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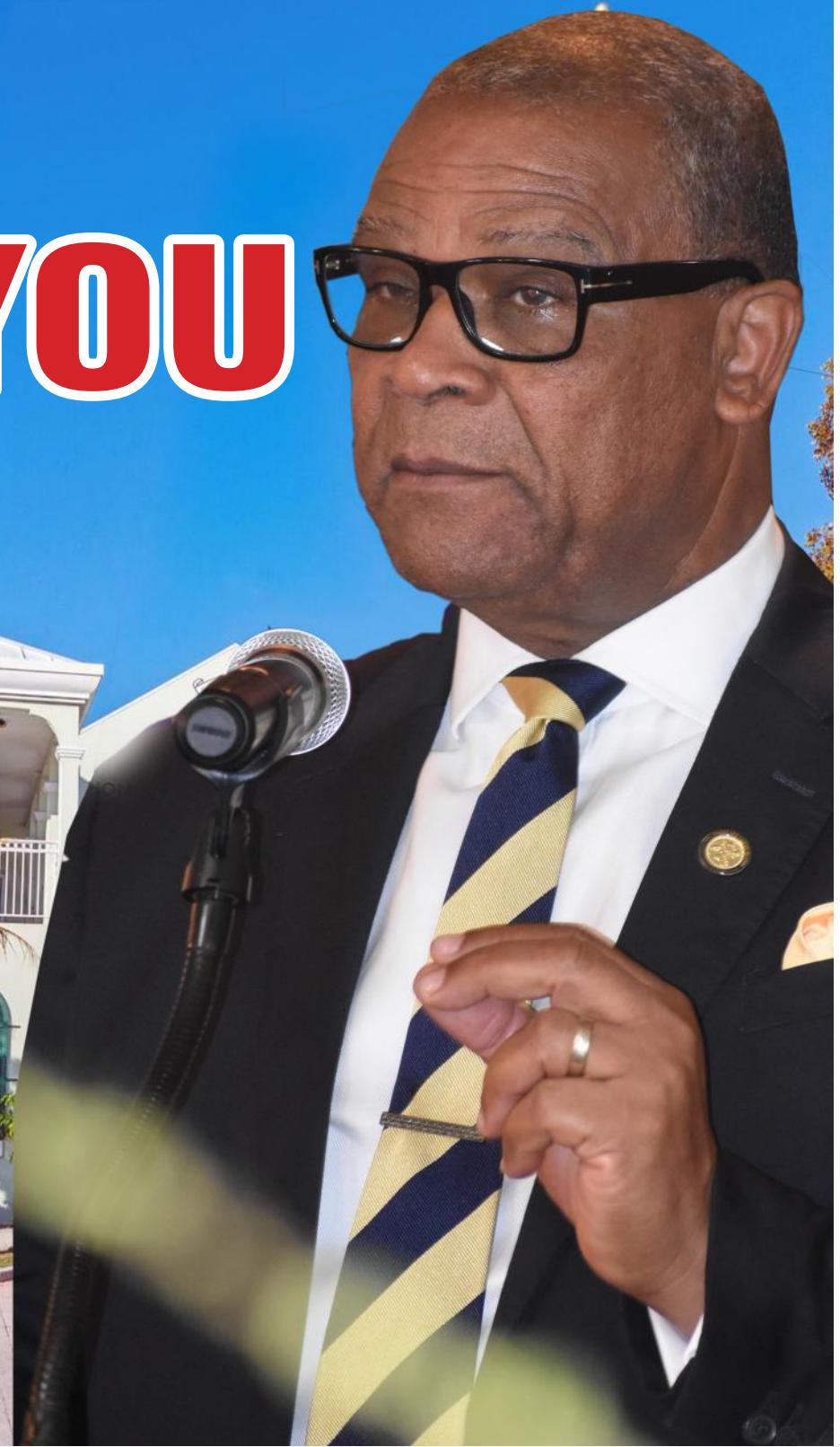
Cadets Get  
\$40,000 Van  
PG4

Turks and Caicos  
Has 45 Informal  
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Major Constructions  
for CHHS, LGTHS  
PG8

I DON'T  
CARE IF YOU  
LIKE ME

SEE PAGE 5



# More Scenes From the National Prayer Breakfast

Recently, the Government hosted its second annual National Prayer Breakfast at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa. The event saw church leaders from all walks of life converge to bridge the chasm that sometimes exists in Christendom. Time was also allotted for photos to be taken of the persons entering the event, and NewslineTCI was on hand to capture the moment.





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# Cadet Corps Gifted With \$40,000 Van By Premier's Cup Tournament



Mervin Cox (in blue shirt) presents the keys to the van to Major Nimrol Beckles (in yellow shirt) of the TCI Cadet Corps, while other members of the committee, other sponsors and members of the cadet Corps look on. Also witnessing the event is former Premier Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson (third from Cox), Lorne Robinson of the Oasis at Grace Bay (third from Beckles) and Jasmine Thomas (immediately beside Robinson).

the Premier's Golf Tournament has donated a van valued at \$40,000 to the Turks and Caicos Islands Cadet Corps.

The handover ceremony took place on Tuesday, September 19, at the Downtown Ball Park in Providenciales.

Mervin Cox, Head of the Premier's Cup Tournament, emphasized the event's commitment to sponsoring the cadets. Recognizing their need for proper transportation to various events, he said the tournament committee decided to gift them the van.

Major Nimrol Beckles, Head of the TCI Cadet Corps, expressed his joy at accepting the van on behalf of the organization and extended his gratitude to everyone involved.

"Sometimes training finishes late, and there are definitely concerns about the cadets' safety in terms of getting them home. So, this would come in very handy in ensuring that we actually get things done," Beckles said.

Beckles also acknowledged the efforts of former Premier Hon. Sharlene Cartwright Robinson, who facilitated the clearance of the van through customs and Camco Enterprises, which made a generous financial contribution to cover landing and clearing costs.

Lorne Robinson, General Manager for the Oasis at Grace Bay, a subsidiary company of Camco Enterprise, shared that Camco underwrote the landing cost for the van. "We recognize that the youths are our future, and we are actually happy to assist. We are still available to offer any assistance to the cadet corps, and to any organization that attempts to help the youth in this country," Robinson said.

Jasmine Thomas, Director for the Department of Youth Affairs, expressed her excitement about the partnership between the Premier's Cup Tournament and the Department of Youth Affairs. She highlighted the financial burden of transporting cadets to different locations and mentioned the importance of ensuring their safety during late-night events and early morning travel.

The Premier's Cup Gold Tournament donates to two entities whenever it is held. They are the Cadet Corps and the Duke of Edinburgh Programme, which is also a youth-oriented programme, which supports the Youth Department.

Thomas mentioned that the funds received from the Duke of Edinburgh programme would be used to purchase camp items such as tents and backpacks for the youth's adventurous journeys.

Edith Skippings, General Secretary for the Premier's Cup Gold Tournament, revealed that this was the second time the tournament had donated a van to the Cadet Corps. The first van was donated during the Rufus Ewing Administration, while the latest donation came from proceeds generated during from the tournament during the previous administration led by Cartwright Robinson.

Skippings added that the Premier's Cup had also donated more than \$10,000 worth of music equipment to the cadet corps.

