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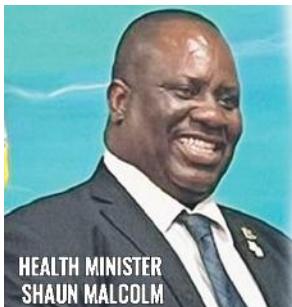
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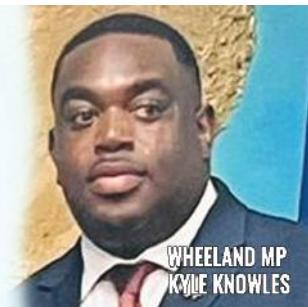
Jan. 19, 2024 - Jan. 26, 2024



HEALTH MINISTER
SHAUN MALCOLM

PROVO LANDFILL TO BECOME NATURE PARK

GOVERNMENT SIGNS \$2.9M CONTRACT WITH TCI GREEN TO
MANAGE CONTENTIOUS LANDFILL – PAGE 9



WHEELAND MP
KYLE KNOWLES

CROOKED LAWYERS

SEE
PAGE 5



- Church Head says lawyers collect but do not represent
- Urges for speedy trials; jury protection legislation

ALMI Celebrates 23 Years

On Sunday, January 14, Abundant Life Ministries International Church celebrated 23 years of service to the community. During the service, pastor for the church Bishop Dr. Coleta Williams briefly reflected on last years of serving the community. He said there were times of successes and challenges, encouraging his congregation to continue in the faith. Minister in charge of Religious Affairs Hon. Josephine Connolly, the country's Minister of Tourism also shared in the celebration, encouraging Bishop Williams and the church to continue serving the community.



Turks and Caicos Islands Cabinet Kicks Off 2024 with First Meeting



From left – Premier Hon. Washington Misick; Her Excellency the Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam; and Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams.

In an optimistic start to the new year, the Cabinet of the Turks and Caicos Islands convened on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, for its first meeting of the 2024 calendar year.

The meeting marked the beginning of what is anticipated to be a bustling year of governance,

building on the momentum of the 34 meetings held in 2023.

Throughout the preceding year, the Cabinet engaged in discussions and approvals covering a wide range of crucial matters, including key policies, legislation, investment proposals, develop-

ment agreements, and various developmental programs aimed at enhancing the islands' socio-economic landscape.

The upcoming year promises to be even more dynamic as the Cabinet sets its sights on advancing a multitude of key initiatives across the Turks and Caicos Islands. These initiatives are expected to play a pivotal role in shaping the future of the nation, with a focus on sustainable development, economic growth, and the overall well-being of its residents.

Undoubtedly, the Cabinet's commitment to addressing the diverse challenges and opportunities facing the islands is evident in their dedication to fostering a productive and prosperous environment. As the political leadership gears up for the challenges that lie ahead, there is a collective sense of anticipation for a year filled with meaningful achievements and positive advancements for the Turks and Caicos Islands. The successful collaboration and coordination within the Cabinet, coupled with the engagement of stakeholders and the public, will be instrumental in realizing the ambitious goals set forth for 2024.

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- ◆ Assistant Front Office Manager
- ◆ Boat Captains *
- ◆ Scuba Instructors*
- ◆ Dive Masters *

- ◆ Wedding Planner
- ◆ Income Auditor
- ◆ Cook 3
- ◆ Night Baker
- ◆ Housekeeping Room Attendants
- ◆ Room Technicians
- ◆ Stove Technician
- ◆ Finish Carpenter
- ◆ Security Officers
- ◆ Concierge Agents
- ◆ Junior Concierge

- ◆ Social Media Coordinator
- ◆ Project Coordinator
- ◆ FF&E Coordinator
- ◆ Storeroom Clerk (Projects)
- ◆ Cost Controller (Projects)
- ◆ VIP Driver
- ◆ Dining Room Servers
- ◆ Groundsmen
- ◆ Bar Porters
- ◆ Laundry Attendants
- ◆ Stewards

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\$8 Million Infrastructure Overhaul Underway for Grand Turk



The capital island of Grand Turk is set to undergo a transformative \$8-million infrastructure overhaul, marking it the most significant investment in modern history for that island.

The ambitious project encompasses the reconstruction of two aging bridges, enhancements to the drainage network, and a comprehensive paving initiative for roadways.

Work has already commenced on the two bridges, strategically located at Pond Street and West Road. The Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development, Hon. Jamell Robinson, highlighted the necessity of replacing the existing bridges, which he said have served for approximately 10 to 20 years.

"Two bridges are being rebuilt, replacing the existing bridges that are probably about 10–15 to 20 years old, down in West Road by West Road Pond, across Saunders Pond, as well as Pond Street itself. That is project 1," Minister Robinson explained.

The second facet of the project, according to Robinson, focuses on addressing drainage issues at the HJ Robinson High School, which has been prone to flooding since its establishment. The proposed improvements aim to mitigate flooding problems during heavy rainfall, enhancing the safety and mobility of students and

other individuals on the campus.

Project 3 involves the remediation works for ponds, with specific attention given to the West Road Pond. The plan includes the installation of a new bridge, the creation of a promenade, and the elevation of the pond, followed by backfilling to develop recreational spaces.

Minister Robinson expressed enthusiasm about the project, stating, "We are creating a promenade on that side, and of course, there is \$4 million worth of new roads going throughout the island of Grand Turk, including the side at Saunders Pond Road. These three things will rejuvenate the West Road Pond area – and area called 'Mudhole', so I think it is a great project."

The infusion of \$8 million into these infrastructure initiatives signifies, according to the Physical Planning and Infrastructure Minister, a significant commitment by the government to enhance the overall quality of life for Grand Turk's residents and improve the island's essential infrastructure.

He added that the comprehensive nature of the project, spanning bridge reconstruction, drainage improvements, and extensive road paving, is expected to bring about a positive transformation to Grand Turk, which is the cruise ship hub for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Crooked Lawyers causing anguish amongst clients

By Vivian Tyson Editor-in-Chief



KENDALL...“(There) are the incidences of attorneys taking payments but not pursuing the matter for which their clients pay...just giving them a good runaround,”

A leading church leader in the Turks and Caicos Islands is calling on crooked lawyers to stop deceiving their clients and represent them in the fashion to which their profession requires them.

Canon Mark Kendall of the Anglican is chiding lawyers who half-heartedly represent clients, whose cases remain in limbo, but find all the excuses in the book as to why they cannot get a court day, yet they are still collecting fees. He pointed out that the practice is wrong and should be stopped.

“(There) are the incidences of attorneys taking payments but not pursuing the matter for which their clients pay...just giving them a good runaround,” the man of the cloth noted.

He pointed out that there are persons who languish at His Majesty’s Prison on remand whose court dates have been postponed time and time again, positing maxim ‘Justice delayed is denied’.

“I say to you in the legal fraternity, and in particular to you on the bench and magistrates, that as a lay person, and as a representative of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, for those who may not have a voice, and even those who are in prison and on remand, court dates are not to be postponed over and over,

and court cases dragged out by the whims and fancies and machinations of council,” he cautioned.

Stating that the correlation between the occurrence of crimes and convictions was too lopsided, Canon Kendall called for cases to move with alacrity.

“We must consider the time in which justice must be done. We are familiar with the maxim – justice delayed is justice denied. In visiting the prison in the past, in particular the inmates who were on remand invariably complained about their cases taking interminable time to be progressed,” he further noted.

Whistle Blowing Legislation

Conon Kendall pointed out that the time is ripe for a Whistle Legislation to come into effect. He said if witnesses feel that they are being protected they would not willingly participate in the justice process.

“More consideration to the effecting of the Whistle-Blowing Legislation is an imperative. Would-be witnesses must be protected, and the general public must see this happening, to encourage them to report,” he said further.

Protection of Jurors

He pointed out that while some persons in the community shy away from jury duty for no

concrete reason, others do so because they fear what might happen to them if they convict certain accused. To that end he called for protection for those who are called to sit on court cases.

“I also note that citizens will find every excuse not to do jury duty. I believe that consideration must be given also for the selection and protection of jurors. Because of the way this country is, how we are made up, I believe that because of the family connections and other connections...yes, I know that judges may find it very difficult to put together a jury panel, and some people have legitimate excuses.

“But others, without any legitimate excuse will not want to serve on certain cases because of the climate of fear and the threat of retaliation if the judgement goes the wrong way in the mind of the persons charged,” Canon Kendall noted.

In the meantime, Canon Kendall said he was happy with the Summary of Offenses Ordinance, which came into effect some two plus years ago, noting that together with such ordinance and nature of social media, the country could begin to see successful prosecutions taking place.

“In 2021, the Summary of Offenses Ordinance was amended to encompass causing fear or provocation of violence by use of words and other forms of threat. I am not on Facebook; I am not on Twitter (X) or whatever else...I am only on WhatsApp...I am a WhatsApp Turk. But I get information from time to time on what’s happening on the whole gambit of social media.

“And the way I see social media heating up in the Turks and Caicos Islands, I am hopeful that we will start to see successful prosecutions and convictions in this vein, for those who provoke and scandalize others, to the extent that they threaten them with violence,” Canon Kendall pointed out.

meanwhile, Canon Kendall encouraged the courts to apply more technology to its operation to dispose of cases with quickness.

“Greater use of technology for trials and filings and updating of civil procedure rules. Also makes court processes more expedient. The establishing of the framework for family mediation and the mediation centre provided a degree of relief for the caseloads in the courts. Ask a lay person,” he said.

Canon Kendall also stated that he had no qualms with trial without jury.

“Sometime back there was a great furore about the change in the law to accommodate trials by judge alone. In my own mind as one who engage in prophetic ministry, I have no scruples about that.

“My understanding of the Turks and Caicos Islands gives rise to my opinion. And I dare say that our national progress in the Turks and Caicos is stymied by nepotism, cronyism and even in island insularity,” he theorized.

Can the Caribbean achieve the global AIDS targets by 2025 to End AIDS?

United Nations Secretary General Antonio Guterres, in a sobering new year's message for 2024, described the world as being in peril and badly hurting. He cited the immense suffering, violence and climate chaos that marked 2023, as well as the ever-increasing poverty, hunger and wars that eroded confidence and trust.

Guterres painted a gloomy picture of how the UN, founded after the Second World War, is now politically paralysed and unable to solve the world's challenges through peaceful negotiations, multilateralism, and global solidarity. He lamented that the UN Charter has been repeatedly violated by some member states resorting to violence instead of dialogue, partnership, and respect for humanitarian law, international law, and human rights to resolve differences.

