enquiries, please call (649) 338-4924.

The Health Regulation Authority is the premier healthcare regulatory body for the Turks and Caicos Islands, established to ensure the highest standards of healthcare delivery and patient safety. Through comprehensive licensing, education, and oversight, the HRA protects public health while supporting healthcare providers in delivering quality care.

TRAINING FOR TCI TOP MODEL TAKES CENTER STAGE

Training for Cycle 7 of TCI Top Model 2026 kicked off over the weekend with two transformative workshops designed to strengthen contestants from the inside out. Over back-to-back sessions, participants explored resilience, adaptability, health and self discipline, essential qualities for success in the modern modelling industry.

Resilience and Adaptability in the Modelling Industry

Tremaine Harvey, partner at Misick & Stanbrook and former television journalist, led the first workshop addressing real industry challenges and practical responses.

Through role play, group reflection and mental toughness exercises, contestants practised receiving constructive criticism, managing rejection, on set problem solving and collaborative teamwork, and left with journaling prompts, curated resource lists and individualised action plans to build resilience, flexibility and sustained confidence in front of the camera.

The session included mindfulness, visualisation and success mindset techniques; exercises to strengthen teamwork and on set adaptability; and strategies for maintaining positivity, effective networking and a personal mission statement, all aimed at turning potential into longevity by equipping models to meet pressure with poise and learn quickly from feedback.

In speaking of the session, Mrs Harvey stated: "Resilience and adaptability are the foundation of a lasting career - learn from critique, rise from rejection, and show up with purpose. Confidence is built through practice, reflection and persistence."

Health Care and Self Discipline

The second session, led by John K. Wright, CEO and founder of Wrightfully Fit Fitness Centers, focused on practical strategies for sustaining appearance and wellbeing. Covering balanced nutrition for energy and skin health,



Fitness Trainer John Wright of Wrightfully Fit

exercise regimens for strength and tone, daily skin and hair care routines, and mental-wellness practices for stress management, the workshop encouraged contestants to build disciplined routines that maintain consistency amid demanding schedules.

By combining nutrition, fitness, grooming and mental-health techniques, attendees left with actionable plans to integrate healthy habits into daily life and strengthen their careers through improved resilience and confidence.

During a motivational exercise Wright urged participants to embrace ambition, wisdom, dreams, growth and confidence as tools to overcome laziness, anger, fear, ego and doubt, reminding them that healthy habits and a clear mindset give them the power to show up and perform at their best every day.

In an invited comment, Mr Wright said: "Discipline fuels potential - consistent nutrition, training and wellness habits create the stamina and presence required to perform at your best,

tional agility and collaboration, while health and discipline reinforced sustainable performance through nutrition, fitness and routines. Combined, they foster professional longevity, consistent on-set presence and the confidence needed to navigate modelling's physical and psychological demands success.

The Turks and Caicos' premier fashion event returns bigger and bolder. Cycle 7 of TCI Top Model culminates in a spectacular Grand Finale on Saturday, May 2nd, 2026 at Brayton Hall, Providenciales - expect high fashion, fierce competition and unforgettable entertainment.

Mission Catwalk, proudly sponsored by TCI Sotheby's International Realty, kicks off the lead-up on Saturday, April 18th, 2026 on Grace Bay Road, Providenciales, featuring a Catwalk Competition, a Turks and Caicos Red Cross Fashion Show and an Interactive Challenge starting at 3:00 PM. Mission Catwalk is free and open to the public. Grand Finale tickets go on sale Saturday, April 14th, 2026.



Tremaine Harvey, partner at Misick & Stanbrook and former television journalist, led the first workshop addressing real industry challenges and practical responses.



Minister of Education, members of the Executive Leadership Team of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College, representatives from F Chambers Law Firm, and members of the College Month Committee pictured during the Press Conference for the launch of College Month 2026 and the Inaugural Law and Constitution Lecture Series.

TCICC Launches College Month

The Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) officially launched College Month 2026 during a press conference held on Monday, 2 March 2026, introducing a month-long programme of academic, cultural and community-focused activities, along with the Inaugural Law and Constitution Lecture Series in partnership with F Chambers Law Firm.

Held under the theme “TCICC’s Legacy in Action: Innovate. Inspire. Impact.”, the launch signalled the College’s continued commitment to education, innovation and national development.

Chair of the College Month Committee, Dr Stacy Ann Lawrence, provided an overview of the March calendar of activities, which will engage students, staff and the wider community across both campuses. The event line-up includes panel discussions, Quiz Bowl competitions, Triton the Shark Cook-Off, Research Symposium, Culture Jam, Walk/Run, and Open Day events designed to showcase student talent and encourage community participation. Dr Lawrence emphasised that the calendar reflects TCICC’s holistic vision of education, combining academic excellence with student engagement, innovation and community impact.

Delivering the keynote address, Dr Candice Williams, President and Chief Executive Officer of TCICC, highlighted the historical signifi-



Honourable Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, delivers remarks and officially declares the commencement of College Month 2026 during the Press Conference launching the celebrations and the Inaugural Law and Constitution Lecture Series at the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College.

cance of College Month and the institution’s ongoing mission to develop human capital for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

“College Month is not merely a celebration on our academic calendar; it is a declaration of purpose,” Dr Williams stated, noting that the establishment of the College in 1994 marked a national commitment to expanding access to quality education. She further highlighted TCICC’s growth, with over a 60% increase in enrolment over the past three years,

alongside strategic investments in digital learning technologies, advanced training facilities, and expanded academic programmes”

Dr Williams explained that the theme “Legacy in Action: Innovate. Inspire. Impact.” reflects the College’s responsibility to shape informed citizens, strengthen national capacity and prepare students to participate meaningfully in a rapidly evolving global landscape. She also announced the launch of the College’s first national lecture series,

inspired by the recently published book *Law and Constitution: Navigating the Legal Landscape of the Turks and Caicos Islands*.

The lecture series, titled “What’s In It For Me (WIIFM)”, was introduced by Mr Mark Fulford, Managing Partner of F Chambers Law Firm, who explained that the initiative seeks to create a structured and practical conversation about opportunity, civic awareness and national development.

According to Mr Fulford, the series will explore legal, economic and technological issues shaping the Turks and Caicos Islands while helping individuals better understand how systems operate and how they can position themselves to participate meaningfully in national growth. Built around what he described as the “three Ps”: Personal, Practical and Powerful, the sessions aim to equip participants with knowledge to make informed decisions about their futures.

The series will feature guest speakers from across law, business, governance and technology, providing participants with exposure to leading thinkers and practical insights on navigating opportunity in a rapidly developing nation.

Delivering the official remarks, Honourable Rachel Marshall Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, formally declared College Month 2026 open, highlighting the critical role education plays in



Mr. Mark Fulford, Managing Partner of F Chambers; Honourable Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education; and Dr. Candice Williams, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC), pictured during the Press Conference launching College Month 2026 and the Inaugural Law and Constitution Lecture Series.



Dr. Delores Stapleton Harris (Vice President - Academic, Vocational and Student Affairs), Mr. Mark A Fulford (Managing Partner, F Chambers Attorney Law Firm), Honourable Rachel Marshall Taylor (Minister of Education, Sports, Youth and Culture), Dr. Candice Williams (President/CEO) Dr. Stacy Ann Lawrence (College Month Committee Chair) Dr. Patroy Monteque (Vice President - Institutional Advancement & External Affairs)

shaping national progress. "Today marks more than the beginning of a calendar of events," the Minister said. "It marks a declaration that the legacy we wish to leave as a nation must be lived intentionally, built courageously and shaped through education."

The Minister noted that the planned College Month initiatives demonstrate the College's commitment to innovation, civic awareness and community engagement. She further commended the partnership with F Chambers, noting that strengthening constitutional literacy is essential to a maturing democracy.

"This initiative is not merely about legal theory," she remarked. "It is about civic consciousness and preparing young people not only to work within systems, but to lead, reform and safeguard them." College Month activities will run throughout March, culminating with community engagement events across both campuses.