Meanwhile, Beckles mentioned that the cadet corps had nearly 200 members spread across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

He said this generous gift from the Premier's Cup Tournament would undoubtedly enhance the mobility and safety of the cadets, enabling them to continue their valuable work in the community. Cox and his team were appointed by Cartwright Robinson during her tenure. She served from 2016 until 2020. Each premier appoints their own Premier's Cup Committee, as each committee serves at the premier's pleasure. Despite the administration changing hands, the tenure of Cox and his team has been called.

# Clean Record Over Popularity

By Vivian Tyson

Premier Hon. Washington Misick made it clear that he values his clean political record above all else and is not concerned with whether people like him or not.

Directing a portion of his speech towards Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood, with whom he clashed over political matters, Premier Misick acknowledged that some individuals in the community might prefer a government that adopts shady practices to fulfill hidden agendas. However, he firmly stated that he would not venture down that path. He emphasized his commitment to ethical governance and maintaining a spotless track record throughout his long tenure as a legislator.

"I have been a legislator for many, many years... totally untarnished, and by the help of God, I intend to take that to the end," Premier Misick affirmed. While acknowledging that he is not perfect and may make mistakes, he stressed the importance of making decisions based on available evidence and seeking wise counsel.

"As a leader, I am expected to be committed, not to comply with every uninformed, impractical, and even morally wrong advice," he explained. Premier Misick made it clear that he believes in ethical leadership and upholding the law, ordinances, regulations, morality, natural justice, and fair treatment of people.

"There are those who would shy away from doing the right thing in the interest of political

expediency. I get criticize for that a lot. That is not who I am. I am going to do, with the help of God, the right thing," he said.

He also dismissed the notion of succumbing to political or religious pressures, stating, "I am not that kind of person. And if Turks and Caicos is looking for that kind of leader, maybe they should elect the leader of the opposition because I am just not that kind of person. I believe in ethics."

Premier Misick spoke about his dedication to serving the people who elected him and his commitment to doing what is right, even in the face of controversy. He emphasized that he doesn't need to know who supports him; he is obligated to do the right thing, as expected by God and his constituents.

The Premier said he welcomed challenges and controversy, citing Martin Luther King Jr.'s words: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort, but where he stands in times of challenges and controversy." He noted that the opposition's criticism of his leadership is seen as a sign that he is doing well. Responding to what he termed as personal attacks on his character and age from the Opposition Leader, Premier Misick affirmed his vigor and energy, stating that he is as energetic as an 18-year-old. He humorously referred to his recent medical checkup, where his blood pressure was compared to that of an 18-year-old. He ex-

pressed his intention to live to the fullest and fulfill his God-given promise of 120 years.

"The Lord has been good to me. I am energetic as any 18-year-old. The last time I had my blood pressure taken (the doctor) said I had the pressure of an 18-year-old," the premier said, to thunderous applause from his governmental colleagues. "So, I don't want any body to set the sun on me before its time. That is God's business and Him alone."

He added: "I did not rise to be critical of the leader, but somewhere it says, 'to know better is to do better'. But unfortunately, it doesn't appear as if the Hon. Leader of the Opposition knows any better. I was somewhat disappointed that the leader of the opposition would make Ad Hominem or personal attack on my character and my age in diversionary tactics instead of addressing the issues raised in the Throne Speech...relevant issues that are affecting the country. But I hope he remembers what happened to the last persons who attacked me because of my age."

In the meantime, Premier Misick said he remains steadfast in his commitment to clean, ethical governance, even in the face of opposition and personal attacks. He told the House of Assembly that his priority is to serve the best interests of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, regardless of his personal popularity.



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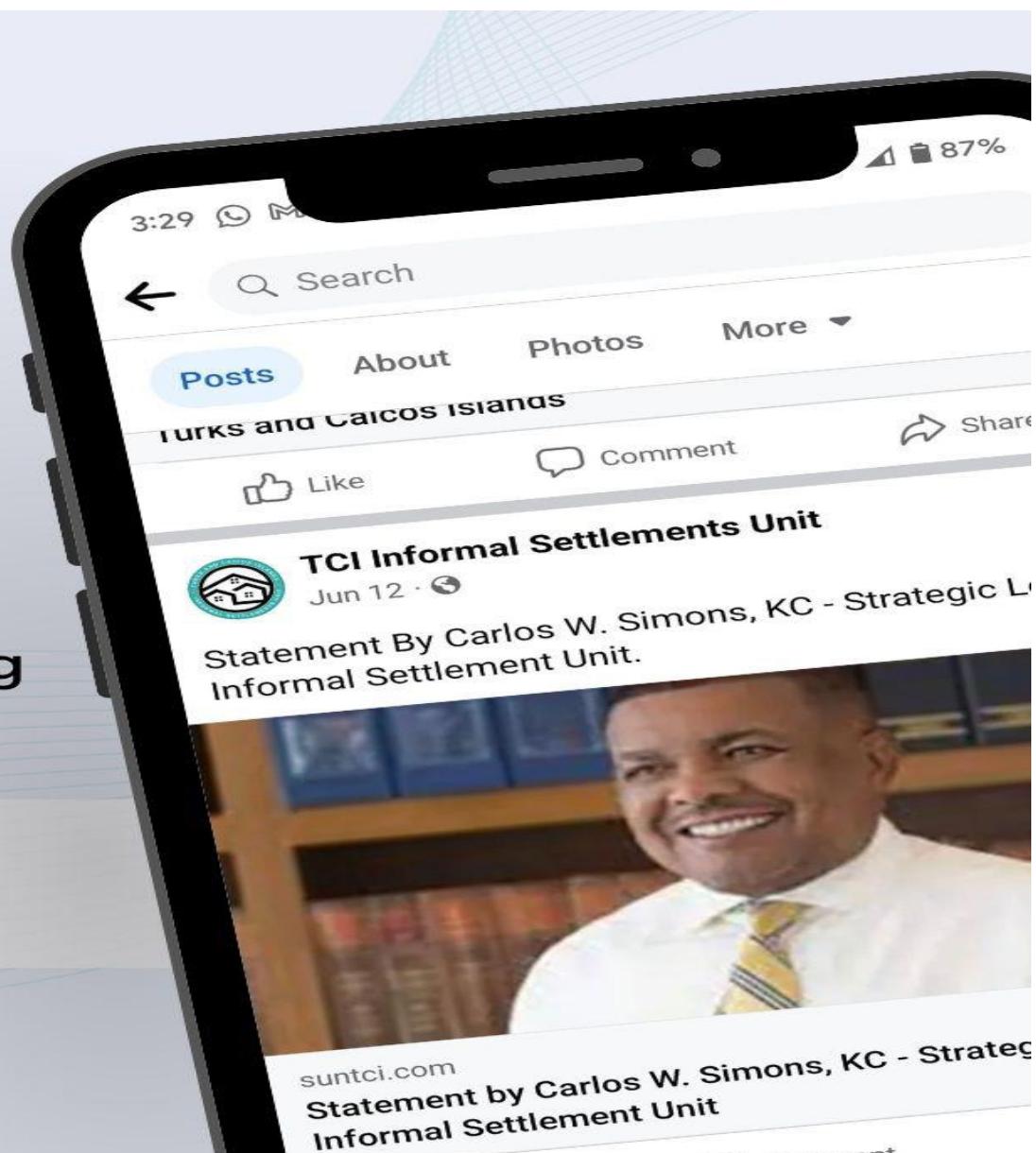


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# The hyper-disruptive force of the Middle East and the growth of the Global South

There have been greater explorations in creating alliances for trade in the Middle East.