Guterres, however, offered hope to the world by stating that: "Humanity is stronger when it stands together... 2024 must be the year to restore trust and hope". He urged the UN to deliver on its mandate to build world peace, prosperity, and sustainable development.

One of the most pressing challenges the UN faces is ending the AIDS epidemic, which has claimed millions of lives and continues to pose a threat to public health and human dignity. Forty-three years since the first cases of AIDS were reported, the world is still grappling with the pandemic.

Every minute, a life is lost to AIDS-related illnesses. Outside of sub-Saharan Africa, the Caribbean region has the highest HIV prevalence of 1.2 per cent, with about 44 people getting infected with HIV and 15 people dying of AIDS every day. Other pandemics have come and gone with resolute political action and resolve by member states (COVID-19, Mpox, etc.) but the AIDS pandemic is still here without a vaccine or a cure. HIV treatment with antiretroviral drugs remain one of our greatest for HIV prevention and to keep people alive.

In the 2023 Global AIDS Report, UNAIDS stated that the world was off-track in ending the AIDS epidemic. The report highlighted the path to

ending AIDS and the need to remove inequality barriers and their intersections with poverty, human rights violations, gender-based violence, stigma, and discrimination. It also stressed the importance of removing punitive and discriminatory laws and policies that prevent people living with HIV, at risk of HIV or affected by HIV from accessing HIV-related services.

Member states have committed in the 2021 Political Declaration to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030 and to achieve the ambitious 2025 targets. These targets, known as the 95-95-95 targets, aim to ensure that 95 per cent of all people living with HIV know their status, 95 per cent of those diagnosed receive antiretroviral treatment, and 95 per cent of those on treatment achieve viral suppression by 2025.

Despite the global uncertainties, the UN celebrated five countries, namely Botswana, Eswatini, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe, during the UN General Assembly, in 2023, for achieving these targets, demonstrating that it is possible. Other countries have been identified as getting close to attaining this target if they continue to stay on track.

Countries that have attained or are close to achieving the 95-95-95 targets have certain things in common:

- political leadership, political will and country ownership;
- a people-centred approach to policy making and programmatic response;
- a focus on removing punitive and discriminatory laws and policies that prevent people living with HIV, at risk of HIV or affected by HIV from accessing HIV-related services;
- community-led responses to ensure the full participation and engagement of civil society to create an enabling environment;
- Leveraging data and following the science by using epidemiological and programmatic data for policy changes and making targeting resources where they are needed most; and
- closing the funding gap, sustaining financing

and prioritising transitioning to domestic resourcing of the AIDS response. These elements of success emphasise the importance of political commitment to ending AIDS.

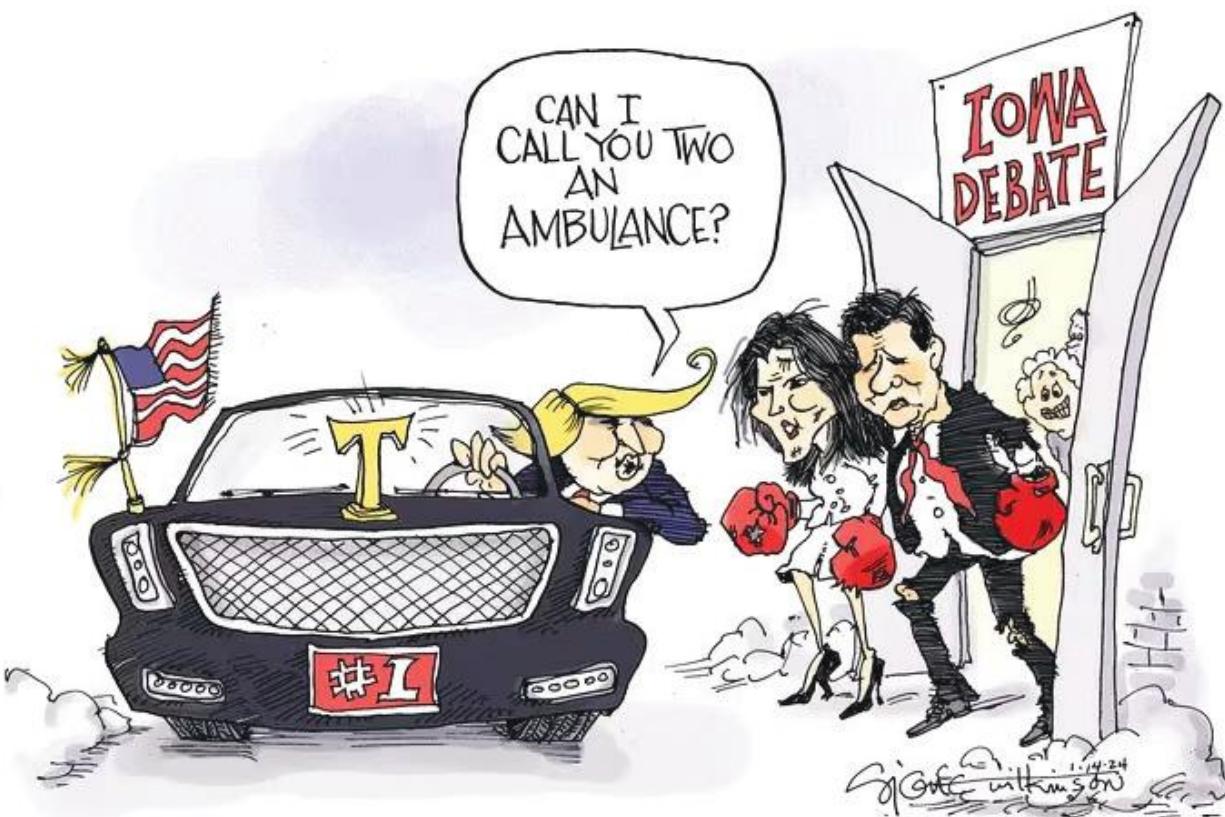
The question arises: Can Caribbean countries reverse the tide and end the AIDS epidemic amidst global uncertainties? Policymakers must grapple with this challenge amid competing priorities such as non-communicable diseases, climate change, high debt, and social issues. UNAIDS proposes a consistent approach: Countries must continue what works, and focusing on political commitment, people-centred responses, community leadership, removal of structural barriers, data-driven strategies, and long-term investments.

Ending AIDS in a time of uncertainty is not an easy task, but it is possible. It requires a renewed commitment, a shared vision, and collective action from all stakeholders, especially the people most affected by the epidemic. It also requires a recognition that ending AIDS is not only a health issue, but a human rights, social justice, and development issue as well.

UNAIDS calls for unity and peace so that resources for war can be channelled to end pandemics for safety and global health security. The year 2024 should be one of concerted efforts to restore trust and hope in the fight against AIDS. We can alter the course of history in combating one of the world's greatest pandemics, minimising its human cost and development toll, through political leadership, global solidarity, and shared responsibility, countries, including those in the Caribbean.

Let us stand together and end AIDS by 2030 because as the UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres said: "Humanity is stronger when it stands together".

Dr Richard Amenyah is a medical doctor from Ghana and public-health specialist. He is the director for the UNAIDS multi-country office in the Caribbean. Send comments to the Jamaica Observer or jamaica@unaids.org.



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Governor Collaborates with Royal Canadian Mounted Police to Strengthen National Security



Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam officials from Canada's Mounted Police share lens at their national security meeting at the Governor's Office on Providenciales earlier this week.

Governor the Turks and Caicos Islands Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, this week,

engaged in what she described as fruitful discussions with representatives from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to enhance national security measures.

The collaborative partnership aims to address shared threats and bolster the operational capabilities of law enforcement agencies within this British Overseas Territory.

The discussions centered around strategic initiatives to tackle various security challenges, with a focus on deploying support to the Turks and Caicos Islands. The RCMP's involvement in this partnership is viewed as a valuable component of the overall operational response to safeguarding the region and fostering cooperation between nations.

One of the biggest national security issues faced by the Turks and Caicos Islands is the issue of illegal migrants primarily from the impoverished French-Speaking neighboring country of Haiti. The joint efforts between the Governor's office and the RCMP signify a commitment to addressing transnational threats and ensuring the safety and well-being of citizens. By sharing expertise, resources, and intelligence, both parties aim to build a robust framework that strengthens the overall security architecture.

This collaboration aligns with broader efforts to

foster international cooperation in the face of evolving security concerns. The shared commitment to addressing challenges underscores the importance of building lasting partnerships to tackle emerging threats effectively.

As the partnership progresses, it is anticipated that the collaboration will not only contribute to immediate security needs but also serve as a foundation for ongoing cooperation and information exchange between the involved entities. The combined efforts are expected to yield positive outcomes in the realms of law enforcement, intelligence sharing, and overall regional security.

Every so often desperate Haitians desirous of escaping harsh economic conditions and violence in their failed state homeland, take to the high seas in rickety vessels. Oftentimes they end up in the Turks and Caicos Islands. hundreds have perished, trying to make the trip.

Out of the Haitians' desperation, what government has described as a lucrative human trafficking ring operating between the two countries has established. Government said it is trying to dismantle the costly ring, which result in government expending millions of dollars each year to house and feed the undocumented Haitians when captured and also to repatriate them.

South Caicos Regatta Committee Launches Official Website

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Bambarra Beach Ranked Second Best Caribbean Beach by USA Today's 10Best Readers' Choice



A section of the Bambarra Beach in Middle Caicos

Bambarra Beach in Middle Caicos, joins Grace Bay Beach as an award-winning beach with USA Today's 10Best Reader's Choice, #2 Best Beach in the Caribbean, today!

This is a tremendous win and award for the people of Middle Caicos and the Turks and Caicos Islands Archipelago and supports the strategic direction of Experience Turks and Caicos to promote the Turks and Caicos Islands as a premiere multi-island destination, with each island having its unique flavour and immersive experiences. Middle Caicos is the heartland of Turks and Caicos Islands' culture, where traditional straw craft and fanner grass basketry, native sloop building, and model sailboat carving/racing is practiced. The island has three small friendly villages, Conch Bar, Bambarra, and Lorimers with a population of around 200 people. Middle Caicos is known for its natural beauty and majestic coastline like no other island in the Archipelago. As the name suggests, Middle Caicos is in the center of the Caicos Islands archipelago. A causeway connects the island to the adjacent North Caicos, which makes island hopping an ease and charm. Bambarra Beach fronts the small historical settlement of Bambarra, which has stood since the days of the Colonial Plantations in the late 1700s.