TCICC invites students, profession-

als and members of the public to participate in the month's activities and to register for the inaugural WIIFM Lecture Series, with the first lecture scheduled for 31 March 2026.

Prospective students are also encouraged to explore the College's programmes and take advantage of the wide range of opportunities available at TCICC.



Mr. Mark Fulford, Managing Partner of F Chambers, provides an overview of the Inaugural Law and Constitution Lecture Series during the College Month 2026 Press Conference at the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College.



Dr. Candice Williams, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC), delivers her remarks during the Press Conference launching College Month 2026 and the Inaugural Law and Constitution Lecture Series. The initiative marks the beginning of a month-long celebration of academic excellence, innovation, and national engagement at the College.



The Honourable Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, members of the Executive Leadership Team, representatives from F Chambers Law Firm, College Month Committee members, and students of the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) pictured at the Press Conference launching College Month 2026 and the Inaugural Law and Constitution Lecture Series.



Dr. Stacy Ann Lawrence, Chair of the College Month Committee, provides an overview of the calendar of activities scheduled for College Month 2026 during the official press conference launch, highlighting a series of academic, cultural, and community-focused events planned throughout the month.

Water exercise: a low impact alternative for a healthier life

Water exercise is an excellent way to focus on fitness in a reduced gravity environment. Regular exercise offers a wide range of benefits, including weight control, improved cardiovascular health, and better sleep quality. However, for many people, common forms of exercise such as walking, running, or weight training can be difficult due to pain, weakness, mobility issues, or fear of falling.

According to Kimberly Olsen, a physical therapy specialist with Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, Minnesota, water exercise is an excellent way to focus on fitness in a reduced gravity environment. Here's why:

- **Buoyancy:** Standing in waist-deep water reduces body weight by about 50 per cent, making this a low impact form of exercise. This significantly decreases stress on weight-bearing bones and joints.
- **Support:** Water provides stability for people with balance challenges. The constant movement of the water during exercise also challenges balance. The more waves there are, the harder it becomes to stay steady and continue exercising.
- **Resistance:** Water's viscosity slows movement and provides resistance, making aquatic exercise an effective strength workout. With less stress on joints, people often find they can exercise longer and complete more repetitions.

All of these benefits make water exercise an effective option for those recovering from

sports injuries, helping restore range of motion, strength, and endurance. Beyond rehabilitation, aquatic exercise can also provide a full workout that improves strength, cardiovascular fitness, and flexibility. As with any exercise programme, consult your health-care team before starting a new routine.

FIVE THINGS TO KNOW (before jumping into the pool)

1. **Water exercise is versatile:** Aquatic exercise offers a wide range of options and techniques for nearly every fitness level from simple movements like walking in water to higher-intensity aerobic activities such as deep-water running (aqua running) or swimming. Standing exercises are usually performed in waist- or chest-deep water and aim to improve range of motion, flexibility, balance, and strength. Resistance training can be intensified by increasing movement speed and range, or by using equipment such as webbed gloves, swim paddles, pool noodles, or resistance bands.
2. **You don't need to know how to swim:** Basic swimming or water safety skills are always recommended for anyone spending time in the water. However, aquatic exercise doesn't necessarily require swimming. The shallow end of any pool or lake is sufficient, as many movements only require standing in the water.
3. **Water temperature matters:** Cooler water (27–31°C / 82–88°F) is generally better



for higher-intensity workouts or for people prone to overheating, such as pregnant individuals, people with obesity, or those with multiple sclerosis. Warmer water (29–33°C / 84–92°F) is more suitable for people with arthritis, fibromyalgia, chronic pain, or for more fragile individuals.

4. **Know your limits:** Because exercise feels easier in water, many people tolerate longer sessions. As a result, workouts may become more intense, with greater range of motion, increasing the risk of overuse. You may feel more fatigued than expected after an aquatic exercise session.

5. **Consider group classes:** Group water exercise classes are a great way to socialise, build connections, find support, boost motivation, and stay consistent. They are often led by instructors trained specifically in aquatic fitness, who can modify exercises for individual participants when needed.

BEYOND BASIC EXERCISES

Increasing the intensity of your water workout on your own or in a class may include resistance equipment such as:

- **Foam dumbbells:** Lightweight on land, they provide resistance in water due to buoyancy. Available in different resistance levels.
- **Water weights:** Worn on ankles or wrists to increase resistance during arm and leg exercises.
- **Paddles and resistance gloves:** Enhance strength training.
- **Flotation belt:** Keep your head above water in the deep end of the pool, freeing your hands. This allows you to run, lift weights, and perform other exercises without needing to tread water.

Many people enjoy exercising in water more than on land. Without pain, fear of falling, and with a sense of fun, they're more likely to stay active regularly. And best of all you can get a great workout without even getting your hair wet.

Mayo Clinic is a non-profit organization committed to innovation in clinical practice, education and research, and providing compassion, expertise and answers to everyone who needs healing.

Sleep solutions: why quality rest is a public health priority

Sleep is often sacrificed in the rush of daily life, but health experts warn that chronic sleep deprivation is quietly undermining the well-being of many Jamaicans.

According to Dr Orlando Thomas, medical doctor and functional medicine practitioner, improving sleep habits may be one of the simplest yet most powerful steps toward better overall health.

"Sleep is not a luxury," Dr. Thomas emphasised. "It is a biological necessity. When we consistently get less sleep than the body requires, it affects everything, from memory and mood to blood pressure and immune function."

Globally, sleep disorders are increasingly recognised as a major public health concern. The World Health Organization has repeatedly linked insufficient sleep to non-communicable diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, obesity, and depression. In Jamaica, while comprehensive national sleep data remains limited, the broader health statistics paint a concerning picture. The Ministry of Health and Wellness reports that non-communicable diseases (NCDs) account for roughly 70 to 75 per cent of all deaths annually. Conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and stroke, all of which are aggravated by poor sleep, continue to rise.

The Statistical Institute of Jamaica indicates that hypertension affects nearly one in three Jamaican adults, while diabetes prevalence continues to climb. Research also shows that chronic sleep deprivation increases the risk of developing high blood pressure and insulin resistance.

Dr Thomas notes that in his clinical experience, many patients report sleeping fewer than six hours per night, well below the rec-



ommended seven to nine hours for adults. "People are juggling multiple jobs, long commutes, screen time late into the night, and financial stress. Sleep becomes the first thing they cut back on," he said. Sleep plays a vital role in regulating hormones, repairing tissues, consolidating memory, and supporting immune function. When sleep is disrupted, the body produces higher levels of cortisol, the stress hormone, which over time contributes to weight gain, anxiety, and cardiovascular strain.

Poor sleep is also closely linked to mental health. The Pan American Health Organization has highlighted the relationship between sleep disturbances and depression, noting that persistent insomnia can both

signal and worsen mood disorders.

Dr Thomas explains that many Jamaicans may not realise they are suffering from sleep disorders such as insomnia or obstructive sleep apnea.

"Sleep apnea, for example, is particularly common in people who are overweight or have hypertension. They may snore heavily, wake up tired, or experience morning headaches, but they don't connect it to a medical issue," he explained.

Left untreated, sleep apnea significantly increases the risk of heart disease and stroke. Dr Thomas advocates for practical, sustainable changes rather than quick fixes.

First, he encourages consistent sleep routines. "Go to bed and wake up at the same

time every day, even on weekends. The body thrives on rhythm," he advised.

Limiting screen time before bed is another key strategy. Blue light emitted from phones, tablets, and televisions interferes with melatonin production, the hormone responsible for sleep regulation.

He also recommends creating a sleep-friendly environment: cool temperatures, minimal light, and reduced noise. Caffeine intake should be limited after mid-afternoon, and heavy meals avoided close to bedtime.

For individuals experiencing persistent sleep issues, medical evaluation is critical. Cognitive behavioural therapy for insomnia (CBT-I) and, in some cases, short-term medication may be appropriate under professional guidance.