In case you missed it, the G20 League of Nations met in New Delhi recently and there were several takeaways from the summit we should all keep at the forefront of our minds as a developing nation.

First, the 55-member African Union was formally made a permanent member of the G20, on par with the European Union, to make the grouping more representative. It is such a colossal move as, up until now, only South Africa was a member of the G20.

The entry of the African Union will also provide a more robust voice to the Global South within the G20, where it was always the G7 countries that have, for so long, leveraged their dominance. This move has come after the BRICs (Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa), the League of Nations (dominated by China and Russia) expanded to include Argentina, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates — also a step in the right direction for developing nations with emerging economies.

Moreover, at the summit, nations agreed that sovereign states should not and cannot forcibly seize other territories. Host country India, in tandem with Brazil, Indonesia, and South Africa, played a crucial role in ensuring that the summit did not splinter around condemnations of Russia, which, to some analysts, is another clear demonstration of the growing power of the Global South to direct diplomacy and trade negotiations forward.

Noticeably missing from the summit was China's Leader Xi Jinping. However, his absence never prevented unveiling some of the current dynamic geopolitical trade shifts. Indeed, it was a clear awakening to us that the West has decided to abide by the adage, "If you can't beat them" join them.

Enter India, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE): At the summit, US President Joe Biden, along with leaders Narendra Modi, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, and Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed, announced the launch of a new trade route connecting India to the Middle East and Europe through railways and ports in what seems an unmistakable response to China's US\$3-trillion Belt and Road Initiative for trade and commerce.

According to President Biden, the plan also includes the European Union, France, Italy, and Germany, and will comprise two separate routes — "an east corridor link-

ing India to the Gulf Arab states and a northern corridor connecting the Gulf states to Europe". Goods and services would transit through the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel, and Europe. The route will also enable electricity, digital connectivity, and pipes for clean hydrogen export. From all predictions, including those from the International Monetary Fund, India will grow by over 6 per cent in the next few years and is on track to be the world's third-largest economy. So, the US partnership with India is not surprising. But this announcement is a departure from President Biden's previous specific declarations on the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA), and our memory of his awkward fist bump with Saudi Arabia's prime minister, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, when he visited the Gulf.

Clearly something has changed, and the KSA and the UAE are now strategically seen as titanic economic and politically independent forces amid some of the world's most powerful countries. They know you cannot disregard the Middle East any more. It would be best if you came to their table.

Furthermore, despite pressure to choose sides, Gulf states have insisted and maintained a balanced position involving political and economic cooperation across the board, which analysts say makes Gulf states strategically, diplomatically, and economically vital.

Their self-reliant foreign policy also upholds an unbroken friendship with China against others trying to create distance and tensions. As a result, "Gulf countries are using this multipolarity and this new world order to try to put themselves at the heart of global trade, trying to invest even more in connectivity and globalization." (Cinzia Bianco, The European Council)

The Middle East's stealthy strategy has definitely softened the United States' influence in the eyes of the world, and President Biden accepted at the summit that: "The world stands at an inflection point in history," as he graciously thanked the UAE leader for bringing them all to this point. The White House said the project would usher in a "new era of connectivity".

However, these geopolitical agreements are no surprise to me, especially since I was not only following the economic pursuits of Dubai and the UAE, but I also went to the KSA last February after the royal family announced its bold Vision 2030 to use KSA's strategic location as an integral driver of international trade through Africa, Asia,

and Europe is on target.

The Saudi Government spent US\$950 billion on mega projects; will complete its first phase of reconstruction — some 1700 acres of land — to boast a diverse selection of new leisure, entertainment, housing, education, and religious facilities with 38 unique hotels, 100 new restaurants (including Michelin Star restaurants), nine museums, over 100 retail shops, two grand mosques, two state-of-the-art universities, over 20,000 new residences, 14,000 underground parking spaces, and the rejuvenation of the landscape with 1 million plants, scrubs, and palm trees with tourism's annual GDP contribution to the Saudi economy of US\$30 billion in 2023, and tripling their tourism sector employment to 1.6 million jobs by 2030. A critical component of this ambitious goal is the creation of 2,000 entertainment, cultural, and sporting events to attract millions of non-religious tourists annually, with the renewal of the birthplace of the Arabian peninsula — Diriyah and At'Taurif.

Already, Saudi Arabia has forcefully disrupted the global golf, soccer, and Formula One space, unnerving what used to be traditional notions of where these sports should take place.

In June, the PGA tour agreed to merge with KSA's LIV Golf, which reportedly committed over US\$2 billion to grow the sport.

In soccer, Saudi Arabia's club Al Nassr signed a contract with Cristiano Ronaldo worth over US\$220 million. Plus, they have already built their own Formula One track in Riyadh.

They also plan to transform their public investment fund — with assets that are expected to reach US\$1.86 trillion by 2030 — into one of the largest sovereign wealth funds in the world and consolidate its position in shaping the global economy.

As the economic epicentre continues to shift away from the United States, the Caribbean needs to plan for where global opportunities will be in the next five to 10 years. Since our leading foreign exchange earner is remittances, and we have extensive knowledge in tourism, perhaps we need to consider how we export labour to the Middle East in addition to the US and Canada.



NEWSLINE TCI is located at  
1085 Leeward Highway,  
Providenciales,  
Turks & Caicos Islands, BWI.

Our numbers are:  
1649 348-9587  
1649 242-6695

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

Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

# Turks and Caicos Has 45 Informal Settlements



LIGHTBOURNE: "Dock Yard is 21 acres essentially of a 500-acre challenge."

Government has identified 45 informal settlements occupying 500 acres of land across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The finding was revealed recently by the Informal Settlement Unit – a body set-up by government with its sole focus to halt informal settlement in the country and to get rid of existing ones.

Tito Lightbourne, Permanent Secretary in the National Security Council, and in whose office the Informal Settlements Unit falls, told reporters that the unit has identified 45 settlements that did not get the greenlight from the Physical Planning Department, with most of them being on Providenciales.

"We have identified 45 informal settlements nationally, 35 in Provo, nine in Grand Turk and one potentially in North Caicos. These settlements make up just about 500 acres of land and about 700 parcels of land. To put that into context, that is two percent of our land mass. Dock Yard is 21 acres essentially of a 500-acre challenge," Lightbourne said.

Dock Yard, which is in Providenciales is the country's biggest informal settlement, and on which government has given a great deal of attention, including running a survey in the community to get a true feel of what makes that community ticks. Lightbourne stated however, that the demolition process would not begin in Dock Yard, but other less problematic areas across the country.

"Some of these settlements, for lack of a better term, are low-hanging fruits, less contentious areas whether it be incomplete or uninhabited structures, so those are the ones that you would see us targeting the most before starting the expansion...targeting those unfinished, those inhabited structures, reclaiming that land particularly if it is Crown Land. If it is private land, we have to engage the private landowner," Lightbourne explained, noting that a great deal of the land occupied by informal settlers



SIMONS: "...if the person builds on his own land outside of the planning laws, the Planning Department could go to court, get a court order for the structure to be pushed down".

are private properties.