A day trip or twin island vacation to Middle Caicos includes captivating "Off the Beaten Track" experiences such as catching sight of the magnificent Pink Flamingos from the Flamingo Pond Overlook or taking a short hike above Mudjin Harbour Beach to capture the majestic view from atop the open-face cave that provides scenic shelter below on the white-sand beach. At

the nearby Mudjin Grill, the onsite restaurant for the secluded Dragon Cay Resort, you can savour local culinary delights while watching the gentle ocean swells and inhaling the relaxing sea breeze.

On your way to or back from Middle Caicos is North Caicos, the lushest of all the islands thanks to the abundant rainfall, you can enjoy one-of-a-kind experiences such as exploring Conch Bar Caves, one of the largest dry cave systems in the Caribbean, Indian Caves, a large single gallery cave system or Wade's Green Plantation.

Minister of Tourism, the Honourable Josephine Connolly, expressed her delight at Bambarra Beach's recognition, emphasising the strategic marketing and promotion of Experience Turks and Caicos.

"We have been promoting the Turks and Caicos Islands as a multi-island destination, encouraging visitors to explore beyond Providenciales. The recognition of Bambarra Beach is the first of many more accolades to come for our multi-island destination as we continue to market and promote awareness the diversity and natural beauty of our multi-island destination and enhance our product across the Archipelago for visitors to explore and create unforgettable experiences," she said.

"This award underscores the charm of Bambarra Beach and complements the charm of Grace Bay Beach accolades which include, World Travel Awards Caribbean's Leading Beach Destination since 2015, Trip Advisor Travelers Choice Awards Best of the Best Beaches 2023, Conde Nast Traveler, 21 Most Beautiful Islands in the Caribbean and World Travel Awards Most Ro-

mantic Award since 2019," Minister Connolly added.

With the recent opening of Ocean Breeze Resort, a boutique hotel in North Caicos, visitors have another reason to enjoy twin island vacations or holidays now between Providenciales and North Caicos.

Experience Turks and Caicos remain committed to its robust marketing endeavours, strategically positioning the Turks and Caicos Islands as the ultimate multi-island destination. Our primary objective is to elevate visitation and spend across the entire archipelago.

With our marketing efforts geared towards the affluent and luxury lifestyle multi-generational demographic, our target market embraces a luxurious lifestyle and seeks vacation options tailored to their discerning tastes. Through our diverse product offerings, we provide a unique experience of barefoot luxury, enriching their vacation with unparalleled value.

The Minister of Tourism, the Ministry and Experience Turks and Caicos would like to congratulate our other USA Today's 10Best Reader's Choice awardees are:

- Best All-Inclusive Caribbean Resort - #2 Ambergris Cay and #8 Beaches Turks and Caicos;
- Best Caribbean Beach Bar- #8 Da Conch Shack;
- Best Caribbean Golf Course - #1 Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club;
- Best Caribbean Resort - #1The Sands at Grace Bay; and
- Best Restaurant in the Caribbean - #1 Hemingway's on the Beach.

Provo Dumpsite To Turn Into Nature Park



From left – Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Richard Gibbs, his brother Delroy Gibbs of TCI Green, and Member of Parliament for Wheeland Hon. Kyle Knowles

If TCI Green is allowed to have its way, the contentious Providenciales Dumpsite, located in Wheeland will be transformed into a nature park.

Richard Gibbs, one of the partners for that solid waste management company made the revelation on Thursday, January 18, 2024, during a news Conference, hosted by the Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Shaun Malcolm, to officially announce to the \$2.9 million contract being awarded to TCI Green to operate and maintain the disputed dumpsite.

The contract to manage and operate the dumpsite is a short-term fix, as government has announced that the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB), is currently working on a comprehensive solid waste management system for the long term on all islands.

Over the years the Providenciales Dumpsite has been a bone of contention as fires often break-out, resulting in a number of residents living in close proximity suffering from respiratory problems, forcing some to seek medical attention.

It is being theorized that some of the fires at the dump is caused from the works of arsonists, and sometimes persons who scavenge the dump in search of 'valuables' they could in turn sell.

Gibbs, told the news conference that his company has implemented a waste management system for the operation and the maintenance of the site, informing that this strategy was in line with the EPA (U.S. Environmental Protection Agency) standards.

"Our major focus is recycling. We focus on Reduce, Reuse and Recycle," Gibbs said. Our goal for the landfill is to convert it from a landfill to a recycling center/ a sustainable nature park. There will be no landfilling. Our job is to recycle 100 percent of waste. The waste that cannot be recycled will be exported outside the country," Gibbs asserted.

He added: "We have teamed up with experts from the United Kingdom, the United States and Canada, to assist in converting from a dumping

site into a recycling center. The process of mobilization would be that we will actually be taking over the landfill on March 5th."

He said though TCI Green would take the reins of operation in early March, they already have a team on the ground.

Gibbs and his brother Delroy Gibbs are co-owners of the company. Jerry Gibbs said he has more than 30 years in waste management systems, working in the United Kingdom, particularly Leeds.

In the meantime, Member of Parliament for Wheeland Hon. Kyle Knowles described the event as a great day, one which he and the people of Wheeland had waiting for a very long time. "We do now count it a pleasure to now have new partners on the ground with us as we explore these new opportunities. But it would be remiss of me not to thank the hardworking technocrats that have put in the hard work, time and labor to get us to this point," Knowles said.

He added: "How do we get there? We have been here for a long time. And one of the things we have to understand or that we recognize during this process was that in order to get it right, we needed to find the right partners. We needed to make sure that in executing that we dotted all our I's, crossed all our T's, and good value for dollar.

"To my residents of Wheeland, the time is now that we must embrace what is about to happen at the Providenciales Dump Site. We do know that the environmental hazards, the health risks, all the things that concern you and that concerned me are shortly going to be addressed, and to my estimation, alleviated once and for all.

Knowles expressed the hope that TCI Green would offer the proper operation, management, technical experience and capacity that had been lacking at the site for some time.

Between 2021 and 2022, scoping was done, and review for a comprehensive waste man-

agement system for the TCI, led by the CDB. Between 2022 and 2023, the tender was published and the new CDB Consultants were named and works began.

Between 2023/2024, a preliminary fire extinguishing exercise was carried out at the site and deemed successful. And the plan to extinguish all fires and hotspots was approved and set to commence in 2024.

"We do understand that the patience of the constituents was running very thin. And I want to thank them publicly for their patience. But again, to bear with us as we deal with the upcoming challenges, and as we move forward to reforming solid waste in the Turks and Caicos Islands," Knowles pleaded.

Knowles reiterated Malcolm's announcement that the CDC is still crafting a comprehensive solid waste tender of solid waste building design for the TCI, which he said was about 60 percent complete.

"Where we are right now is addressing the short and medium factors that plagued the Providenciales Dumpsite. But there is still more work to be done through the CDB Consultation.

Minister Malcolm highlighted the importance of sustainable landfill management for preserving the country's natural beauty, protecting ecosystems, and supporting its tourism-dependent economy.

The minister emphasized the vulnerability of the islands' fragile ecosystems to improper waste disposal, stating that sustainable landfill management is crucial to safeguarding biodiversity and maintaining the appeal of the Turks and Caicos Islands as a tourist destination.

He said the previous private management contract ended in 2018, leading to short-term contracts with health and safety challenges, noting the Environmental Health Department developed a tender document to address those issues.

He said a new three-year contract, awarded to TCI Green Ecological Corporation Ltd., was fully executed on January 5, 2024, to manage the landfill, as government aims to exceed environmental standards and ensure a cleaner, safer, and more sustainable future for the islands.

Minister Malcolm stated that ongoing efforts include perimeter fencing, completion of access roads, and the installation of a new weighbridge to record waste data was taking place, as government is committed to enhancing landfill aesthetics and to prevent unauthorized access.

He said the CDB Integrated Waste Management Project focuses on improving solid waste management at the national level, enhancing private sector performance, and promoting environmentally, financially, and socially sustainable waste operations.

The minister encouraged community participation in waste management efforts, emphasizing the importance of effective laws and regulations, planning, implementation, compliance, and monitoring, saying that government is committed to delivering on its Vision 2040, focusing on integrated waste management as a fundamental component of preserving natural beauty and supporting the economy.

Sun Oil Gifts ALGTHS Brand New Computer Lab



From left – Ms Sheena Stubbs - Vice Principal of the Louise Garland Thomas High; Hon. Rachel Taylor – Minister of Education; Morgan Lawrence – Head of the ALGTHS ICT Department; Tiendra Thomas – Manager of Operations at Sun Oil TCI; Mr. Christian Dean - IT Manager for Sun Oil's Head Office in The Bahamas; Mr. Reinwald Lewis – Education Officer; Fabian Fernando – Sales and Marketing Manager for Sun Oil; Mr. Conrad Forbes, Principal for the Louise Garland Thomas High School.



Something of interest on one of the computers in the newly open computer lab caught the attention of Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor (left), Tiendra Thomas, Sun Oil TCI Operations Manager and LGTHS Head Boy Caleb Merantus



Rylie Hall (right) – Head Girl at the Louise Garland Thomas High School, and assisted by Head Boy Caleb Merantus, cuts the ribbon to officially open the school's ICT Lab, Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor (second from left), representatives of Sun Oil and members of the school's administration share in the moment

Students at the Louise Garland Thomas High School in Long Bay, Providenciales, are now enjoying a spanking new computer lab, thanks to the generosity of Sun Oil, who last Friday, joined the school in officially open the facility.

Tiendra Thomas, Operations Manager for Sun Oil Turks and Caicos, was equally elated with students and teachers of the institution that the company was able to outfit the school with such critical learning devices.

“Today, I am privileged to represent Sun Oil Limited as we celebrate a meaningful collaboration with Louise’s Garland Thomas High School,” Thomas said. “We are delighted to announce our recent donation to enhance the school’s computer lab, a commitment that aligns with our values of empowering communities through education and innovation.”

She said Sun Oil recognizes the pivotal role education plays in shaping tomorrow’s leaders, and the outfitting of the lab bore testament to the company’s dedication to providing students with the resources to propel them in an increasingly digital world.

“This investment is not just a donation, it’s a commitment to fostering a nurturing learning environment. We believe that by supporting educational initiatives, we pave the way for students to explore their potential, embrace technology, and cultivate the skills necessary for success,” Thomas continued, stating tat “At Sun Oil Limited, fuelling growth is what we do.” Deputy Principal, Sheena Stubbs, revealed that Sun Oil has adopted the school, with immediate plans to outfit the institution with three computer labs, which she said will be done over a period.