Importantly, Dr Thomas stresses that sleep should be viewed as part of preventive health care.

"We talk a lot about diet and exercise, but sleep is the third pillar of health," he said. "If we ignore it, we undermine everything else."

As Jamaica continues to battle high rates of non-communicable diseases, sleep health deserves greater public attention. Workplace policies, school schedules, and community education campaigns can all play a role in promoting healthier sleep habits.

"Better sleep improves productivity, emotional stability, and long-term health outcomes," Dr Thomas concluded. "If we want a healthier Jamaica, we must start by taking sleep seriously."

In a fast-paced society where busyness is often celebrated, reclaiming rest may be one of the most powerful and overlooked solutions to improving national health.

Gospel singer Ron Kenoly laid to rest

American gospel singer Ron Kenoly was remembered in a service in celebration of his life on Friday, February 20, 2026 at Jubilee Church in Orlando, Florida, where the musician served as worship pastor and music director for a long time.

The artiste and worship leader grew to wide recognition across the Caribbean during the mid-to-late 90s.

He famously covered Winner Man (as Winna, Mon), written by Jamaican gospel singer Lester Lewis. His version was released in 1996 on the album Welcome Home. It was a big part of Ron Kenoly's live show.

He is also credited with popularising choruses such as Ancient of Days.

Kenoly died on February 3 in Windermere, Florida, at age 81.

The Kansas-born artiste performed

several times in Jamaica including at the 2002 Fun In The Son show in Ocho Rios, St Ann. That event was promoted by Tommy Cowan and his wife Carlene Davis who were close friends with Kenoly.

Davis completed a course in Praise and Worship at the Ron Kenoly Academy of Praise in Orlando, Florida.

She told the Jamaica Observer that his reggae-flavoured take on Winner Man was pivotal for reggae-gospel.

"It was a surprise and a treat for Jamaican gospel, we all embraced the idea and loved his version of the song. It is really a compliment to hear Dr Ron's version and it has most definitely taken our sound to a wider audience," said Davis.

Kenoly, who did shows in over 120 countries, last performed in Jamaica



Ron Kenoly was a popular figure in the Caribbean region

at the Embrace The Promise concert in Westmoreland in 2023.

His music is said to have revolutionised contemporary gospel by blending traditional hymns with upbeat praise rhythms. His recordings and live worship sessions inspired a new generation of worship leaders and

artistes globally, while shaping congregational worship.

Churches in Ghana, Nigeria, and across Africa embraced his style, contributing to the growth of vibrant praise and worship movements.

He is survived by his wife Diana, three sons and grandchildren.



International Reggae Artist Shaggy

Boom Body, Shaggy's latest release, continues to impact charts in the US. It has moved up on the latest Mediabase Rhythmic Airplay chart (which monitors rhythmic radio).

On the Billboard Rhythmic Airplay chart, the song reaches its peak to date, #28.

Boom Body, which also features Akon and Aidonia, debuted on the January 31-dated Billboard chart, and is Shaggy's 12th entry on this particular chart.

His previous entries include the #1 hits Angel and It Wasn't Me, Til a Mawnin (featuring Sting – #35 in 2025), Boombastic (#6 in 1995), That Girl (with Maxi Priest – #16 in 1996), Luv Me, Luv Me (with Janet Jackson – #22 in 1998), and I Need Your Love (#36 in 2015).

Sean Paul's 2006 hit When You Gonna (Give it Up To Me) moves up to #38 on the UK Singles chart, while holding firm at #61 on Billboard's Global Excluding US chart. On Global 200, the song rises to #102 up from #133.

Jamaican (Bam Bam), a reconstructed dance/house interpretation of Sister Nancy's iconic hit Bam Bam, produced by HUGEL and SOLTO, inches up to #4 on Billboard's World Digital Song Sales chart.

On the Billboard Reggae Albums chart, Bob Marley and the Wailers remain unmoved at #1 with Legend for a 319th non-consecutive week.

Best of Shaggy: The Boombastic Collection by Shaggy remains firm at #2, with Dutty Classics Collection by Sean Paul re-entering at #3, and World on Fire by Stick Figure inching up to #4.

Shaggy's Boom Body continues its rise on the charts

Dutty Rock by Sean Paul dips to #5, Greatest Hits by UB40 holds at #6, Wisdom and Set in Stone by Stick Figure are #7 and #8, with Bob Marley's Exodus and Damian Marley's Welcome to Jamrock positioned at #9 and #10.

For a second week How Sweet It Is by Jah Cutta has a hold on the #1 spot on the Reggae North Canadian Top 20 Reggae chart.

Wheel and Come Again by Skystar is #2, while Protect Us by I-Noah inching up a spot to #3.

Set Me Free by Memberz Syndicate rises to #4 and I'll Be Your King by Akustix moves up to #5.

Montego Bay was originally recorded and released by Bobby Bloom in 1970 and it reached #8 on the Billboard Hot 100, #3 in the UK and #5 in Canada as well as making the Top 10 in 8 other countries in Europe.

Freddie Notes and the Rudies covered the song that year and their version reached #45 in the UK, while eight years later, in 1978, a version by Sugar Cane visited the #54 spot in the UK. Jon Stevens had a hit in 1980

with his version that topped the chart in New Zealand.

In 1986 British reggae/ska/pop band Amazulu scored a hit with their version, which got as far as #16 in the UK and South Africa, #90 on the Billboard Hot 100 and #14 in Ireland.

Former Digicel Rising Stars winner Shuga has put her spin on Montego Bay, and her version is the new #1 on the New York Reggae chart.

Elsewhere on the New York Reggae tally, Feel So Nice by Maxi Priest and Sean Paul moves up to #3, while Sweet Loving and Affection by Glen Washington (#27), Ain't No Time to Cry by Winchester T (#38), and Struggle On by Luciano (#30) are new entries.

Hopeton Lindo and Anthony Malvo spend another week on top of the South Florida Reggae chart with Mental Health Awareness.

A Chance on Love by Leroy Sibbles inches up to #4, with Richie Stephens's cover of Trapped surging to #10. Where My Heart Belongs by Gramps Morgan moves up two spots to #15.

Turks and Caicos Islands Fashion Week 2026 Announced, Featuring Six-Day Island Showcase

The Turks and Caicos Islands are preparing to host one of the Caribbean's most ambitious fashion events as Turks and Caicos Islands Fashion Week 2026 returns under the theme "The New Tropic."

The six-day event is scheduled to take place April 26 to May 2, 2026, highlighting the islands' culture, landscapes, and luxury tourism through fashion, art, and creative industries.

Organizers say the event will bring together designers, models, vendors, and sponsors while promoting the Turks and Caicos Islands as a global destination for fashion and culture.

A Six-Island Fashion Journey

The fashion week will travel across several islands, each day reflecting a unique theme inspired by the natural beauty and culture of the Turks and Caicos.

Day 1 – North Caicos: "Island Eden"

The opening showcase will focus on flora and fauna-inspired designs, highlighting eco-friendly crafts and jewelry. Color themes include sage, sand, coral, and sea-foam, celebrating the lush landscapes of North Caicos.

Day 2 – Middle Caicos: "Mystic Retreat"

Designs will draw inspiration from the island's famous caves and flamingo habitats. The evening will feature flamingo pink and sunset amber tones, creating what organizers describe as a mystical island aesthetic.

Day 3 – South Caicos: "Ocean Opulence"

The third day will spotlight swimwear and nautical fashion, reflecting South Caicos' maritime culture. Designers will showcase pieces in turquoise, navy, pearl, and silver.

Day 4 – Grand Turk: "Heritage Couture"

Fashion will turn to cultural identity with national costume couture, emphasizing traditional craftsmanship and heritage attire. The color palette includes beige, cream, gold, and coconut tones.

Day 5 – Providenciales: "Urban Island Glam"

Inspired by the island's luxury resorts and tourism hubs, this showcase will present resort-style fashion and contemporary elegance, featuring shades of cream, gold, and beige.