For his part, Carlos Simons, Head of the Informal Settlements Unit, private landowner, for the most part, are willing establish low-cost housing, to ease formal homeownership crisis. "Let me also say this, that some of the land that has been occupied by the informal settlers is private land, and private landowners want low-cost housing," Simons explained, noting that government, under the new Housing Policy, would be willing to assist private landowners in developing low-cost housing, by, among other things, reduction of import duties. He pointed out that some informal settlers could likely become beneficiaries of that programme.

Simons pointed out that providing basic amenities in Dock Yard is not off the cards, but there would be much work to be done before getting to that stage.

"We understand that Dock Yard is private land... all private land. There is no Crown Land there. And so, until we understand and resolve some of the land concerns in Dock Yard, it would be difficult for government to go in and cut roads. "But government is anxious and ready to develop and improve the facilities and infrastructure, but to do so at the moment in appropriate. Not trying to provide basic amenities that people in communities need, but they are larger issues that first must be addressed," Simons further stated.

Lightbourne pointed out that the dense nature of Dock Yard makes it virtually impossible to provide certain amenities.

"You would have seen the Dock Yard Report, and here in Turks and Caicos the minimum parcel of the size of piece of land is .21 of an acre for one structure. We have .21 parcel in that area that has 11 structures. That is part of the issues that we want to get to the bottom of... who legally and legitimately owns each parcel of land," Lightbourne noted.

In the meantime, Simons pointed out that it has

taken 25 years for Dock Yard to develop to its current point, and so, the problem would not disappear in short order.

"Dock Yard is privately-owned land...that doesn't mean that government does not have a role to play, because I have seen the area and the aerial photographs...and none of the houses there could achieve Planning approval.

"And if the person builds on his own land outside of the planning laws, the Planning Department could go to court, get a court order for the structure to be pushed down," he explained. He said however, that the Informal Settlement Unit would not readily go into Dock Yard and begin bulldozing structures but would approach it from a case-by-case standpoint.

"We are not saying that that is going to be our approach in Dock Yard because we know that there are people who are law-abiding people... majority of them are law-abiding," Simons further stated.

He added: "But in the meantime, the community should know that the Unit is not going to permit further developments of the informal settlements. And so, as the foundations are laid, and blocks are put up, we will push it down. When we said we will contain the further development of informal settlements, that is what we mean. We will not permit areas in Five Cays and Blue Hills to be developed in that way any longer.

"We have drone technology, and the Unit, once it is fully staffed, will have the manpower to monitor and know that two weeks after a site has been cleared there is activity there. And so, we know we have to keep that monitored.

"What we are inviting private landowners to do is, once we have assisted in clearing lands, they must undertake to monitor it whether by fencing or regularly visiting, or whatever. But it makes no sense for resources to be spent on land clearance and then three weeks later, its back to where we were," Simons noted.

# Government Plans Big Development at Clement Howell and Louise Garland High Schools



TAYLOR: The Comfort Suite one-story building will become two stories

The Washington Misick government has announced ambitious plans for the redevelopment of the Clement Howell and Louise Garland

Thomas High Schools on Providenciales. The initiative aims to modernize educational infrastructure and enhance the learning environ-

ment for students.

One of the central components of this redevelopment project involves the demolition of the dilapidated 'Comfort Suite' building located on the Clement Howell High School property. This announcement was made by the Minister of Education, Youth, Sport, and Social Services, Hon. Rachel Taylor, during her address at the commissioning of the AutoCAD Lab earlier this week.

The Comfort Suite building had initially been included in the previous year's budget for refurbishment. However, Minister Taylor revealed that funding for this project had been withdrawn to allow for a more comprehensive redevelopment plan. In the revised proposal, the one-story Comfort Suite building is slated for demolition, and in its place, a modern two-story structure will be constructed.

Minister Taylor explained, "The Comfort Suite building was budgeted for last year, but we took it out for a reason. But it is going to go back into this year's budget. So, the Comfort Suite one-story building will become two stories. One two-story building will be here at Clement Howell, and the other will be located at Long Bay High School."

She said the initiative underscores the government's commitment to providing students with state-of-the-art facilities conducive to learning and development. Minister Taylor further noted that the government had recently completed a significant project at the Enid Capron Primary School, where she once served as the principal. The education minister pointed out that the redevelopment of the Clement Howell and Louise Garland High Schools is expected to have further positive impact on the quality of education in the Turks and Caicos Islands, offering students access to modern facilities and resources for their academic growth.

The specific details of the project timeline and budget allocation was not immediately available as the government finalizes its plans for this ambitious educational infrastructure upgrade.



The dilapidated Comfort Suite building on the Clement Howell High School campus.

# TCI Government Priority Projects Open September 28

## 5 SECTORS



## 12 PROJECTS

- 1 South Dock Redevelopment
- 2 Domestic Fibre-Optic Link
- 3 Solid Waste Management
- 4 Comprehensive Housing Solutions Delivery
- 5 Strengthening The Agriculture Sector\*
- 6 National ID\*
- 7 Scanning of Land Registry Documents\*
- 10 Digital Transformation of the Department of Motor Vehicles\*
- 8 Management & Containment of Informal Settlements
- 9 Digital Borders\*
- 11 National Insurance Shared Services\*
- 12 Judiciary Integrated Infrastructure Programme

\*with e-services components

### Unveiling of 12 Transformative Priority Projects to Accelerate Inclusive Growth

Members of the public are invited to learn first-hand about the major transformational programmes being undertaken by the government during the Priority Projects Open Day to be held on 28 September from 1pm at the Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex. Visitors can look forward to viewing various informative display, engaging with the Priority Project leaders, implementers, and decision makers, and taking

part in other interactive activities.

The Priority Projects, selected by Cabinet, are being implemented within an identified period and are rigorously tracked to deliver meaningful results to the country and its people. Established in July 2022, the projects have been managed by the NDU (National Delivery Unit) under the Office of Premier and Public Policy and they are as follows:

PP1: South Dock Redevelopment  
PP2: Domestic Fibre Optic Link

PP3: Solid Waste Management  
PP4: Comprehensive Housing Solutions Delivery  
PP5: Strengthening the Agriculture Sector  
PP6: National ID  
PP7: Scanning of Land Registry Documents  
PP8: Management and Containment of Informal Settlements  
PP9: Digital Borders  
PP10: Digital Transformation of the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)  
PP11: National Insurance Shared Services  
PP12: Judiciary Integrated Infrastructure Programme

The approach towards planning the Priority Projects, aimed to bring significant socio-economic growth, is action-oriented and performance-focused with well-developed and specific deliverables for each Priority Project. Through this, the Government is committed to steady reforms and delivery efforts as it focuses on shaping the future of Turks and Caicos into a more sustainable economy and a thriving and innovative society.

The NDU (National Delivery Unit) was set up to assist the Government in implementing its priorities by doing "business unusual" to deliver results swiftly and within the budget. The team of consultants lead by Justin Ram (Dr) of JRAS, (Justin Ram Advisory Services) has played a pivotal role in advising the Government in the planning, implementation, and execution of these projects with a strong emphasis on capacity building of the local teams.