“Our lead goal here at the A. Louise Garland High School is to develop our students and prepare them for the world of work, by providing quality education through teaching and learning. With that, we are in line with the Ministry of Education’s goal, which is to building human capital,” she said.

For his part, Samuel Lawrence, Head of the IT Department at the learning facility said that the partnership with Sun Oil goes beyond the outfitting of the school’s IT labs, noting that they have also forged an alliance with the Pastoral Care Committee to work with the young people.

“But today, we are here to celebrate the partnership as it relates to ICT Department,” he said, stressing that from the inception of the school the goal is to pre-



A section of the newly installed computer lab at the Louise Garland Thomas High School

pare the students at the highest level in the area of Information Technology, especially Building Technology.

"What we have found out is that children are more inclined to choose this particular area when computers are involved. And if we can get more student participation, we know that would lead to better result as it relates to external examinations," Lawrence said.

Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor, who was on hand to witness the event,

commended Sun Oil for its kind generosity, while impressing upon the students to take good care of the machines.

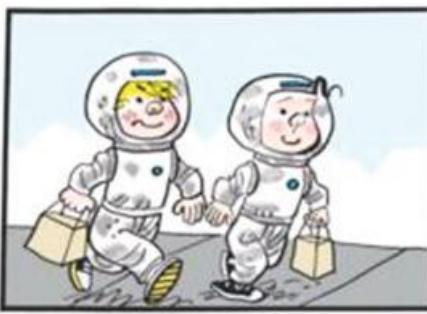
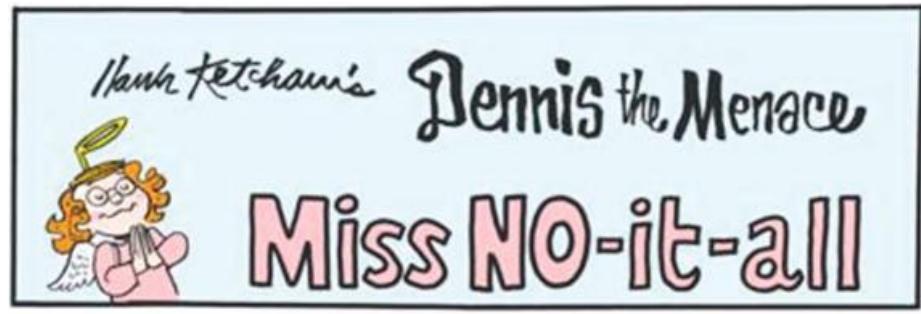
"As minister of education, I am so happy that you have taken the opportunity to partner with the A. Louise Garland Thomas High School...not just to build one ICT Unit, but the entire ICT Unit," she said.

Taylor stated further that one of the mandates of the Education Department is to ensure that we develop capacity within its ICT Units, pointing out such cannot be achieved without the partnership of its

corporate partners.

Taylor also heaped praises on the vice principal, referring to her as a 'go-getter'. She also congratulated new Principal Conrad Forbes.

In the meantime, Conrad Forbes, the new principal, stated that for a school to run effectively, it would take the support of teachers, parents, students, and the community of which Sun Oil is a part. And as such, was happy that Sun Oil decided to play an integral part in the school's development.


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COMICS**


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Cheshire Hall Plantation

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Thomas Stubbs, brother of Wade Stubbs owner of Wade's Green Plantation (Bellefield) convinced Thomas to seek his fortune in the Caicos Islands. Thomas Stubbs settled on Providenciales (then known as Blue Caicos) in the late 1700s and name his plantation after his home county. The buildings were constructed from locally cut limestone.

Up to the early 1800s, Cheshire Hall was the most important site on Providenciales and at its height was comprised of about five thousand acres and employed hundreds of slaves.

After a few decades of mild success, the boll weevil insect, soil degradation and hurricane damage put an end to the cotton industry in the Turks and Caicos.

King Charles III will have a prostate operation next week while Kate recovers from abdominal surgery



The king's surgery is seen as an opportunity to encourage other men to have their prostate's checked.



The princess' office announced that Kate would remain at a private hospital in London for up to two weeks

The Associated Press (AP) is reporting that His Maj-

esty King Charles III and the Princess of Wales are

both dealing with medical issues that will force them to delay previously planned public engagements over the coming weeks.

The AP, quoting Buckingham Palace sources, said Charles will undergo a "corrective procedure" for an enlarged prostate next week. The palace said the king's condition is benign.

Moments earlier, the princess' office announced that Kate would remain at a private hospital in London for up to two weeks after undergoing planned abdominal surgery. The princess, formerly Kate Middleton, is the wife of Prince William, the heir to the throne.

While it is somewhat unusual for members of the royal family to release details about their health, the twin announcements may help to avoid speculation if events featuring Charles or Kate have to be postponed or canceled over the coming weeks.

The AP noted that the publicity around the king's surgery is seen as an opportunity to encourage other men to have their prostate's checked in line with public health advice, noting that the 75-year-old monarch sought treatment "in common with thousands of men each year," the palace said.

An enlarged prostate is common in men over age 50. The condition affects how one urinates and isn't usually a serious health threat. It's not cancer and doesn't lead to an increased risk of developing prostate cancer.

The U.K. and foreign media have been focused on the health of Britain's senior royals in recent years, first as the late Queen Elizabeth II faded from public view during the last months of her 70-year reign, then when Charles ascended the throne at an age when most of his contemporaries were long retired. A series of events on the monarch's schedule have already been postponed, including plans for a number of foreign dignitaries and members of Prime Minister Rishi Sunak's Cabinet to travel to Dumfries House in Scotland.

Kate, 42, was admitted to The London Clinic on Tuesday.

The AP said princess' office at Kensington Palace didn't offer further details, but said her condition wasn't cancerous. Though she has generally experienced good health, Kate was hospitalized while pregnant after suffering from severe morning sickness.



EDUCATION AND CONSERVATION OFFICER

Deadline: January 31st, 2023

Job Description

About this role:

Education and Conservation Officer works cooperatively with the Executive Director to complete support functions at assigned programmes within the Trust that include assuming a leadership role serving as support team liaison, while delegating work flow and supporting co-workers in carrying out different events and activities. This will help build support for the Trust and its mission and places the Trust at the heart of the tourism industry in TCI

Knowledge and skills

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

Qualifications and Experience

- College level (preferred)
- High School Diploma

***Training in policies and procedures provided on the job**

Send an email for full job description
charmony.heritage@nationaltrust.tc

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

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

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

The Church of Christ is pastored by Jack Phanor and Patrick Forbes.



CHURCH OF CHRIST, BLUE HILLS

LIFE LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

Calvary Baptist Church,
South Caicos
Tel:946-3212

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Sands On Grace Bay Celebrates Glitzy 25 Years

The Sands Resort on Monday, January 15, celebrated 25 years in the Turks and Caicos Islands, with all the glitz and glamour. The celebration included fireworks, delectable meals, giveaways of expensive prizes and the naming of the various staff of the year. The event was attended by Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams, Deputy Premier Hon. E. Jay Saunders along with other cabinet colleagues, Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood and his parliamentary Opposition colleague Hon. Alvin Garland. These are photo highlights of the event.





5 Things to Consider When

Getting a Tuxedo



The Colour

Colour should be one of the first things considered when getting a tuxedo. The most common tux colour is black. Aside from the obvious benefit of flexibility, a traditional black tuxedo is guaranteed to enhance your appearance while offering exquisite formality. Alternatively, tuxedos are available in a number of colours to suit any occasion—from marron to white, you will be covered.

The Lapels

There are 3 tux lapel types—Peak Lapels, Shawl Collars & Notch Lapels.

Peak Lapels point upwards and are partitioned from the top collar. These are considered the most formal and most traditional.

Shawl Collars are solid rounded pieces of satin that wrap all the way around. These are considered more relaxed but also considered one of the most elegant of the three lapel styles.

Notch Lapels point outward and are partitioned from the top collar.

Because these are more common in the suits, they are considered the least formal of the 3 lapel styles.

The Vest

A vest is not always included in a tuxedo. However, it is always important to consider when choosing one. Some consider this a simple accessory that elevates and adds a level of formality to the general appearance of a tuxedo. You can even add vests to a tux that doesn't come with a vest. When attempting this, the key is to choose a colour that flows cohesively with the colour of the suit.

The Design

Not all tuxedos feature a single colour. A popular design is plaid. Consider the occasion and your personal style, then choose from the vast number of tuxedo styles.

The Fit

Finding a proper fitting tuxedo is paramount when choosing one. You don't want to look like they clothes are wearing you which will create a 'coat hanger' effect. You also don't want the tuxedo to be too tight and small, it will just look uncomfortable. Imagine not being able to move effectively on your special evening out.

TripAdvisor Spotlights Best Dive and Marine Life Spots in the Turks and Caicos Islands



The Turks and Caicos Islands' distinction as a captivating multi-island destination is featured by TripAdvisor "First-timer's Guide to Diving in Turks and Caicos - Uncover the Best Scuba Shops, Dive Sites, and Marine Life Spots," by Kaila Yu, a seasoned luxury travel and culture journalist. The informative piece spotlights stress-free diving in Providenciales, the crystal-clear waters of West Caicos, the bustling marine life in South Caicos, whale sightings in Salt Cay, and tailored activities for cruise visitors in Grand Turk. Each segment features firsthand recommendations from visitors who have immersed themselves in the unique offerings of each island.

Trip Advisor reaches 30,541,830 unique visitors per month and is the world's largest travel guidance platform, helping hundreds of millions of people become better travellers, from planning to booking to tak-

ing a trip.

Commenting on the feature article, Ms. Racquel Brown, Change Manager and Interim CEO of Experience Turks and Caicos said this article is significant we continue to build awareness about the Turks and Caicos Islands beyond Providenciales, as a multi-island destination, myriad experiences.

"The Turks and Caicos Islands is a multi-island destination with islands that truly offer visitors unique experiences. Experience Turks and Caicos is committed to ensuring everyone benefits from the tourism industry by increasing visitation to all the islands and spend on island.

"We have been working assiduously with travel journalists to promote awareness of our islands, beyond the barefoot luxury of Providenciales to visit and experience snorkeling in South Caicos or the beauty of

Bambarra Beach on Middle Caicos, recently announced as the second-Best Beach in the Caribbean by USA Today's 10Best contest.