Day 6 – Finale: "Global Glamour"

The week concludes with a Caribbean luxury gala, bringing together VIP guests, international designers, and exclusive runway presentations in a celebration of global fashion influence.

Opportunities for Designers, Models and Vendors

Organizers are inviting designers, models, vendors, and sponsors to participate in the event.

A Designer Challenge will award participants in three categories, including:

- Designers who participate in all six days of the event
- Designers whose work best rep-



resents the overall theme

- Designers with the most cohesive collections across the week
- All designers will receive a plaque of appreciation for participating.

Models are also being recruited to walk the runway. Applicants are asked to submit headshots and full-body photos, with minimal makeup and hair pulled away from the face. Female models are encouraged to wear black heels, while male models should wear clean sneakers or dress shoes during casting.

Vendors and Sponsorship Opportunities

Local businesses and artisans are being encouraged to take part as vendors, showcasing products such as:

- Fashion accessories
- Jewelry and handbags
- Handmade crafts and straw work
- Souvenirs and artisan goods
- Beauty and wellness products

Vendor booths are priced at \$75 per day or \$300 for the full week, giving businesses access to event exposure and networking opportunities.

Several sponsorship tiers are also available:

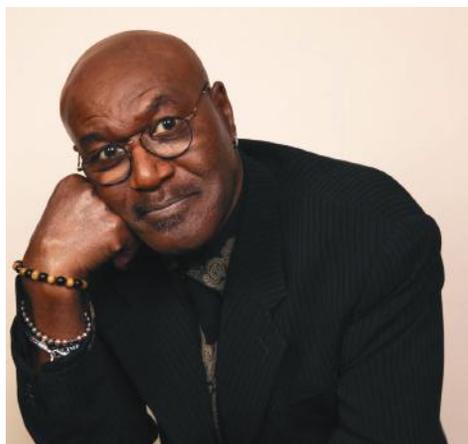
- Presenting Sponsor: \$15,000–\$25,000
- Runway Sponsor: \$7,500–\$12,000
- Community Sponsor: \$3,000–\$6,000
- Supporting Partner: \$1,000–\$2,500
- Micro Sponsorship: Starting at \$500
- Promoting the Turks and Caicos Brand

Organizers say the event aims to combine island elegance with global fashion, positioning the Turks and Caicos Islands as a hub for creative tourism and international cultural events.

"Turks and Caicos Islands Fashion Week is where island elegance meets global fashion," promotional material for the event states.

Registration for participants and vendors is now open, with limited spaces available.

Applications and additional information can be found through the event's official registration platforms.



Actor Delroy Lindo

Oscar nominee Delroy Lindo eyes Jamaica-set project

ple this evening, amongst so many people who have shown us such incredible support," Lindo said onstage Saturday at the event. "And it's a classic case of something that could be very negative becoming very positive."

Lindo took home the supporting actor trophy that night, ahead of the Academy Awards on March 15.

He's in the running for an Oscar for his Sinners performance as bluesman Delta Slim, in a category also populated by Jacob Elordi for *Frankenstein*, Sean Penn and Benicio Del Toro in *One Battle After Another*, plus Stellan Skarsgård for *Sentimental Value*.

While the UK has been keen to claim him as a British Oscar nominee, the London-born actor sees his years growing up in America as the making of him.

"The reality is my career has been in the United States and the irony is, had I not had my career in the US, you and I would not be talking right now," he says during an interview with *The Associated Press* in London, before the BAFTAs.

His film CV boasts *Malcolm X*, *Get Shorty*, *Clockers*, *The Cider House Rules* and *Da Five Bloods*. On TV, he's been an FBI agent on *Kidnapped*, a sheriff on *Blood & Oil*,

a lawyer on *The Good Fight* and an estranged father on *UnPrisoned*. His theatre work is equally impressive, with a Tony nomination for portraying Herald Loomis in Joe Turner's *Come and Gone* on Broadway.

And despite the awards season circuit dominating his time at the moment, Lindo shared his wish list of future projects with the AP.

SPIRITUAL ROOTS

Lindo is set to wear three hats – of director, co-producer and actor – for a film set in Jamaica, where his mother was born. He says he plans to show a different side of the Caribbean island.

"They think about sea, sand, and sun, and that's wonderful. But I am interested – in this particular story – in showing, sharing with audiences the spirituality that's in the land and in the people," explains Lindo.

"I'd like to play Othello on film, I really would," says Lindo.

He's portrayed Shakespeare's tragic hero twice onstage in the 1990s and still feels inspired to revisit the role.

"I remember, cumulatively, the second time playing it, I developed such an appreciation for the material, for that man, and

to be able to delve into that again on film intrigues the hell out of me," he said.

Black nationalist Marcus Garvey influenced Malcolm X and Civil Rights Movement leaders. Lindo's been linked to playing Garvey before but says he was never actually approached about it.

"I think that Marcus Garvey, obviously an incredibly important person historically, and the organisation that he started, the UNIA (Universal Negro Improvement Association), was also very, very important," says Lindo. "I'd like to play something kind of Garvey-esque."

WRITING WINDRUSH

In 1948, a ship named the *Empire Windrush* arrived near London, carrying 800 passengers from the Caribbean to new lives in Britain.

Lindo's mother was one of them. Her journey is something he's writing about in a memoir about how he came to be born in the UK and how they are both "representative of Windrush."

"I feel that I haven't seen a lot of stories that, in cinema, in film, that depict ... wide enough aspects of that extraordinary experience. I'd like to do something that reflects that," he says.

REALISTIC IMPACT OF GEF FUNDING OF CSIDS SOILCARE PHASE 1 PROJECT HIGHLIGHTED

The impacts of the Global Environment Facility's (GEF's) funding of the CSIDS SOILCARE Project, was prominently showcased during the organisation's joint mission to St. Lucia and Grenada, along with representatives of the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM), Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) and the Government of Canada. During the mission, implementation site visits were conducted in St. Lucia, Carriacou and Grenada from February 17-18 and February 19-20.

Courtesy calls were made to the Hon. Lisa Jawahir and staff of the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries, and Climate Change in St. Lucia, Permanent Secretary Leanwall Perrotte of the Ministry of Carriacou and Petite Martinique Affairs in Carriacou, and Hon. Lennox Andrews and Permanent Secretary Isaac Bhagwan at the Ministry of Agriculture, Lands and Forestry in Grenada.

The discussions in the two countries underscored the importance of strong partnerships that can improve sustainable soil and land management and country commitments for the ongoing work, as SOILCARE continues to deliver practical, community-driven solutions across the islands.

Executive Director for the PISLM, Dr. Ronen Francis, said the undertaking represents the organisation's role in "Updating partners such as the GEF, funders such as the Government of Canada, on the work that has already been done and how it impacts the landscape and livelihoods of people within the communities where the project is implemented."

Neila Bobb-Prescott, GEF Task Manager and Climate Finance Specialist with the FAO, the implementation agency for SOILCARE, explained that the mission helps them to see, "What can be built on, in Phase 2 of the regional project."

The mission included site visits to several key project locations in:

- St. Lucia- Sir Arthur Lewis Community College, Darban, and the National Soil Laboratory.
- Carriacou- Limlair Livestock Facility, Belair Agricultural Nursery, Bellevue South and Dumfries Agricultural Station.
- Grenada- St George's soil laboratory, Les Avocat Forest reserve, and Chambord- project intervention sites.

"This has been an excellent way to improve the resilience of farmers, combat climate change and reduce land degradation" suggested Rawlestone Moore-Senior Climate Change Specialist at the GEF. The delegation also comprised of Mr. Trevor Thompson- Project Manager for the CSIDS SOILCARE Project Phase 1, David Ainsworth, Senior External Relations Officer at the Global Environment Facility and Ebru Gurbuzer, International Development Officer for the Global Issues and Development Sector at the Government of Canada.