These projects, across five sectors, were identified as priority by the Cabinet and are meant to address that which will expand the economy, stimulate growth, and improve social conditions. With the aim of breaking down barriers and obstacles that hinder the progress affecting the people, the NDU will continue to work in support of Ministries, departments, and agencies to strengthen the ability and capabilities in implementing the key projects.

## PUBLIC CONSULTATION ON EIA REPORT FOR THE SOUTH DOCK PORT REDEVELOPMENT PROJECT PHASES 1 AND 2

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report – for the South Dock Port Redevelopment Project (Phase 1 and 2), Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands has been finalized and is available online for public review at: <https://gov.tc/planning/tcig-22-2020>

Hard copies of the EIA Report will also be available at the Department of Planning Offices in Providenciales and Grand Turk.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report was submitted in accordance with Section 44 (1) b of the Physical Planning Ordinance.

Comments on the EIA report can be sent to the Department of Planning at [planningconsultation@gov.tc](mailto:planningconsultation@gov.tc) or to the Department of Planning, Emily House, Leeward Highway, Providenciales, or at South Base, Grand Turk on or before October 02nd, 2023.

A Public Consultation on the EIA will be held

on Tuesday, October 03rd, 2023 at 5:00p.m. – 6:30p.m. at the Department of Planning, Emily House, Leeward Highway, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands. All interested persons are invited to attend to air their views, have their concerns addressed and their questions answered.

### PUBLIC NOTICE TWO

PUBLIC CONSULTATION - ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA) REPORT – FOR THE SEFAMM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT – PR16016, 60905/16 & 24, GRACE BAY, PROVIDENCIALES, TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report – for the SEFAMM Development Project – PR16016, 60905/16 & 24, Grace Bay, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands has been finalized and is available online for public review at: <https://gov.tc/planning/pr-16016>

Hard copies of the EIA Report are also available

at the Department of Planning Offices in Providenciales and Grand Turk.

The Environmental Impact Assessment Report was submitted in accordance with Section 44 (1) b of the Physical Planning Ordinance. Comments on the EIA report can be sent to the Department of Planning at [planningconsultation@gov.tc](mailto:planningconsultation@gov.tc) or to the Department of Planning, Emily House, Leeward Highway, Providenciales, or at South Base, Grand Turk on or before October 09th, 2023.

A Public Consultation on the EIA will be held on Tuesday, October 10th, 2023 at 5:00p.m. – 6:30p.m. at the Department of Planning, Emily House, Leeward Highway, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands. All interested persons are invited to attend to air their views, have their concerns addressed and their questions answered.

# Rubis Outfits Clement Howell High With \$20,000+ AutoCAD Lab



In a heartwarming display of corporate social responsibility, Rubis Turks and Caicos Limited has once again demonstrated its commitment to community support and educational development by inaugurating a state-of-the-art AutoCAD Lab at the Clement Howell High School. The Lab was officially open on Tuesday, September 19, and was witnessed by Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor, Speaker of the House of



Assembly Gordon Burton and Education Officer David Bowen.

The project, which comes after two years of fruitful collaboration between the energy com-

pany and the school, aims to empower students and bridge the skills gap in the country.

Principal Shanta Seymour of Clement Howell High School expressed her gratitude for Rubis'

involvement in the school's educational initiatives, stating that the company has translated its social responsibility concept into action.

"It is a great thing when the community becomes involved in education. It is a great thing when companies realize education is all of our business. And it is an even greater thing when they put this concept into action," Seymour said. The partnership between Rubis and the school began in 2020 as part of the "Rubis Care Campaign," which initially focused on providing relief to those hardest hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. Since then, the campaign has evolved to support community engagement initiatives, with a specific emphasis on children, the disabled, and loyal customers.

"It gives me pride when others recognize the value of the school," Seymour said.

Micah Knowles, Rubis Sales and Marketing Manager, highlighted the company's dedication to supporting the local community and educational development.

She detailed their ongoing involvement with the Clement Howell AutoCAD Programme, which includes providing printers, laptops, and sponsoring awards for the students. The total outfitting of the lab, according to Knowles, exceeded \$20,000, which she said underscores Rubis' unwavering commitment to the growth of local education institutions.

Damion Williams, Head of the AutoCAD Department at Clement Howell High, praised the school's unique offerings, stating, "I think we are the only school that provides AutoCAD... Electrical Technology, Building Technology, and so forth. We are the only one running that programme. And so, we have students gravitating towards us. And as such, now we see the numbers growing."

While overly grateful for the new AutoCAD lab, Williams appealed for an expansion of the classroom, pointing out that there were more than 40 students interested in AutoCAD at the school, but the lab can only accommodate about 30 at this time.

Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor commended Rubis for its dedication to the development of young people in the Turks and Caicos Islands, emphasizing that Rubis is not only in the region for profit but also to contribute to education and nation-building.

"Your efforts here today is indicative of your commitment and the interest that you have for the young people of these 'Beautiful By Nature' Turks and Caicos Islands," she said. "You were resilient in your effort that you deliver on this AutoCAD project."

Taylor highlighted the need for engineering and architectural skills in the country, as identified in a recent skills gap audit, and expressed her enthusiasm for the emphasis on AutoCAD education at Clement Howell High School.

She revealed that the AutoCAD programme would provide students with valuable skills and an easy transition path to the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College, where admission is free. She also mentioned the government's commitment to expanding technical and vocational education through the Technical and Vocational Education and Training Programme (TVET).

The inauguration of the Rubis-sponsored AutoCAD Lab has been seen as a significant step forward in advancing educational opportunities and filling critical skills gaps in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