"We have unique offers for our visitors including dive, soft adventure, natural and historical sites. Increasing the promotion and marketing of Dive as a niche market and Grand Turk, home to the third Largest Barrier Reef in the World is a key marketing strategy for 2024 and beyond," she said. For travellers interested in experiencing these remarkable destinations, flights with InterCaribbean or Caicos Airways are available to Grand Turk, South Caicos, and Salt Cay. Additionally, ferries provide transportation to North Caicos, and visitors can book tours or rent cars for travel from North to Middle Caicos. Private ferries can be arranged for exploration of West and East Caicos.

SANDALS EXECUTIVE CHAIRMAN SPEAKS ON THE SUCCESS OF CARIBBEAN TOURISM WITH FUTURE HOSPITALITY STARS



Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts International delivers a riveting keynote speech during the 29th Annual Graduate Student Research Conference at FIU's Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management.

Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts International, joined a diverse group of hospitality professionals at Florida International University (FIU) where he delivered the keynote address to some 400 students as well as faculty and industry stakeholders during the

29th Annual Graduate Student Research Conference at the Chaplin School of Hospitality and Tourism Management. Stewart, the head of the only super brand to have ever originated from the Caribbean, captivated the audience as he shared perspectives on hospitality

leadership, Sandals' journey in reframing luxury all-inclusive travel and the exciting future of Caribbean tourism. The Executive Chairman's address also explored themes of empowerment through the Sandals Corporate University, the impact of the Sandals Foundation



Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts International Adam Stewart (right) and Dr. Michael Cheng, Dean at the Chaplin School of Hospitality & Tourism Management at Florida International University.



Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts International (5th right) share in a photo with FIU alumni, faculty members and other distinguished attendees at the 29th Annual Graduate Student Research Conference.

across the region and also touched on the value of vision and ideas of courage in the face of risk.

"My job every day is that we want to share the best of the four corners of the Caribbean with the world. We've not only elevated the all-inclusive concept but also debunked myths about the potential of our region. The all-inclusive segment, spearheaded by us, is thriving and transforming the leisure industry," he said. He further elaborated on how the industry is contributing to the growth and transformation of people and the Caribbean.

"It is important to highlight that while we have the capability to innovate the all-inclusive experience and enhance the tourism industry with an exceptional product, our primary focus remains on making a genuine community impact.

"This commitment to people goes beyond business, this aligns with the core values of Sandals and Beaches. We don't just build resorts; we are creating change. As we expand to new destinations like Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, our goal is not just to build resorts, but to create a soulful, energy-infused environment.

"We're more than a brand; we're ambassadors for the Caribbean, inspiring airlines to increase airlift, connecting our islands with the world. Our success is rooted in agility, creativity, innovation, and, most importantly, our people. Our mission extends to addressing fundamental societal challenges and proactively engaging with governments to shape policies that uplift communities and bridge gaps," he continued.

With 98% of the almost 20,000 people who work within Sandals being Caribbean nationals, Stewart also placed emphasis on the importance of job creation among other key factors.

"Employment is the first thing. Taxes are the second thing. But the big ones are supply and consumption. So, support local farmers. Find a way through this hospitality world that we live in to change people's lives. Be emotionally connected to what you do. Working side by side, give them a product that's bulletproof, give them a product that when the customer comes, you win every time because it's that good," he stated.

Stewart concluded with a reminder to the audience to embrace the powers within them, pay it forward, make a meaningful impact and collectively shape a future where human values drive success.

Government Establishes Department of Special Needs Services



From left - Paulette Simmons, Special Education Needs Teacher; Christina Joseph, Behavioral Analyst; Lashaunda Dickenson-Skippings, Coordinator of Assessments; Shaniqua Morgan, Assistant Teacher; Dr. Anya Malcolm-Gibbs – Director.

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Social Services has announced the establishment of the Department of Special Needs Services (DSENS).

The ministry said the DSENS is a pivotal entity dedicated to advancing and enhancing the lives of individuals with special needs across the Islands. Recognizing the commendable efforts of past providers, the department said it aims to build upon the foundation they laid and further elevate the standards of special education in the region.

In its inaugural year, the department said it will be strategically focused on building service ca-

pacity and assembled a highly skilled and passionate team committed to making a lasting impact.

The core team includes:

Dr. Anya Malcolm Gibbs - Director; Lashaunda Dickenson Skippings - Coordinator of Assessments; Christina Joseph - Behavioural Analyst; Jamiliyah Jordan - Speech/Language Pathologist; Paulette Simmons - Special Needs Teacher (SNAP); Sheniqua Morgan - Assistant Special Needs Teacher (SNAP).

Within the next few weeks the department aims to fill the posts of occupational therapist and six additional special needs teachers.

The ministry pointed out that the department's overarching goal is to establish a Special Needs Center, a hub of support, resources, and expertise for individuals with special needs, noting that as part of government's commitment to providing exceptional services, the ministry said it is happy to announce the continued operation of the Special Needs Association of Providenciales (SNAP) center, which currently serves as the placement for the country's children with moderate to severe neurodevelopmental challenges.

"Though at capacity, as we expand, this center will play a crucial role in fostering the growth and development of those we serve. In the interim, our dedicated team is committed to delivering vital services across all islands, within the schools and communities, laying the groundwork for a more inclusive future," the Ministry of Education said.

The ministry pointed out that exciting developments are on the horizon as government collaborates with international partners.

"Over the coming months, teams of specialists from One World Foundation and Therapy Abroad will be joining us to provide auditory

evaluations and diagnostic assessments, with a primary focus on Autism Spectrum disorders. Additionally, speech and occupational therapy camps will be offered, contributing to the holistic well-being of our community," the ministry further said.

It added: "The Department of Special Education Needs Services is not just a department; it is a beacon of hope, unity, and progress. We invite the community to join us on the transformative journey as we work together towards creating a more inclusive and supportive environment for all.

"We look forward to having you all to our official launch on Tuesday, February 27th, 2024, where we will share more details of our interim services. We invite you to look forward to new exciting initiatives as we continue in our best efforts."

Specifically, Minister responsible for Education, Hon. Rachel M. Taylor, commenting on the DSENS' implementation, elucidated:

"My Ministry is continuing efforts to assist children with special needs. Services for children with special educational needs and disabilities in the Turks and Caicos Islands are being transformed with the addition of these new specialized staff and the introduction of national standards for the department.

The long-awaited changes are being introduced to ensure that children and young people with special needs get high-quality and early support. All children are entitled to proper education regardless of their intellectual abilities."

The education minister also stated that services at the SNAP Center are being manned by trained professionals who are passionate about assisting children to navigate the limitations that come with their respective intellectual, emotional, or physical disabilities.

World Wetlands Day Clean-up 2024

February 2 marks 53 years since the date of the adoption of the Convention on Wetlands on 2 February 1971, in the Iranian city of Ramsar.

The DECR will be hosting a clean-up, with the support of the Turks and Caicos National Trust, to celebrate this important conservation milestone, World Wetlands Day 2024, on Saturday, 03 February 2024.

Join us from 7am to 9am to clean-up our wonderful wetlands and help us protect them! Be sure to bring along a hat/sunscreen, shoes that can get wet and water in a reusable water bottle.

Clean-up locations:

- Providenciales

- Five Cays Wetland (meet at Bugaloos)
- Wheeland Pond (meet at Froggies)
- Grand Turk
- West Road Pond (meet at John Missick parking lot)
- Middle Caicos
- Meet at Conch Bar Community Centre

The Turks & Caicos Islands boast the protected North, Middle and East Caicos Nature Reserve, which is an area expanding 210 square miles, declared an International Ramsar Site, and the largest within the UK Overseas Territories. Restoring and protecting the health of wetland habitats is vital to protect the benefits they provide to our islands. Wetlands perform several functions, including:

- acting as buffers against coastal storms, waves, and surges;
- absorbing flood water;
- stabilising soil/sediment, and reducing erosion;
- absorbing carbon from the atmosphere;
- filtrating water;
- purifying air;
- supporting biodiversity and nurseries for wildlife;
- sustaining livelihoods through tourism, and fishing; and
- enhancing our wellbeing.

The DECR can be contacted at aavenant@gov.tc or 338-4170 for more information.

Tips to yield a restful sleep



After a night spent tossing and turning, you wake up feeling like a few of the Seven Dwarves: sleepy and grumpy. Restless nights and weary mornings can become more frequent as we get older and our sleep patterns change. In women, it often begins around the time of menopause, when hot flashes and other symptoms awaken them.

Later in life, there tends to be a decrease in the number of hours slept. There are also some changes in the way the body regulates circadian rhythms. This internal clock helps your body respond to changes in light and dark. When it undergoes a shift with age, it can be harder to fall asleep and stay asleep through the night. We all have trouble sleeping from time to time, but when insomnia persists day after day, it can become a real problem. Beyond making us tired and moody, a lack of sleep can have serious effects on our health, increasing our propensity for obesity, heart disease, and type 2 diabetes.

Tired of feeling tired? Here are some simple tips to help you get to sleep:

EXERCISE

Going for a brisk daily walk won't just trim you down, it will also keep you up less often at night. Exercise boosts the effect of natural sleep hormones such as melatonin. A study in the journal *Sleep* found that postmenopausal women who exercised for about three and a half hours a week had an easier time falling asleep than women who exercised less often.

Just watch the timing of your workouts. Exercising too close to bedtime can be stimulating. Morning workouts that expose you to bright daylight will help the natural circadian rhythm.

RESERVE BED FOR SLEEP

Do not use your bed as an office for answering phone calls and responding to emails. Also, avoid watching late-night television there. The bed needs to be a stimulus for sleeping, not for wakefulness.

KEEP YOUR BEDROOM COMFORTABLE

Television is not the only possible distraction in your bedroom. Ambience can affect your sleep quality, too. Make sure your bedroom is as comfortable as possible. Ideally, you want a quiet, dark, cool environment. All of these things promote sleep onset.

START A SLEEP RITUAL

When you were a child and your mother read you a story and tucked you into bed every night, this comforting ritual helped lull you to sleep. Even in adulthood, a set of bedtime rituals can have a similar effect. Rituals help signal the body and mind that it is coming to be time for sleep. Drink a glass of warm milk. Take a bath or listen to calming music to unwind before bed.

EAT – BUT NOT TOO MUCH

A grumbling stomach can be distracting enough to keep you awake, but so can an overly full belly. Avoid eating a big meal within two to three hours of bedtime. If you are hungry right before bed, eat a small healthy snack

(such as an apple with a slice of cheese or a few whole wheat crackers) to satisfy you until breakfast.