The regional mission was able to pro-



Courtesy Visit – Grenada



Courtesy Visit Carriacou

mote how the support from international agencies, such as GEF and FAO – is improving the lives and livelihoods of people within the Caribbean communities and improving climate resilience by promoting sustainable solutions for land, water, and agricultural systems, food security and livelihood enhancement.

The PISLM for CSIDS is the only independent IGO with a mandate to help Caribbean SIDS meet their obligations under the UNCCD and land and soil areas of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA).

The Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS) multicountry soil management initiative for Integrated Landscape Restoration and climate-resilient food systems, aims to strengthen Caribbean SIDS with the necessary tools for adopting policies, measures and best practices and support review of legal and institutional frameworks to achieve Land Degradation Neutrality (LDN) and Climate Resilience."

It is funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7), implemented by the Food and Agriculture Organization and executed by the Partnership Initiative for Sustainable Land Management (PISLM) in Caribbean Small Island Developing States (SIDS)- Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Barbados, Grenada, Guyana, St. Lucia, Jamaica and Haiti.

It supports these countries in strengthening policy, legal, and institutional frameworks to advance Land Degradation Neutrality and enhance climate resilience. The initiative focuses on building technical and institutional capacity to mainstream sustainable land management and climate-responsive practices into national and regional development strategies.

Through knowledge sharing, adoption of best practices, and improved coordination mechanisms, the project aims to reduce land degradation, improve ecosystem services, and strengthen adaptive capacity to climate change across participating Caribbean SIDS. By aligning



Visit to Limlair Livestock Station Carriacou

national policies with international environmental commitments, the project contributes to long-term environmental sustainability, food security, and resilient livelihoods in the region.



Bar President Mark Fulford presents an autographed copy of *Law & Constitution* to Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam during a courtesy call at the Office of the Governor on 24 February 2026.

Constitutional Literacy, Stability Dominate Courtesy Call Talks Between Bar President and Governor

& Constitution: Navigating the Legal Landscape of the Turks and Caicos Islands, and conveyed appreciation for her continued stewardship of the constitutional framework under which the Islands operate. Discussions centred on constitutional literacy, institutional stability, and the importance of strengthening public confidence in governance within a rapidly developing jurisdiction. Fulford outlined his ongoing educational outreach initiatives, including a national lecture series aimed at deepening understanding of the rule of law and civic responsibility among students, professionals, and members of the wider community.

Both parties reflected on the shared responsibility of constitutional office holders and civil society leaders to preserve institutional integrity and promote a mature democratic culture. "It was an honour to engage with Her Excellency on matters fundamental to the continued progress of our Islands," Fulford said. "Strong institutions and informed citizenship remain the foundation of a confident and stable nation." The courtesy call forms part of a broader programme of institutional engagement in 2026 aimed at fostering constructive dialogue across the pillars of governance in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Bar President Mark Fulford paid a courtesy call on Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam at the Office of the Governor, on Tuesday, 24

February 2026. During the meeting, Mr. Fulford presented Her Excellency with an autographed copy of his book, *Law*

TCI HAS A NEW CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT MEMBER APPOINTED TO THE INTEGRITY COMMISSION

The Turks and Caicos Islands has a new Chartered Accountant Member on the Integrity Commission. Her Excellency the Governor, Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, has announced the appointment of Mr. Darius E. Ferguson to serve on the Integrity Commission Board. He will serve in the role of Chartered Accountant Member in accordance with Section 3(2)(a) of the Integrity Commission Ordinance. Mr. Ferguson's appointment is for a period of three years and follows consultation with the President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Society of Professional Accountants. With family ties to Providenciales and South Caicos, Mr. Ferguson is a Chartered Accountant with more than 20 years of senior leadership experience spanning aviation, finance, technology and consultan-

cy. His professional background includes extensive work in financial governance, regulatory compliance and strategic planning. He previously served for a decade as Chief Financial Officer of SkyBahamas Airlines, where he oversaw financial reporting, regulatory engagement, capital projects and commercial development initiatives. Earlier in his career, Mr. Ferguson held senior audit positions at Ernst & Young LLP and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, leading high-risk audit engagements and ensuring compliance with international financial and accounting standards. Throughout his professional journey, Mr. Ferguson has been recognised for his commitment to professional ethics, community leadership and organisational accountability. His expertise in corporate governance,



Darius E. Ferguson to serve on the Integrity Commission Board as the new chartered accountant member

financial oversight and operational risk management is expected to bring valuable strategic insight to the work of the Integrity Commission. Governor Daniel-Selvaratnam welcomed the appointment, noting that Mr. Ferguson's experience will strengthen the Commission's work in upholding transparency and accountability in public life. "Mr. Ferguson's extensive background in financial management,

auditing and governance, together with his leadership experience across both corporate and community sectors, make him well-suited to serve on the Integrity Commission," the Governor said. "His appointment strengthens our ongoing commitment to integrity, transparency and accountability in public life. I am confident that he will make a meaningful contribution to the Commission's important work."



Flow TCI powers Inter-High Track and Field Championships

As the Turks and Caicos sporting community celebrates the spirit of youth athleticism, leading telecoms provider, Flow is highlighting the transformative power of connectivity following the successful conclusion of the 2026 Inter-High Track and Field Championships held at the Turks and Caicos Islands National Stadium from February 26 to 28.

As the Official Media Sponsor for the event, Flow provided livestreaming services that premiered across social media and on Flow TV's Channel 111. This ensured that families and fans throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands could witness every record-breaking moment. To keep the event running at top speed, Flow also provided broadband services throughout the venue, maintaining seamless connectivity throughout the games.

"Our long-standing partnership with the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission is a shared promise



to invest in the next generation. Over the years we have worked together to create opportunities for young people to train, compete and grow," said Joanne Misick, Country Manager, Flow Turks and Caicos Islands. "We make this investment because sport develops more than athletes. It's a long-term investment for us in our people, pride and possibility, and it's a partnership we hold close be-

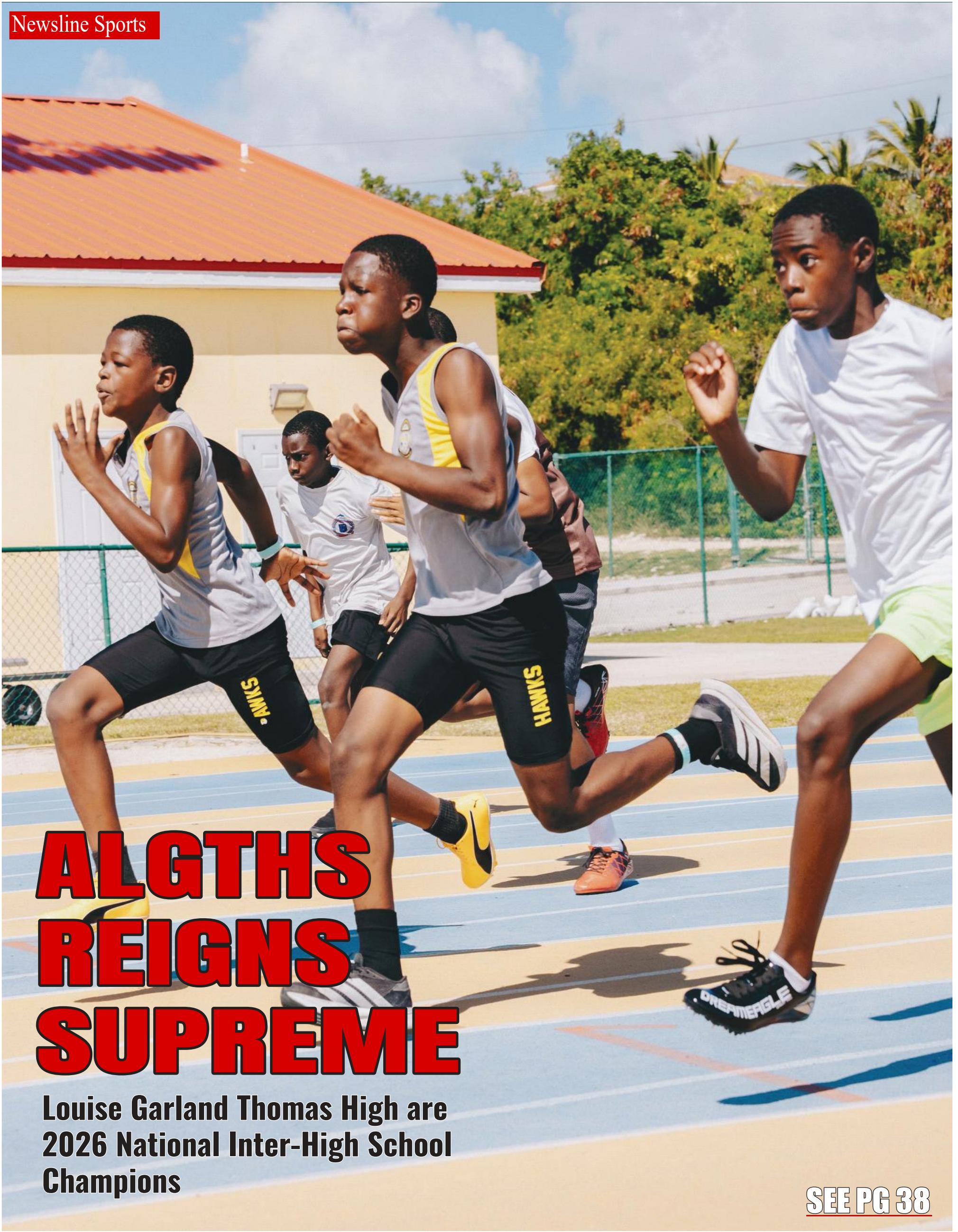
cause advancing our youth advances the entire nation." The commitment to the Games extended directly to the track, where Flow served as the headline sponsor for the 200-meter category. Spanning seven races, the partnership culminated during the official medal ceremony with the company presenting winners with Flow merchandise bags.