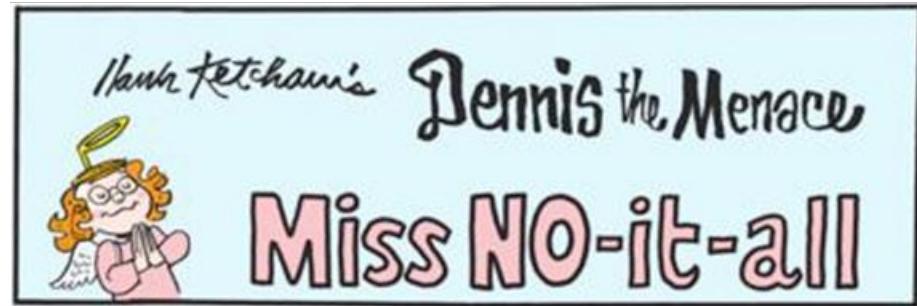
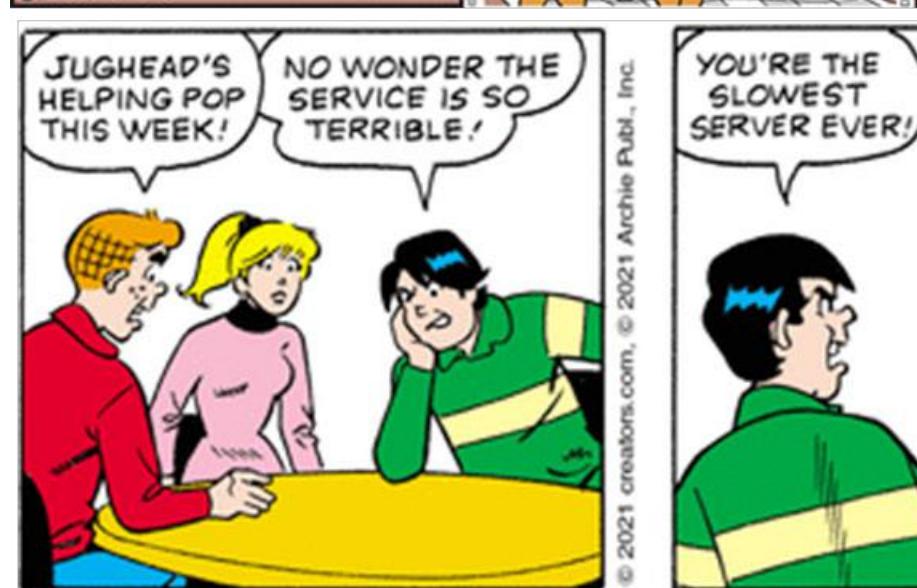
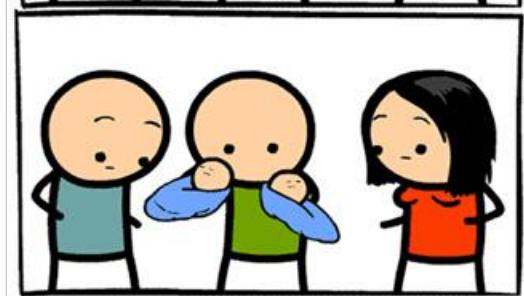
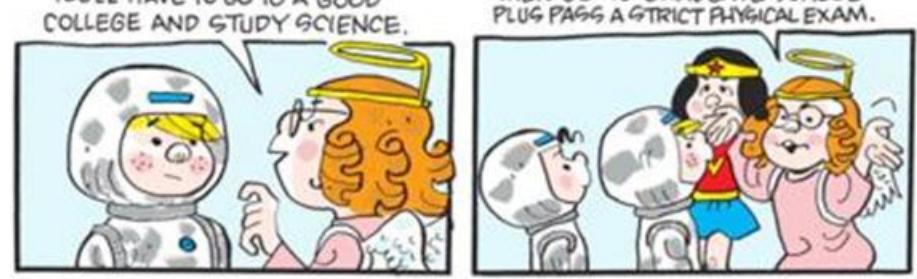
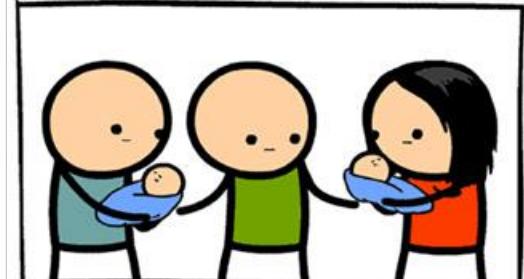
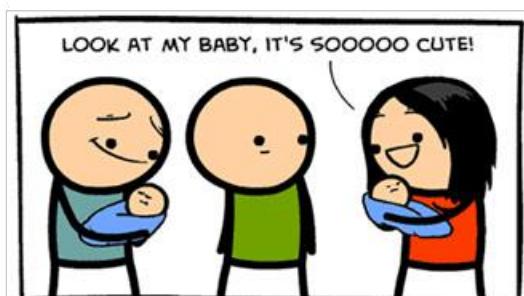

**NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup>  
COMICS**


Image: Adriana Rapolla | Flickr

**NEWSLINE**  
The Voice of the Turks & Caicos

# BROWN Pelican



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

# Abundant Life Ministries International Friends and Family Month

During September, Abundant Life Ministries International Church celebrates its 'Friends and Family Month'. The period is observed with church members venturing into the community to witness and invite members of the wider public to Sunday Service, to share in the fellowship experience which included an after-church buffet with a variety of foods and drinks. It is also a time when the church holds street meetings in the various communities. The Following are highlights from Sunday, September 17.





# Sales Leader Rhonda Francis Shares Passion About Her Growth With Beaches Resort



The third time seems to be the charm for Assistant Resort Sales Manager at Beaches Turks and Caicos (BTC), Rhonda Francis.

Born and bred in Grand Turk, Rhonda started her first employment stint with the BTC resort in 1996 as customer service representative, served as a wedding consultant in 2004 and then as junior sales executive in 2009.

Having experienced the different oppor-

tunities for growth with the resort, Rhonda chronicled her journey within the organisation like that of the butterfly with the different stages of development.

"My first two times working on resort saw me exploring the many passions that I have had over the years and finally when I came back in 2009, I knew then that this was my niche. The opportunity to build a career here at BTC is never boring. There are always new experiences to

benefit from," Francis shared. The Clement Howell High School graduate has never been shy in her different leadership roles.

Said Francis "Throughout my career, I have always wanted to lead and learn and this is something that Beaches continues to provide for me. There are many courses that I have had the privilege of completing that have helped in my personal and professional development. With every course offered through the Sandals Corporate University (SCU), I choose to be engaged and challenge myself for growth."

Junior Sales Executive Nadine Jacinte, when asked about the leadership qualities of Rhonda shared, "as a leader, Rhonda has been more of a mentor to me than that of a manager. She is patient with the members of the sales team and is always willing to guide us on what is expected within the industry."

Rhonda was quick to point out that in order to be successful in the hospitality industry, leaders must be able to adapt and adjust.

Said Francis, "leadership is challenging. Although life in leadership roles can be lonely and difficult, know that the more impact leaders have on their team, the more successful each team will become, especially within this industry."

Hotel Manager, Ghislain Boutelle, noted that for him, Rhonda's greatest strength is her interpersonal communication style. "She is able to creatively influence clients with her charisma. She knows her skillset and guides colleagues on what is needed to produce a flawless event to the satisfaction of her guests. She is a creative visionary who is able to share with others, concepts and ideas that are exceptional."

Having worked in the sales department for almost 10 years, Rhonda's greatest wish is for continued growth and development of leaders within the industry, "with the mentorship programme that we have in this organisation, the opportunity for younger professionals to grow more in the Management Training Programme (MTP) should be on a larger scale. We have many young persons who have displayed the willingness to be groomed for leadership at the resort and corporate levels. With the expansion of the MTP here at BTC, we will be seeing the increased number of leaders within this resort."

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, Providenciale  
Tel:941-4349

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



# At Home Beauty Tips

Everyone wants inexpensive, non-invasive, toxin-free skincare ingredients. These do-it-yourself tips will save you time and money. However, the best part is that you are using the healing powers of nature to support your body's innate healing capacities to look naturally beautiful!

## HOMEMADE FACE MASK

There are tons of at-home face-masks that can do your skin good. Avocados help moisturize the skin and reduce inflammation. Here's one of my favourites.

### HOW TO MAKE:

Mix one avocado, some plain yogurt and one teaspoon of lemon juice. Apply liberally to face, leave on for 15-20 minutes, then rinse with warm water. Do this twice a week to have soft, supple skin.



## Honey. Everything.

Honey has tremendous beauty benefits. But today, we're focusing on scarring. Honey helps your body's healing process, which may help fade scars. Use honey as a spot treatment, applying it every day or every other day as a paste at the site of your scarring.

Honey may not be good for scarring caused by burns and deep cuts.