AVOID ALCOHOL AND CAFFEINE

If you do have a snack before bed, wine and chocolate should not be part of it. Chocolate contains caffeine, which is a stimulant. Surprisingly, alcohol has a similar effect. It makes you a little sleepy, but it is actually a stimulant and it disrupts sleep during the night. Also, stay away from anything acidic (such as citrus fruits and juices) or spicy, which can give you heartburn.

DE-STRESS

The bills are piling up and your to-do list is a mile long. Daytime worries can bubble to the surface at night. Stress is a stimulus. It activates the fight-or-flight hormones that work against sleep. Give yourself time to wind down before bed. Learning some form of the relaxation response can promote good sleep and can also reduce daytime anxiety. To relax, try deep breathing exercises. Inhale slowly and deeply, and then exhale.

GET CHECKED

An urge to move your legs, snoring, and a burning pain in your stomach, chest, or throat are symptoms of three common sleep disrupters – restless legs syndrome, sleep apnea, and gastroesophageal reflux disease or GERD. If these symptoms are keeping you up at night or making you sleepy during the day, see your doctor for an evaluation.

Jennifer Coolidge thanks 'all the evil gays' before getting Emmys speech cut off



2023 Emmys Jennifer Coolidge Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Drama Series. She won Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series during Monday's delayed 2023 Emmys.

Jennifer Coolidge made sure to thank "all the evil gays" who killed her on *The White Lotus* while accepting her second-ever Emmy Award. But it turns out that she still can't get the timing of her speech right.

During Monday's delayed 75th Annual Emmys, Coolidge won Best Supporting Actress in a Drama Series for her portrayal of Tanya McQuoid's swan song in season 2 of HBO's vacation satire. This is her second win in a row after winning Outstanding Supporting Actress in a Limited or Anthology Series or Movie at the 2022 Emmys

(when the series was eligible in a different category).

When Coolidge began her acceptance speech, she joked that she had to put her new trophy down because she still doesn't "have the strength" to hold it. She also reminded everyone that she "got the hook last year" — meaning her speech was cut off — because she "talked too long," so she promised that she would be fast this time. Alas, in iconic Coolidge style, that's not what happened at all.

She continued by thanking *The White Lotus* creator/showrunner Mike White for giving her "the opportunity to play this incredible character," she said. "He says I'm definitely dead so I'm going along with it."

Coolidge then began listing all the producers she wanted to thank but quickly noticed her time was running out. "I want to thank all the evil gays," she added while clapping for the cast of characters who were responsible for her on-screen death in season 2. "Really, really."

But soon enough, host Anthony Anderson's real-life mother, Doris Bowman, who served as the show's "play-off mama" to ensure acceptance speeches were kept short, held up a giant sign letting Coolidge know her time was up. "Baby, baby," Bowman said. "I love you baby, but time.

Time!"

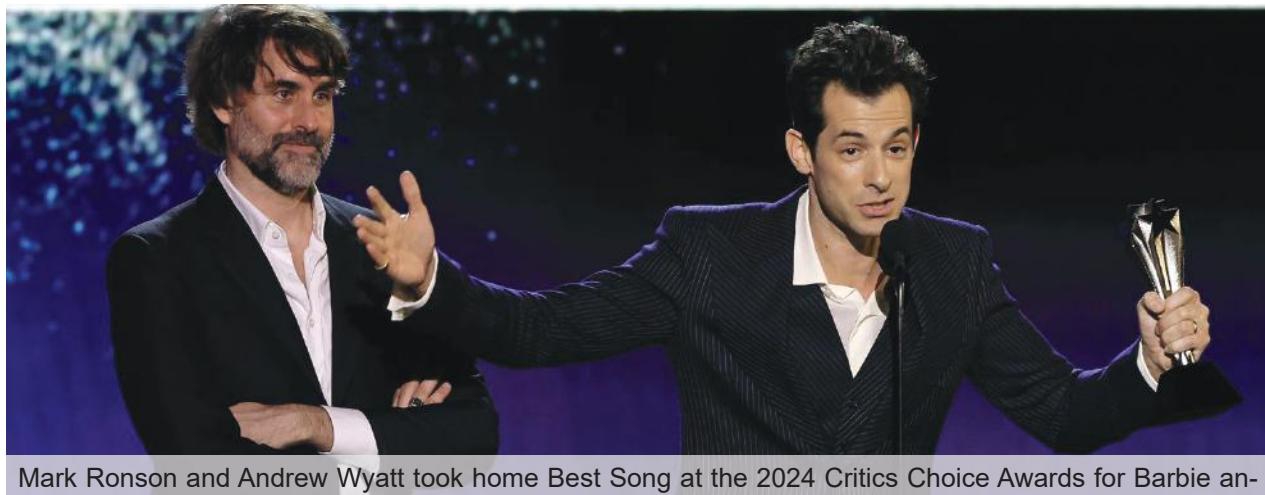
Coolidge begged her to let her say "one last thing," and Bowman obliged. "I had a little dream in my little town and everyone said it was impractical and it was far-fetched," Coolidge said as she quickly finished her speech. "But it did happen after all, so don't give up on your dream."

This is Coolidge's second time getting her Emmys speech cut short, after the play-off music began before she finished her list of thank yous during the 2022 ceremony. But she refused to abandon the stage, choosing instead to dance along to the music as the audience laughed before she was handed her Emmy statue. Unfortunately, she wasn't able to finish her speech that time.

Coolidge beat out her *White Lotus* costars Meghann Fahy, Sabrina Impacciatore, Aubrey Plaza, Simona Tabasco, as well as *The Crown*'s Elizabeth Debicki, *Better Call Saul*'s Rhea Seehorn, and *Succession*'s J. Smith-Cameron.

The 75th Emmys were held on Monday, Jan. 15 at the Peacock Theater at L.A. Live in Los Angeles. Although the ceremony aired in 2024, it was actually the 2023 Emmys since the awards show was postponed for months due to the writers' and actors' strikes.

Ryan Gosling delivers viral meme-worthy reaction to Mark Ronson's 'I'm Just Ken' Critics Choice Win



Mark Ronson and Andrew Wyatt took home Best Song at the 2024 Critics Choice Awards for *Barbie* anthem, "I'm Just Ken."

As Bella Ramsey and Anthony Ramos announced the power ballad's win, Ryan Gosling gave a very Ken, very meme-worthy deadpan look before standing and shaking his head to applaud Ronson and Wyatt's win for the song he sang.

Ronson was quick to acknowledge the Ken actor's role in the win. "Ryan Gosling, this is as much your award as ours," Ronson said. "You made the audience fall in love with this song with your matchless performance, so thank you."

He went on to thank the film's co-writer Noah

Baumbach and star Margot Robbie, as well as, of course, director and co-writer Greta Gerwig. "The fact that you carved out 11 minutes for this prog-rock, power ballad, dream ballet, shred fest so the boys could cry and hold hands a little too, we're really forever in your debt for that," Ronson said.

Just as it did at the Golden Globes, *Barbie* claimed three of the six nominations for best song, with two going to tracks that Ronson co-penned. At the Golden Globes, *Barbie* grabbed a win as well, but for Billie Eilish and Finneas



Ryan Gosling displays a deadpan look after his song was announced as the winner

O'Connell's "What Was I Made For?"

Other nominees at the Critics Choice Awards included Jack Black's "Peaches" from *The Super Mario Bros. Movie*, Lenny Kravitz's "Road to Freedom" from *Rustin*, and the Julia Michaels-written song "This Wish" from Disney's *Wish*.

For its part, awards or not, "I'm Just Ken" has taken on a life of its own, with Ronson, Wyatt, and Gosling releasing alternate versions, a Pete Davidson-focused SNL parody, notable covers, and the original version charting on the Hot 100. Despite the success of the song, Ken will just keep on being Ken, because it's *Barbie's* world.

Voices from the Streets Part 3- Can I get a Second Chance?



Nixon Dickenson

I have decided to title this week's article in the

series Voices from the Streets Part 3, 'Can I get a Second Chance.'

I am hoping to be able address the matter of second chances from the perspective of the young people who willingly shared with us during our street tours. As I listened to the various contributions, I was moved to engage in personal reflection on how often I too have missed an opportunity to provide someone with a second chance.

In these particular conversations, many persons shared how difficult it was for them to find gainful employment, once they had a run in with the law. Others shared that they felt their past actions would always overshadow their future ambitions and there were others who felt that they would always be treated with suspicion because they had a criminal record or was rumoured to have taken part in negative behaviours.

Many of these persons owned their negative choices, which led to their loss of freedom; however, they also expressed that after serving their time in prison, they should be given the opportunity to transition into society; they believed they were worthy of a second chance. Reader, whether you believe it or not, our streets are filled with the talents that are needed for nation

building in the Turks and Caicos Islands. My question is, what are we willing to do about cultivating these talents and putting them to good use? I began to ask myself what else can be done to ensure that every person is given a second chance at doing good in our society despite a negative past. I am not advocating that there should be no consequence for persons who willingly engage in negative behaviours, nor will I ever do so.

What I am advocating is that society find a way to support young people who have made mistakes and are truly willing to shift their mindset and work towards becoming a good citizen. There are so many ways that the skills of these individuals can be used in the government and private sector and throughout the community, as long as there are systems in place to effectively help with the process of integrating them back into society.

Today, I am sure we all know of someone who is screaming for a second chance of gainful employment, a second chance of completing their high school education, a second chance to restore family relationships, a second chance to get it right! Seek out that person and give him or her a second chance.

Cheshire Hall Medical Centre Implements Enhanced Security Measures and Temporarily Suspends Visitation



The Cheshire Hall Medical Center in Providenciales

In response to a recent gun-related incident, InterHealth Canada – The Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital (Cheshire Hall Medical Centre) has implemented increased security measures.

As a precautionary step, the public is being notified that visitation to the in-patient unit at the Cheshire Hall Medical Centre has been temporarily suspended.

While visitation to the in-patient unit is halted, access to the emergency department will remain open for cases of serious emergencies. Additionally, services such as surgical and routine outpatient clinics, X-rays, and laboratory procedures will continue to operate as usual. This temporary suspension is specific to the in-patient unit of the Cheshire Hall Medical Centre. The administration of the Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital regrets any inconvenience resulting from this necessary decision. This measure is aimed at ensuring the safety of our staff, patients, and their families.

Further updates will be communicated once this phase of the business has been concluded.