Off the track, Flow mobil-

ised engagement through the interactive sales booth. The site became a hub for activity, featuring Spin the Wheel promotions and gift certificate giveaways during Q&A intermissions, ensuring the energy of the crowd remained high.

Looking ahead, Flow is preparing to carry this momentum into the upcoming Inter-Primary Track and Field Championships, continuing its investment in the next generation of sporting talent in the Turks and Caicos Islands.





ALGTHS REIGNS SUPREME

Louise Garland Thomas High are
2026 National Inter-High School
Champions

SEE PG 38



Brighton's English midfielder #13 Jack Hinshelwood (C) heads over under pressure from Arsenal's Ecuadorian defender #05 Piero Hincapie (L) during the English Premier League football match between Brighton and Hove Albion and Arsenal at the American Express Community Stadium in Brighton, southern England on March 4, 2026.

Manchester City stumbled in the Premier League title race on Wednesday, held to a costly 2-2 draw by Nottingham Forest as Bukayo Saka's goal against Brighton sent Arsenal seven points clear. The Gunners are favourites to win their first English league crown since 2004 but have found it impossible to shake off the attentions of Pep Guardiola's charging City.

The two teams will go head to head at the Etihad on April 19, but Wednesday's results could have a huge impact on the title race when the dust settles.

On a busy night of action, Arsenal drew first blood in the battle for the Premier League crown, with Saka celebrating his 300th Arsenal appearance with a goal in the ninth minute at Brighton's Amex Stadium.

The Englishman received the ball on

the right before cutting in and hitting a shot from the edge of the penalty area, which took a deflection off Carlos Baleba before squirming through the legs of goalkeeper Bart Verbruggen.

The home side dominated possession and had more shots, but Arsenal kept them at bay, digging deep to see out a nerve-jangling 1-0 win.

Second-placed City, who have a game in hand, appeared to be on course to match their rivals and stay within five points of the top.

But they twice surrendered their lead to relegation-threatened Forest, whose battling performance in a 2-2 draw kept them out of the drop zone, above West Ham on goal difference.

Erling Haaland was back for City after missing the win against Leeds at the weekend but it was January signing

Man City falter as Premier League leaders Arsenal go seven points clear

Antoine Semenyo who caught the eye again.

The former Bournemouth man volleyed home in the 31st minute from an awkward height following a cross by Rayan Cherki.

Since his City debut in January, only Viktor Gyokeres (10) has been involved in more goals in all competitions among Premier League players than Semenyo, who has seven goals and two assists.

But Morgan Gibbs-White produced a moment of magic to pull Forest level, backheeling home in the 56th minute after Ola Aina's deep cross was nodded back across goal by Igor Jesus.

That sparked a renewed sense of urgency from City and they were back in front just six minutes later after the unmarked Rodri headed home Rayan Ait-Nouri's corner.

However, Forest were far from beaten and midfielder Elliot Anderson picked out the bottom corner of the goal with a beautifully crafted finish in the 76th minute to peg City back again.

In the tight race for Champions League qualification, Joao Pedro scored a hat-trick for Chelsea, who came from behind to beat Aston Villa 4-1, pushing Liverpool down to sixth spot.

Douglas Luiz flicked home in the second minute to put Unai Emery's men ahead but Joao Pedro tapped home in the 35th minute for his 12th Premier League goal of the season.

A clever clip over the goalkeeper on the cusp of half-time gave the Brazilian his second of the game.

Cole Palmer made it 3-1 in the second half and Joao Pedro tapped home Alejandro Garnacho's cross to complete his hat-trick.

The win lifted Chelsea to fifth spot in the Premier League, three points behind fourth-placed Villa.

The top five teams in the Premier League are almost certain to qualify for the Champions League thanks to the strong showing of English sides in Europe this season.

West Ham beat Fulham 1-0 courtesy of a goal from Crysencio Summerville to move level with Forest on 28 points.

Forest and West Ham are now just one point behind Tottenham, who are in action against Crystal Palace on Thursday.

Newcastle host Michael Carrick's Manchester United in the later kick-off on Wednesday, with the United manager yet to taste defeat since taking on the role until the end of the season.

U20 Reggae Boyz into next round

A stunning strike from Jabarie Howell proved the difference for the U20 Reggae Boyz as they defeated Puerto Rico 1-0 yesterday to top Group B of the Concacaf Men's U20 Qualifiers and advance to the Concacaf Men's U20 Championship.

Howell scored the lone goal of the contest in the 32nd minute of play to secure Jamaica's spot in the next round and a perfect run in the group.

With the win, the young Boyz have won all five of their group stage games, scoring 28 goals along the way without conceding.

Jamaica started the better of the two teams but found themselves stymied by a resolute Puerto Rican defence.

Defender Marlon van de Wetering crafted the first real opportunity of the contest when he dribbled into the midfield from out wide, playing the ball into Jahmarie Nolan who did just enough to lay it off for Howell.

Howell found himself crowded off the ball by a trio of Puerto Rican defenders before he could get his shot off.

Van de Wetering was again on hand for the second opportunity as he sent a dangerous ball to the back post, finding Claver Nugent who could not find the right angle, his shot striking the side netting.

Jamaica eventually found their winner when Howell scored a stunning opening goal worthy of their early pressure.

Lining up a free kick down the left wing, Howell defied everyone's expectations as he went for goal from a tight angle, beating the Puerto Rican goalkeeper, and his defender, at the near post.

The Boyz went searching for another goal in the second half and should have doubled their lead when Nolan was set free with only the goalkeeper to beat.

The youngster was uncharacteristic tame in his execution as he hit the ball directly into the path of the goalkeeper.

Van de Wetering would again craft another opportunity, sending a low ball into the ball for Nolan whose shot was inches wide of the near post.

Puerto Rico had their chances at goal as well, with their best opportunity falling to



Jamaica's Jabarie Howell celebrates scoring in the Concacaf Under-20 Qualifiers.

Eddiel Marquez, who could not find the final touch before a diving clearance from Jamaican custodian Joshua Grant.