## Coconut Oil as Shaving Cream



Use coconut oil on your legs as a natural replacement for your shaving cream. Slather on a small amount of **coconut oil**. Use a sharp razor to get a close **shave**. The **oil** will moisturize your skin, helping the razor to glide over your legs and avoid razor burn.

## Cold Spoons

Place 2 metal spoons in the freezer at night. In the morning, place the backs of the cold spoons under your eyes and as close to the inner corners as possible. Apply a little bit of pressure and slowly glide the spoons toward the outer corners. The gliding movement will help drain the fluid that's pooling underneath your eye, while the cold spoon will help minimize any puffiness.



# ODPP Hosts Anti-Money Laundering Seminar Series



Mr Eugene Otuonye, KC, Director of Public Prosecutions brought opening remarks at the training seminar.



Organiser of the AML Seminar Series, Dr Angela Brooks, Deputy Director of the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.



Honourable Rhondalee Knowles, OBE, KC, Attorney General brought remarks at the training seminar.

The Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, in collaboration with the Attorney Generals Chambers and the Financial Crimes Unit, has hosted its second Anti-Money Laundering seminar series on 5th and 6th September 2023, at the Ethel Ingham Training Center.

As a member and a former Chair of the Caribbean Financial Action Task Force, the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands continues to ensure that all actions are taken against Money Laundering, Terrorist Financing and the Financing of Proliferation of Weapons of Mass

Destruction.

This collaborative effort demonstrates the active steps taken by the Turks and Caicos Islands Government to provide capacity building to the relevant law enforcement agencies and to continually enhance the systems in place to combat the scourge of money laundering.

In addition to the facilitators, participants present were members of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force, Integrity Commission and Ministry of Immigration and Border Services.

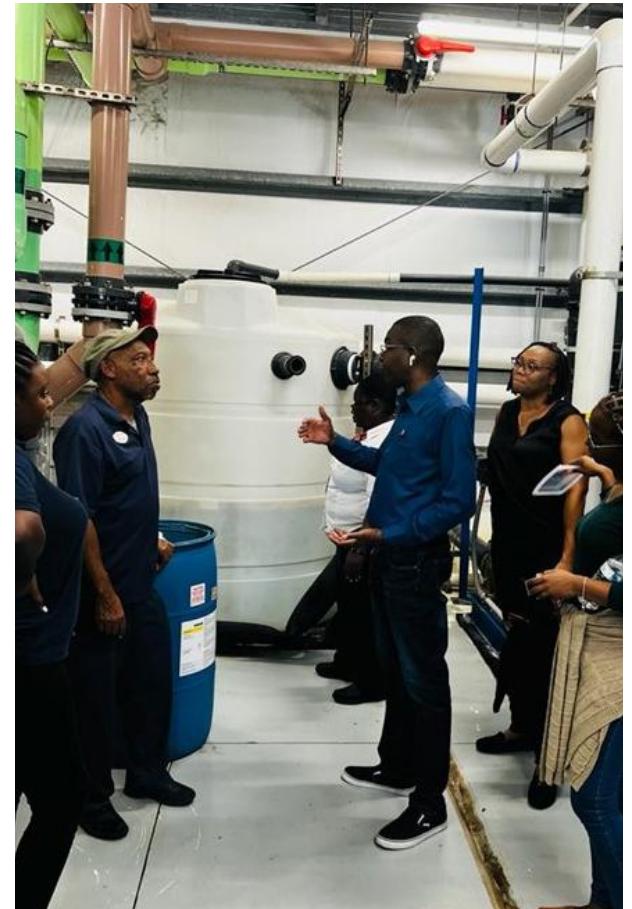
The training was very interactive and practical and covered several key areas, including:

- TCI Anti-Money Laundering Framework
- The Fundamentals of Money Laundering
- Cash Seizure and Detention
- Forfeiture
- Confiscation
- Civil Recovery

The Honourable Attorney General, Rhondalee Braithwaite-Knowles, OBE, KC and the Director of Public Prosecutions, Mr Eugene Otuonye, KC, brought opening remarks.

Presentations were made by the Deputy Attorney General, Khalila Astwood and Principal Crown Counsel, Mrs. Shayone Gardiner, from the Attorney General Chambers, members from the ODPP, Deputy Director of Public Prosecutions, Dr. Angela Brooks, Principal Public Prosecutor, Clement Joseph and Senior Public Prosecutor(ag) Enjaleek Dickenson. Inspector Paulin Nemours of the Financial Crime Unit also presented.

# Environmental Health Officers participate in Legionella Training



The Environmental Health Department is proud to announce that officers of the department along with staff from Beaches Resort and Spa have successfully completed a comprehensive one-week (11th-15th September 2023) Legionella Training Course hosted by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO). This training represents a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to public health and safety in our communities.

Legionella bacteria, responsible for Legionnaires' disease, poses a serious health risk when

present in water systems. To address this concern effectively, EHD has invested in training for our officers. The one-week course provided in-depth knowledge and practical skills to manage and prevent Legionella outbreaks, thereby contributing to the further enhancement of our department's capabilities.

The training covered a range of topics, including:

- Legionella Disease Overview: Understanding the causes, symptoms, and transmission of Legionnaires' disease.

- Water System Assessment: Identifying potential sources of Legionella contamination in public and private water systems.

- Risk Assessment: Evaluating and prioritising potential Legionella hazards in our community.

- Control Measures: Implementing preventive measures and remediation strategies to minimize the risk of Legionella growth and exposure to the bacteria.

Regulatory Compliance: Ensuring adherence to local and national regulations related to Legionella management.

The Environmental Health Department extends its gratitude to PAHO, Dr. Eldonna Boisson, PAHO/WHO Representative for The Bahamas and Turks and Caicos Islands and facilitators, Leonard Smith and Michael Williams for the exceptional training program and sharing their expertise in the field of Legionella disease prevention. Commenting on the training, Honourable Shaun D. Malcolm, Minister of Health and Human Services stated, "As stewards of public health, our Environmental Health Officers play a crucial role in safeguarding our community from environmental hazards. This Legionella disease training course equips our team with the expertise needed to effectively address emerging public health concerns. This training is timely and I would like to acknowledge the support of our key stakeholder, the Pan American Health Organisation, in facilitating this important initiative."

Our Environmental Health Officers have emerged from this training with the skills and knowledge necessary to proactively address Legionella concerns in the Turks and Caicos Islands. By expanding our expertise in Legionella disease prevention, we aim to reduce the risk of outbreaks and better protect the health and well-being of our residents and visitors.

# North American family shares love for Beaches Turks and Caicos



Mark Zagurski and family at the BTC

Celebrating their tenth family visit to a resort that they have come to call home Nebraska natives, Mark and Stacie Zagurski along with daughter Alyssa and son Kyson were happy to be back at Beaches Turks and Caicos (BTC).

Having spent more than 150 nights at various Beaches and Sandals Resorts, the couple, who started their relationship with the resort chain in 2005 on the recommendation of friends they met at the Sandals South Coast in Jamaica have unofficially adopted the BTC as their home away from home.

Always on the receiving end of exceptional services, the Zagurski's have singled out the dynamic vacation amenities, the highly trained staff and the culinary experiences of the resort as being the reasons for them consistently returning.