Grave digger robbed at cemetery



Criminals robbed a Tunapuna grave dig-

ger of his "Gucci" bag on Tuesday. Police said that around 6.30 p.m. the 43-year-old grave digger who lives in Tunapuna was preparing a grave at the Tunapuna Cemetery located at Cemetery Street, Tunapuna.

In the midst of digging two men approached him. One was armed with a gun and they both announced a robbery. The man ran off fearing that he would

have been shot.

Minutes later when he felt that the suspects had left he returned to where he parked his van.

He made a check and found that a brown and gold "Gucci" pattered side bag valued at \$125 TT, his identification card and driver's permit plus his Samsung cellular phone valued \$1,700 was gone. Both suspects had already escaped.

Cocaine seized in raid triggers concern of violence

WARMINSTER, St Elizabeth, Jamaica — The seizure of 13 pounds of cocaine in a major bust at a house operated as a drug base in this remote St Elizabeth community north of Junction has sparked concerns that the parish could experience an increase in violent crime.

The cocaine, worth an estimated \$28 million, as well as 222 pounds of ganja valued at \$2.2 million, more than \$1 million in cash, and a car were confiscated by narcotics police at the house on Thursday night.

The Jamaica Observer was told that a man ran from the house and escaped.

According to one law enforcer, the presence of the cocaine is worrying as it "spells trouble".

"St Elizabeth has had a number of drug seizures, largely marijuana, because there are a lot of ganja fields in the parish. Last year thousands of pounds of ganja were destroyed," the source said. "In terms of cocaine, since the middle of last year there hasn't been any seizure of cocaine. Anywhere cocaine is, there are always guns and gangs. Now, to have this white powder in the parish it spells trouble," the source said, adding that cocaine compounds the already deadly

presence of gun, gangs and ganja in St Elizabeth.

"This is of concern to us as law enforcement officers. Cocaine in the parish could lead to other violent crimes. Whatever the quantity is, it has serious implications," the source said.

The narcotics police have named Cetron Smith, a resident of Warminster district, as a person of interest in relation to the drug seizure.

They have asked him to report to the Narcotics Area 3 office on deCarteret Road in Mandeville by 10:00 am Saturday.

Cane Grove woman dies after struck by car driven by son

Guyana- Police are investigating a fatal incident which occurred at about 16:40hrs yesterday at Lot 8 Saywah, Cane Grove, East Coast Demerara, involving motor car #HD 1726, driven by a 38-year-old resident of Cane Grove, and Ena Seecharan, a 63-year-old housewife of the above-mentioned address, and mother of the driver of the vehicle. According to the distraught father of the driver and husband of the

deceased), the car was parked on the bridge in front of his yard, facing south, whilst Ena Seecharan was standing in the yard behind the gate, which was locked at the time. Police say that the driver (Ena's son) started the vehicle and drove forward, crashing through the gate and striking Seecharan (who was standing behind the gate, and directly in front of the vehicle).

The left side of the car ran over her

which caused her to suffer injuries about her body. The vehicle ended up on a concrete wall in the yard and came to a standstill. The woman was picked up by her husband and placed into motor car #PRR 1167 and taken to the Mahaicony Public Hospital where she was pronounced dead on arrival by a doctor on duty.

Police are looking for the driver who fled the scene.

Iceland faces daunting period after lava from volcano destroys homes in fishing Town



REYKJAVIK, Iceland (AP) — Iceland's president said the country is battling "tremendous forces of nature" after molten lava from a volcano in the island's southwest consumed several houses in the evacuated town of Grindavik.

In this image made from video, volcanic activity is seen in Grindavik, Iceland, Sunday, January 14, 2024. Iceland's president says the country is battling "tremendous forces of nature" after molten lava from a volcano consumed several houses in the evacuated town of Grindavik. (Bjorn Steinbekk via AP)

Scientists said Monday that the eruption appeared to be dying down, but it was too soon to declare the danger over. Iceland's Meteorological Office said, "It is difficult to estimate how long this eruption will last."

President Gudni Th. Johannesson said in a televised address late Sunday that "a daunting period of upheaval has begun on the Reykjanes Peninsula" where a long-dormant volcanic system has awakened.

A volcano on the peninsula erupted for the second time in less than a month on Sunday, with orange lava bursting through two fissures near the fishing town of Grindavik. Authorities had ordered residents to leave hours earlier as a swarm of small earthquakes indicated an imminent eruption.

The nearby Blue Lagoon geothermal spa — one of Iceland's biggest tourist attractions — also shut and said that it would remain closed until at least Tuesday.

Grindavik, a town of 3,800 people about 50 kilometres (30 miles) southwest of the capital, Reykjavik, was previously evacuated in November when the Svartsengi volcanic system awakened after almost 800 years with a series of earthquakes that opened large cracks in the earth between the town and Sýlingarfell, a small mountain to the north.

The volcano eventually erupted on December 18, sending lava flowing away from Grindavik. Residents were allowed to return to their homes on December 22.

Since then, emergency workers have been building defensive walls that have stopped much of the lava flow from the new eruption short of the town.

The Icelandic Met Office said Monday that "lava flow has decreased from the eruptive fissures that opened yesterday.

Flow from the southern eruptive fissure, which emerged around noon yesterday near the town's border, seems to have ceased.

The majority of the remaining lava flow is now directed southwest along the protective barriers, and its trajectory seems to have stabilised." No one has been killed in the eruptions, but a workman is missing after reportedly falling into a crack opened by the volcano.

US claims seizure of Iranian weapons bound for Yemen's Houthis



Newly recruited Houthi fighters hold up firearms during a ceremony at the end of their training in Sanaa, Yemen January 11, 2024. REUTERS/Khaled Abdullah

Newly recruited Houthi fighters hold up firearms during a ceremony at the end of their training in Sanaa, Yemen on January 11, 2024.

The US Navy has reported that it seized weapons sent by Iran to resupply Yemen's Houthi rebels last week.

The United States Central Command (CENTCOM) announced in a statement on Tuesday that US Navy Seals found the arms during a night-time raid on a ship in the Arabian Sea on January 11. Iran has denied any link to the Houthis' campaign of attacks in the Red Sea, which have disrupted global trade.

The raid on a dhow near the coast of Somalia last week uncovered "lethal" advanced conventional weapons, the statement said. The Iranian-made ballistic missiles and cruise missile components were seized by the US forces.

The seizure comes at a time of rising violence in the region linked to Israel's war on Gaza. The Houthis, who control most of Yemen's Red Sea coast, have been attacking commercial ships that they say are linked to Israel or bound for Israeli ports. Launched in November, the offensive is, according to the Yemeni group, intended as defence of Palestinians.

After forming a joint patrol force, US and British forces upped the ante last week, carrying out dozens of strikes on Houthi targets. US officials said the strikes had significantly dented the Houthis' capacity, diminishing their ability to fire missiles and launch drones.

However, official sources cited by Al Jazeera

claimed that the group still retains three-quarters of its capacity.

On Monday, the US military said that the rebel group had struck a US-owned and operated container ship with an anti-ship ballistic missile. No injuries or significant damage were reported.

The attack came the day after the Houthis launched a cruise missile toward a US destroyer. Houthi spokesperson Yahya Sarea said that "all American and British ships and warships involved in the aggression against our country" would be considered hostile targets, vowing that no attacks would go unpunished.

US military analysts claimed that the weapons seized are of the same type as those deployed by the Houthis to attack international ships in the area.

Despite supporting the Houthi campaign rhetorically, Iran has staunchly denied Washington's allegations that it is providing the Yemeni rebel group with weapons and tactical intelligence.

The statement described the haul as "the first seizure of lethal, Iranian-supplied advanced conventional weapons (ACW) to the Houthis since the beginning of Houthi attacks against merchant ships in November 2023".

"This is yet another example of how Iran actively sows instability throughout the region in direct violation of UN Security Resolution 2216 and international law," said CENTCOM Commander General Michael Erik Kurilla.

He also noted that two Navy Seals previously reported lost at sea were directly involved in the operation that led to the seizure.

Roma sacks Mourinho, eye former star De Rossi as successor



Roma's Portuguese coach reacts from the technical area during the Italian Serie A football match between Juventus and Roma at the Allianz Stadium in Turin, on December 30, 2023. Jose Mourinho has been sacked as coach of AS Roma, the Serie A club saying in a statement on January 16, 2024. "we believe that an immediate change is in the best interests of the club." The 60-year-old Portuguese took over in 2021 and guided Roma to the 2022 Europa Conference League trophy and the final of last season's Europa League. (Photo by Isabella

ROME, Italy (AFP)— Jose Mourinho's time at Roma came to an end on Tuesday after the Serie A club sacked the "Special One" midway through what has been a deeply disappointing third season in the Italian capital.

Mourinho departs Roma after an emotional two-and-a-half years in which he won Europa Conference League in 2022, ending a 14-year trophy drought for the capital club.

Roma said that Mourinho would leave alongside his staff "with immediate effect", adding that it was "in the best interests of the club" after a series of poor results left the team way off the pace in the Italian top flight.

Italian media report that former Roma captain Daniele De Rossi, a World Cup winner with Italy in 2006, is the favourite to replace Mourinho as coach.

Mourinho's contract was due to expire in June and although he had repeatedly stated that he wanted to stay on, talks about an extension to his deal never materialised.

Rumours of his departure grew more persistent after Sunday's dismal 3-1 defeat at AC Milan which left Roma ninth in Serie A, five points away from the Champions League positions.

"We would like to thank Jose on behalf of all of us at AS Roma for his passion and efforts since his arrival at the club," said owners Dan and Ryan Friedkin in a statement.

"We will always have great memories of his tenure at Roma, but we believe that an immediate change is in the best interests of the club.

"We wish Jose and his assistants all the best in their future endeavours."

The 60-year-old Portuguese was a shock ap-

pointment in 2021, Roma's announcement of his arrival as the replacement to Paulo Fonseca coming almost completely out of the blue.

He immediately became a huge fan favourite, with his image popping up on walls around Rome as supporters dreamed of success under one of football's greatest ever coaches.

And in his first season he guided Roma to the inaugural Conference League, a triumph which brought Mourinho to tears on the pitch and made him an almost God-like figure to one Europe's most passionate and success-starved fan bases.

He then came to within a penalty shootout of winning back-to-back European finals, Roma falling at the last hurdle against Sevilla in last season's Europa League.

That was a defeat which both enraged Mourinho and supporters, who attacked referee Anthony Taylor with chairs at Budapest's Ferenc Liszt airport in anger at what they considered bad decisions which cost their team the trophy.