Despite Puerto Rico's pressure, Jamaica maintained their lead until referee Ismael Lopez blew the final whistle.

With the result, Jamaica finish atop Group B with 15 points, ahead of Puerto Rico who finished second with 12.

Bonaire snuck into the third spot on the final day on seven points with a 3-2 win over the Cayman Islands while the Turks

and Caicos Islands finish fourth with six. St Kitts and Nevis fell to fifth in the standings on four points while Cayman remain rooted at the foot of the table having lost all five games.

Jamaica will advance to the Concacaf Men's U20 Championship where they will compete for a spot in the 2027 FIFA Men's U20 World Cup and the 2028 Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The U20 Championship is set to kick off July 25 and end on August 9.

Track and field's future to rely on AI technology

Dr John-Paul Clarke, professor of aerospace engineering and engineering mechanics at the University of Texas, says the future of track and field will be intertwined with the use of artificial intelligence (AI).

Clarke, who graduated from Calabar High School, said for the sustainable future of track and field, it is important for the sport to welcome the use of AI, particularly in its officiating role.

The engineer was the guest speaker at last Thursday's Howard Aris Memorial Lecture.

He explained that the sport has continually evolved over the years, and track and field as we know it now is completely unrecognisable from where it was a century ago.

He pointed to the change in time keeping at the Olympic Games as a strong example of the sport's evolution.

Track and field has moved away from hand-operated stopwatches at the 1896 Games to advanced technology, which incorporates high-speed photo-finish cameras and infra-red sensors at the 2024 Games.

"The simple truth is that athletics has evolved," Clark said. "This is what timing looked like in 1896 at the first modern Olympic Games. Longines had a contract at the Olympics, they lost the next one, but they were there for the first Olympic Games, and it was a stopwatch. "By 1912, we were still using stopwatches, but we now had some partial automatic timing and they actually had a pic-



Dr John-Paul Clarke

ture at the finish line, telling us what the places are," he continued.

"By 1932, Omega, who had won the contract, basically said forget about the timekeepers, we'll have one technician running basically 30 stopwatches, all at the same time, synchronised. And then by 1948, we had our first photo-finish technology; and then, we've been building on that since 1948."

Clarke said it is impossible to halt or deny human innovation, and with the advancement in AI technology, it will in-

evitably play a role in how track and field is officiated.

He explained that he, along with several of his students, have worked on creating a number of AI software which were to be used for officiating athletics event.

The first of their software is called TrackStar, which incorporates drone cameras and AI technology to autonomously detect lane infringement during a race.

The second software, called TrackStart, uses iPhone cameras to create a false-start detection system.

The third of their AI software, called JumpStart, incorporates lasers for use as a foul-detection system for long and triple jump events.

Clarke said innovation like these are the future of track and field, and will greatly reduce the sport's operational costs.

"From the participant's perspective, it's a very inexpensive sport; but if you look at it from the infrastructure's perspective, it's not so cheap," Clarke said.

"Because you need a track, and that will set you back at a minimum US\$2 million, right? It's a lot of money; and then you'll need a lot of specialised equipment, and that will set you back another million," he continued.

"The fact of the matter is, it's very expensive from an infrastructure perspective. It's also expensive from a managerial perspective, and it's also an expensive sport from an official perspective."

Clarke, however, insisted that the use of AI should be relegated to simply a supporting role, used only to assist officials rather than completely replace them.

He said while AI can produce quick and accurate recording and results, it is important for officials to review the software and ensure the correct decision is made according to the laws of the sport.

"You want it to be a supporting function," he said. "Automation and AI should always be a supporting function, or limited to the things where you have guarantees that they will do the things that you intended."

Lewis Hamilton calls on Africa to take their countries back from former Colonial Powers

Lewis Hamilton has called on the people of Africa to 'take' the continent 'back' from the likes of France, Spain and Britain.

The seven-time world champion was replying to a question from a South African journalist about a potential return to Africa for the sport. It has not visited the continent since the 1993 South African Grand Prix.

Hamilton, who has seemingly recently started dating Kim Kardashian, said he has been 'fighting for the past six, seven years' to get his sport to return, and pledged that he will not retire until it does.

Then, he spoke on his passion for the continent, opening up on how he hopes the leaders can 'take Africa back' from other countries that 'control' it.

'I'm half African,' Hamilton began. 'I've got roots from a few different places there. Benin, Senegal, Nigeria.'

'It's something I'm really proud of, that part of the world. I think it is the most beautiful part of the world, and I don't like that the rest of the world owns so much of it and takes so much from it and no one speaks about it.'

'I'm really looking forwards, hoping that the people that are running those different countries all unite and come together and take Africa back. That's what I want to see. Take it back from the French, take it back



Lewis Hamilton has called for the people of Africa to 'take' the continent 'back' from the likes of the British

from the Spanish, from the Portuguese and the British.

'It's so so important for the future, that continent. They have all the resources to be

the greatest and most powerful place in the world and that's probably why they're being controlled the way they are.'

Hamilton has visited Africa regularly, spend-

ing much of his mid-season break in 2024 in Senegal. He said the trip was 'heavy' and 'so important to learn our history and to honour the people we come from and live for them.'

Hamilton, meanwhile, took to social media to mark race week ahead of the start of the new Formula One season in Australia this weekend.

He posted a shirtless snap on Instagram, captioned: 'Race week! I'm ready.'

It comes after he and Kim were spotted taking in the sunset at an exclusive vacation destination along the Colorado River on Saturday evening.

TMZ reported the secluded overlook is 'within striking distance' of Amangiri, an ultra-exclusive five-star desert resort.

Amangiri, which offers luxury suites that range from \$3,500 and over \$7,000 per night, is a discreet hideaway for celebrities seeking total privacy.

According to the outlet, the pair were spotted snapping a cozy selfie together before heading back toward a waiting black SUV parked nearby.

The reality star and the British Formula One champion only made their first joint public outing last month at Super Bowl LX, but their recent travel itinerary suggests this romance is quickly moving into serious territory.

Flamingos Edge Beaches 3–2 in Midweek TCIFA Provo Premier League Thriller

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Midweek action in the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) Provo Premier League produced a thrilling encounter on Wednesday, March 4, as Flamingos FC held off a determined Beaches FC side to claim a 3–2 victory at the TCIFA Field in Providenciales.

The match, listed as PPL Match #34, delivered end-to-end football with five goals, several cautions, and a late winner that ultimately separated the two teams.

Beaches FC struck first in the 18th minute when Coy Haughtin (#22) capitalized on an attacking opportunity to give his side an early 1–0 lead. The goal energized Beaches, who looked confident in possession during the opening stages.

However, Flamingos FC responded quickly. Just six minutes later, Ismael Athis (#12) leveled the contest in the 24th minute with a well-taken finish, bringing the score to 1–1 and shifting the momentum back toward Flamingos.

Flamingos continued to press forward and their attacking persistence paid off

again in the 32nd minute. Lafrance Berry (#15) found space in the attacking third and converted to give Flamingos a 2–1 lead heading into halftime.

The opening half also saw the first disciplinary actions of the match. Beaches' Conwae Coleman (#15) received a yellow card in the 27th minute, followed by another caution for teammate Tray Ferguson (#6) in the 37th minute.

With Flamingos leading 2–1 at the break, the second half resumed with Beaches eager to get back into the contest. Their efforts were rewarded in the 54th minute when Deshaun Curtis (#11) scored the equalizer to make it 2–2 and set the stage for a tense final stretch.

Curtis' goal reignited Beaches' hopes, but the match became increasingly physical as the teams battled for control in midfield.

Curtis later received a yellow card in the 71st minute, while Flamingos' Sergio Victo (#7) was cautioned in the 75th minute. Beaches continued to accumulate bookings as Raheem McIntosh (#4) was shown a yellow card in the 79th minute.

Just moments later, Flamingos deliv-

ered the decisive blow.

In the 80th minute, Peterson St. Hilaire (#20) broke through with the match-winning goal, putting Flamingos back in front 3–2. His strike ultimately proved to be the difference as Flamingos held firm during the closing stages of the match.