However the magic between Mourinho and the fans began to wear off this term, with poor results and performances partly due to a raft of injuries and summer transfers which haven't worked out.

Roma have failed to qualify for the money-spinning Champions League under Mourinho's charge, a big problem for a club operating under Financial Fair Play constraints which struggles to balance its books.

De Rossi is another idol for Roma fans as a local boy done good who played in some of the club's best teams of the last two decades, alongside fellow icon Francesco Totti.

The 40-year-old has little pedigree as a coach however, his only job at SPAL lasting just four months last season, which finished with the team being relegated to the third-tier Serie C.

Jason Kelce is retiring from the NFL after emotional playoff loss, reports say



The future Hall of Fame center told his Philadelphia Eagles teammates following a playoff loss to Tampa Bay that he is retiring after 13 seasons.

Jason Kelce's brilliant NFL career appears to have come to an end.

The future Hall of Famer told his Philadelphia Eagles teammates after a season-ending, 32-9

playoff loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Jan. 15 that he has decided to retire, league sources told ESPN. NFL Network's Mike Garafolo also reported the news.

NBC News has reached out to the Eagles and Kelce's representatives but has not received an immediate response.

Following the game, the star lineman declined any questions about whether he was retiring.

"Not today," he told reporters who approached his locker.

Kelce was seen blinking back tears and hugging teammates on the sideline near the end of the loss in Tampa Bay to the Bucs.

Kelce, 36, is considered one of the best centers in NFL history. He was a six-time All-Pro in his 13 seasons, and the other five centers who earned that honor are all in the Hall of Fame.

His decision comes after a bitter end to the season for the Eagles, who started 10-1 and then lost six of their last seven games. The brutal finish comes one season after they lost a last-second thriller to the Kansas City Chiefs in the Super Bowl.

The high point for Kelce was a Super Bowl title with the Eagles in the 2017 season.

Kelce has also drawn notice for the popular podcast "New Heights," which he co-hosts with his younger brother, Kansas City Chiefs superstar tight end Travis Kelce.

DREAM START



WOW! West Indies' Shamar Joseph, left, celebrates with team-mate, West Indies captain Kraigg Brathwaite, after taking the wicket of Australia's Steve Smith on the first day of the first Test in Adelaide, Australia, Tuesday, January 16.

New West Indies fast bowler Shamar Joseph said he predicted that he was going to take a wicket with his first ball in Tests, but he could not believe his good fortune that it was his favourite Australia batter.

The 24-year-old from the remote village of Barracara in Guyana, which is only accessible by boat, captured the prized scalp of former Australia captain Steve Smith to etch his name in the history books when he became only the sec-

ond player from the Caribbean to take a wicket with his first ball in Tests.

He added the scalp of Marnus Labuschagne a few overs later to end the day with two for 18 from his six overs, but the hosts and world champions had held the edge, reaching 59 for two, in reply to the West Indies first innings total of 188.

For Joseph, it was a far cry from his previous job of security guard, but the wicket of Smith made the occasion of his Test debut extra special, even though he was forced to abort his initial approach due to nerves.

"I didn't miss my run-up," he told reporters after the day's play ended. "It was just nervousness bowling to one of the best batsmen in the Australian team that I consider.

"I really love Steve Smith, the way he plays and goes about his cricket. And getting Steve Smith, I'll remember this for the rest of my life. I will actually take a picture and take it home and post it in my house."

Joseph composed himself and he rendered a failure, the experiment of Smith opening the batting as replacement for the retired David Warner, when he had him caught low at third slip by another newcomer in the Caribbean side, Justin Greaves.

'OURS TO GRAB'



Reggae Boyz Captain Andre Blake says he's confident that the national senior men's team will advance to the knockout stages of this summer's Copa America in the United States.

After beating Canada over two legs in the Concacaf Nations League quarter-finals last November to qualify for CONMEBOL's showpiece, Jamaica were drawn in Group B with Mexico and South American nations Ecuador and Venezuela.

The Reggae Boyz participated in the Copa America tournament in 2015 and 2016 but finished

bottom of the group both times without a win. However, Blake is optimistic they can get the job done in 2024.

"It's a tough one; two teams qualify. I'm going to put Jamaica at second. I don't know how who's going to be first, third or fourth but we're betting ourselves for the knockout round," he told ESPN FC's Futbol Americas Podcast.

Blake praised his national teammates, during the interview, for demonstrating more dedication in recent games.

He recalls being frustrated with the team's situation under then Head Coach Theodore Whitmore after not qualifying for the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar which saw Jamaica's FIFA world ranking fall from 45 to 63 in the space of a year.

However, things have been looking up for the Reggae Boyz recently under Head Coach Heimir Hallgrímsson after making the semi-finals of the Concacaf Gold Cup last July, qualifying for the Copa America and making the final four of the Nations League, which has seen them move to number 55 in the world.

"I just think there were some conversations that needed to be had," he said during the interview. "I was getting super frustrated because when I looked around the room and I saw all the talent that we had in the room with the amount of guys playing in the [English] Premier League, I know how good we can be. But for whatever reason when we came together with the national team, we just couldn't figure it out.

"For me, it was getting to a point where I'm saying we're all getting older and I do not want to look back 10 years from now and be like, 'We had so many good players and nothing to show for it'.

The Reggae Boyz will return to action when they take on USA in the Nations League semi-finals on March 21 in Arlington, Texas.

The winner will advance to the final three days later while the loser will play in the third match against Mexico or Panama, also on March 24.

'Provo Golf Club' Tops Caribbean Competitors

● Named Best Caribbean Golf Course in 2024 USA TODAY 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards



TCIFA President Tasked With Presenting Messi With Male Player of the Year Award

By Vivian Tyson, NewslineTCI Editor-In-Chief



TCIFA President Sonia Fulford (in green), was chosen to present Lionel Messi with the Best Male Player Award. The trophy can be seen on a stand immediately before the TCIFA President

President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA), Sonia Fulford, was given the great honor of presenting the Best Male Player of the Year for 2023, to Lionel Messi at the FIFA

The Argentine was winning that trophy for the eighth time. He also won it in 2022.

Fulford, who posted on the news on her Facebook page, deemed the opportunity an honor. The event was held on Monday, January 15, 2024. Messi was not present to collect the trophy.

“What an incredible honor it was to present the prestigious award of The Best FIFA Men’s Player of the Year 2023-to-eight-time winner, Lionel Messi. Congratulations to all the nominees and winners,” Fulford said in her post.

Messi won the title, beating Manchester City’s treble-winning Norwegian striker Erling Haaland and France’s Paris St Germain forward Kylian Mbappe to the award.

Spain’s 2023 World Cup winner Aitana

Bonmati was voted the best women’s player of the year.

Messi secured the men’s award in 2022 after guiding Argentina to World Cup victory, after which he clinched the Ligue 1 title with PSG alongside Mbappe following that success, before moving to Major League Soccer team Inter Miami.

The 36-year-old, voted the best player by national teams coaches, captains, journalists and fans, helped Inter Miami win the 2023 Leagues Cup — a competition between MLS and Mexico’s Liga MX sides — scoring 10 goals.

The award period for the men’s prize ran from Dec. 19, 2022 to Aug. 20, 2023, and started the day after the World Cup final in Qatar.

Haaland, who helped City clinch a treble of Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League titles by scoring 52 goals in 53 matches across all competitions in the 2022-23 season, finished second in the voting.

The 23-year-old had the same points as

Messi but lost out by having fewer first-place votes from national team captains. City’s Pep Guardiola won the Best Men’s Coach award. The Spaniard, who before winning the treble with City last term had achieved the same feat at Barcelona in 2008-09, dedicated his award to fellow nominees Simone Inzaghi and Luciano Spalletti.

Inzaghi guided Inter Milan to the 2023 Champions League final, where they lost 1-0 to City, while Spalletti won Serie A with Napoli to end the club’s 33-year wait for the title.

Sarina Wiegman claimed the Best Women’s coach prize after leading England to the World Cup final where they lost 1-0 to Spain.

Seven of her Lionesses were included in the Women’s World XI, including Mary Earps, who also took the Best Women’s Goalkeeper Award.

Brazil’s Manchester City keeper Ederson won the men’s award.

Cyprus Mail also contributed to this story.

Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club Named Best Caribbean Golf Course in 2024 USA TODAY 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards



The Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club is thrilled to announce that it has been named the Best Caribbean Golf Course in the prestigious 2024 USA TODAY 10 Best Readers' Choice travel award contest.

This remarkable achievement marks the second consecutive year that the Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club has secured the top spot in this category, reaffirming its position as the #1 golf course in the Caribbean.

The 10 Best Readers' Choice Awards are highly regarded within the travel industry, celebrating excellence and recognizing the top destinations and attractions worldwide. The winners are se-

lected through a combination of expert panel evaluations and public votes, making this recognition a true testament to the Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club's exceptional golfing experience.

Dave Douglas, Director of Golf at the Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club, expressed his delight, saying, "We cannot be more pleased with this award. Our dedicated staff has worked tirelessly throughout the year to ensure that our golf course and its amenities, including our renowned 19 Bar and Restaurant, are in top-notch condition.

"Our investments have paid off, but the hard work continues. We are determined to defend

our title in 2025, and we'll be working even harder to achieve that goal. Thank you for voting for us, and we look forward to welcoming you to Royal Turks and Caicos in 2024 to showcase this achievement."

The #1 top ten winners in this category are as follows:

1. Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club
2. Aurora Anguilla Resort & Golf Club
3. Robert Trent Jones II at Four Seasons Resort Nevis
4. Teeth of the Dog at Casa de Campo
5. Cinnamon Hill at Rose Hall Golf
6. Sandals Emerald Bay Golf Course
7. Cedar Valley Golf Course
8. East Course at TPC Dorado Beach
9. The Green Monkey at Sandy Lane
10. Tierra del Sol Golf Course

The 2024 USA TODAY 10 Best Readers' Choice Award contest commenced on November 28th and concluded after four weeks of vigorous voting. The Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Club received overwhelming support from its membership, local community, and past golfers, resulting in this unbiased and significant recognition. Nominees in all award categories are carefully selected by a panel of experts, including editors from USA TODAY and 10Best.com, as well as relevant expert contributors and sources. The public then participates in digital voting to determine the winners.

The 10 Best Readers' Choice Award contest is accessible on the 10Best.com website and is promoted across various digital and mobile platforms within the USA TODAY Travel Media Group, as well as through social media and Gannett media outlets.