Beaches pushed forward in search of another equalizer, but Flamingos' defense managed to protect their advantage through stoppage time. Beaches' Kymani Hill (#19) received a late yellow card in the 90+5 minute as the match drew to a close.

Despite the loss, Beaches midfielder Roan Waugh (#7) delivered a strong performance and was named Player of the Match for Beaches FC. For Flamingos, match-winner Peterson St. Hilaire (#20) earned Player of the Match honors following his decisive late goal.

The match was overseen by Match Commissioner Tamara Hall.

Saturday Double-Header Results

The previous weekend also featured a Provo Premier League double-header on Saturday, February 28 at the TCIFA Field.

In the opening match (PPL Match #4),

SWA Sharks FC recorded a commanding 3–0 victory over Cheshire Hall FC. Brian Gregg (#10) led the Sharks with a brace, scoring in the 13th minute and again in the 80th minute from the penalty spot. Junior Belizaire (#6) added a late third goal in stoppage time (90+3). Gregg was named Player of the Match for Sharks, while Shawndee Campbell (#4) earned the honor for Cheshire Hall. The second match of the double-header (PPL Match #5) saw Flamingoes FC defeat Teachers YS 3–1. Flamingoes built a two-goal halftime lead through Francky Pierre (#19) in the 26th minute and Daslin Etienne (#14) in the 39th minute. Teachers YS responded late when Obed Gaddi Leopold (#4) scored in the 90+2 minute, but Hansley Noel (#9) restored Flamingoes' two-goal cushion in the 90+4 minute.

Leopold was named Player of the Match for Teachers YS, while Frantz Pierre (#5) earned the award for Flamingoes FC. The match was officiated by Referee Orville Morgan, with assistants Lovenson Marcellin and Ramauni Chang, and Sophia Garland serving as Fourth Official. The match commissioner was Shelly-Ann James.

Dilakgi's Devastating Spell Sets Up Dominant GK Foods Victory Over Kishco

A superb all-round bowling effort led by Dilakgi Gurang powered GK Foods to a commanding victory over Kishco, after restricting them to a modest total and comfortably chasing down the target without losing a wicket.

Kishco, batting first, endured a difficult outing at the crease as the GK Foods bowlers kept tight control from the opening over. Early pressure quickly turned into wickets, preventing Kishco from building any meaningful partnerships.

The standout performer was Dilakgi, who delivered an exceptional spell of 3 overs, 1 maiden, 4 runs, and 3 wickets, dismantling the middle order and putting Kishco firmly on the back foot. His accuracy and disciplined line made scoring extremely difficult and triggered a collapse that Kishco never recovered from.

He received excellent support from the rest of the bowling unit. Nagarajan Kuthalingam claimed 2 wickets for 11 runs in 2 overs, while Ashok Kumar also picked

up 2 wickets for 13 runs. Rajakumar Kasi and Akhilesh Chathurakinarulla added a wicket each, ensuring the pressure never eased on the struggling batting side.

Kishco's batting lineup found it difficult to get going. Mario Smith was dismissed early for 1, while Wasim Shakh managed 5 before falling to Nagarajan. Vinod Panikar added just 2 runs, and Alson Byfield was dismissed without scoring.

Winston Callam contributed 2 runs, while Kajee added 2 before being run out. The only batsman to show some resistance was Soneswaran Chinnatham, who scored 14 runs from 20 balls, including three boundaries, briefly stabilizing the innings before becoming another victim of the GK Foods attack.

The tail offered little resistance, with Sreejith Krishnan and Vicar Nair both dismissed for ducks. Preeham Fernandez chipped in with 4 runs, while Abhi Dodmani remained unbeaten on 0.

Despite the batting struggles, Kishco received significant help from extras,



The GK Foods Team

which contributed 24 runs, including 16 wides, 4 byes, and 4 leg byes. However, it was not enough to rescue the innings as the team was bowled out for 54 in 11.1 overs, scoring at a run rate of 4.8.

Chasing a modest target of 55 runs, GK Foods approached the innings with confidence and aggression. Opening batsmen Ganesan Kuthalingam and Mathan Selvakumar quickly seized control of the match.

Ganesan led the charge with a fluent and attacking knock of 26 not out from 17 balls, striking four boundaries and one six while maintaining an impressive strike rate of 152.9. His aggressive stroke play immediately put Kishco's bowlers under pressure.

At the other end, Mathan Selvakumar

played a steady supporting role, finishing 15 not out from 12 balls, including two boundaries, rotating the strike well and keeping the scoreboard moving.

The duo combined for an unbeaten opening partnership that carried GK Foods all the way to victory, reaching 56 without loss in just 4.4 overs at an impressive run rate of 12.0.

Kishco's bowlers were unable to find breakthroughs during the chase. Mario Smith conceded 26 runs in his 2 overs, while Winston Callam was the most economical with 10 runs from 2 overs. Kajee bowled just four deliveries, conceding 15 runs as GK Foods raced toward the target.

Dilkaji Gurang was named Player of Match.

A. Louise Garland Thomas High School Crowned 2026 Inter-High Track and Field Champions

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

A. Louise Garland Thomas High School in Long Bay, Providenciales has been crowned champions of the 2026 Sports Commission Inter-High School Track and Field Championship following a commanding performance over two days of competition held on Friday, February 27 and Saturday, February 28.

The Providenciales-based institution delivered a dominant display throughout the meet, finishing comfortably at the top of the standings with an impressive total of 58 medals. Their medal tally included 26 gold, 18 silver and 14 bronze medals, giving them the highest number of gold medals and securing the overall championship title.

From the opening events on the track to the final field competitions, athletes from A. Louise Garland Thomas High School demonstrated strength, speed and consistency. Their ability to secure podium finishes across multiple events allowed the school to build an early lead and maintain control of the championship standings throughout the two-day meet.

Clement Howell High School finished in second place overall after collecting 37 medals, including 16 gold, 13 silver and eight bronze medals. The school produced several strong performances on the track and in field events, al-

lowing them to remain competitive and secure the runner-up position.

Helena J. Robinson High School also delivered an impressive showing during the competition. The school recorded one of the highest overall medal counts with 43 medals in total, consisting of 10 gold, 14 silver and 19 bronze medals. Their athletes consistently placed in medal positions, contributing to one of the most balanced performances among the participating schools.

British West Indies Collegiate also featured prominently among the top-performing schools. The institution finished the championship with 25 medals overall, including 11 gold, eight silver and six bronze medals. Their athletes performed strongly in several sprint and field events, adding to the high level of competition throughout the meet.

Raymond Gardiner High School finished with a total of 23 medals, including one gold, nine silver and 13 bronze medals, while Marjorie Basden High School secured 17 medals with four gold, seven silver and six bronze.

Wesley Methodist School also made its presence felt at the championship, finishing with eight medals overall, including three gold, three silver and two bronze medals. Precious Treasures Interna-



One of the races at the National Inter-High School Championship

tional School earned seven medals, including four gold, one silver and two bronze medals. International School finished with three medals, while Maranatha Academy secured two bronze medals. Quality Athletics rounded out the medal standings with one gold medal.

The 2026 Sports Commission Inter-High School Track and Field Championship brought together student athletes from across the Turks and Caicos Islands, highlighting the growing depth of athletic talent among the nation's youth. Over the two days of competition, athletes competed in a full slate of track and field events including sprints, middle-distance races, relays, jumps and throws. Spectators were treated to exciting races and competi-

tive performances as schools battled for medals and valuable championship points. The event also served as an opportunity for young athletes to showcase their abilities while representing their schools with pride.

The annual championship continues to be one of the most anticipated sporting events on the national school calendar, promoting youth development, teamwork and healthy competition.

With their dominant performance and commanding medal tally, A. Louise Garland Thomas High School now proudly holds the title of 2026 Sports Commission Inter-High School Track and Field champions, marking a significant achievement for the school and its athletic programme.