"Beaches Turks and Caicos is the most unique place to enjoy your vacation. Whether you are seeking to enjoy the beach, the turquoise water, the water park or you want to relax and enjoy the many tasty culinary delights, this resort provides all these options. The staff here are simply amazing as they greet you by name and have you feeling like family. There are not shy on teaching you the local culture and the country's historical facts," shared Stacie Zagurski.

Mark was keen to also mention how much his family appreciate the warmth of each team

member's personality.

"Each day we set out to learn the names of new staff we meet and connect with the ones we have been interacting with over the years as we always see them as family. These people are just incredibly polite and warm in their interaction. They make you feel as if you are their only guests each time," Mark shared.

Guest Experience Manager at BTC, Patricia Smith weighed in on the joys of interacting with the couple.

"The Zagurski's are the most amiable people you could meet. They know a lot of the staff here by name and the teams from entertainment, food and beverage and the Kids Camp top the list for them. They've told us they look forward to sharing friends and family members the wonderful experiences they have had here at the BTC."

While sharing the many reasons for their stay being comfortable, the Zagurski's made mention of the smooth communication flow displayed by the resort's management team.

"They are an amazing family," said Richie James, assistant loyalty and travel manager. "Their dedication to the Sandals and Beaches brand is exceptional, and with each visit, they are more pleased with the service. They've already rebooked their next trip to Beaches Turks and Caicos."

## TCI Ports Authority wins PMAC NovaPort Cup 2023



The Ports Authority of the Turks and Caicos Islands is elated to announce that it has won the 2023 Novaport Cup as best performing member port of the Port Management Association of the Caribbean (PMAC).

The NovaPort Cup which was won at this PMAC 26th Annual General meeting of June 29-30th, arrived in the Turks and Caicos Islands on September 4th, 2023. Ports Authority Board Chairman, Mr. Tueton Williams accompanied by Permanent Secretary Althea Been, management and staff of the Ports Authority presented the award to Hon. Arlington Musgrove, Minister with responsibility for Ports and the Premier, Hon. Charles Washington Misick.

The Novaport Cup is awarded at the end of the PMAC Annual General Meeting to the member with the highest score based on a composite of

five key performance indicators:

- Total Cargo Volumes
- Total Revenue Generated per Revenue Ton
- Total Expenses per Revenue Ton
- Net profit per Revenue Ton
- Total Staff per Revenue Ton

Grand Port Maritime De La Guadeloupe and the Port Authority of Trinidad and Tobago placed second and third in the competition.

PAMC Executive Secretary, Glenn Roach on congratulating the Port Authority on winning the NovaPort Cup for 2023 stated, 'The fundamental principle of an award for most improved performance recognises PMAC member ports' efforts towards sustained improvement, irrespective of size and level of technology, equip-

ment, and infrastructure. Accordingly, the performance of these awardees best exemplifies commitment to continually strive for improved operational and financial efficiency.'

Ports Authority Board Chairman, Tueton Williams stated, ' This award is a testament to the unwavering resilience, dedication, and unmatched commitment demonstrated by the exceptional staff at the Port Authority. It also highlights the invaluable partnerships we've cultivated with our stakeholders. With the substantial government investment in our port system, we are poised on a trajectory that promises even greater achievements ahead.'

The Minister with responsibility for the TCI Ports Authority, Hon. Arlington Musgrove commended the Ports Authority for the NovaPort Cup win two times in the last three years saying, "This is a proud moment for the Ports Authority and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Winning this award is a testament to the vision and hard work of the Port Authority's Board and team. The Government continues to support the development and management of the ports throughout the country by investing millions of dollars in port redevelopment and the strengthening of our policies and operations. We are delighted to be recognised once again as the best authority amongst our peers."

Director of Ports Delton Jones said 'The cup is dedicated to the staff of the Ports Authority, and should motivate the staff further, with major investments in the ports system on the way.' The TCI's Port Authority previously won the NovaPort Cup in 2021.

# NEWSLINE<sup>®</sup> & Chill

## Family Word Scramble

VLEO	_____
AYIFLM	_____
RGINAHGET	_____
NPATSER	_____
HOEM	_____
LHDINRCE	_____
MSOEIRME	_____
URRUTGINN	_____
SSKEDNIN	_____
CRAE	_____

9. Kindness 10. Care  
5. Home 6. Children 7. Memories 8. Nuturing  
4. Giving 3. Caring 2. Learning 1. Doing

## Brain Teaser

Until I am measured, I am not known. Yet you miss me, when I have flown. What am I?

www.answerm

## 15 Most Common Last Names In TCI

Williams  
Forbes  
Smith  
Gardiner  
Missick  
Hall  
Rigby  
Lightbourne  
Robinson  
Handfield  
Been  
Stubbs  
Harvey  
Simmons  
Ewing

R	H	R	E	N	I	D	R	A	G	L
O	K	A	S	B	B	U	T	S	I	Y
B	C	S	N	E	W	I	N	G	K	W
I	I	E	H	D	Q	W	H	E	I	N
N	S	B	A	B	F	T	S	L	E	P
S	S	R	L	S	B	I	L	G	Y	B
O	I	O	L	O	M	I	E	E	D	R
N	M	F	U	M	A	I	V	L	I	M
N	M	R	O	M	W	R	T	G	D	Q
J	N	N	S	Y	A	Q	B	H	K	G
E	S	L	Z	H	B	Y	Y	Z	V	Q

## Medicine Show

### ACROSS

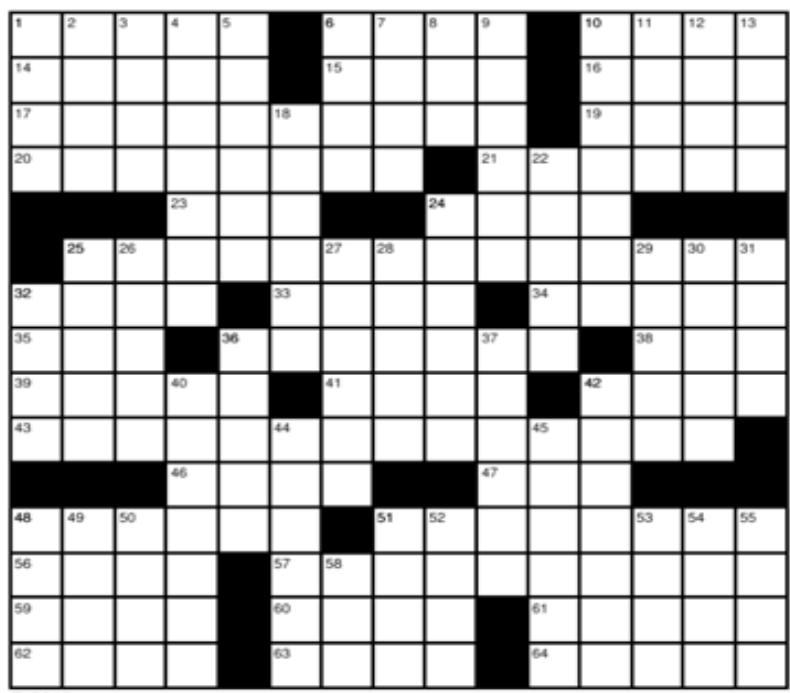
1. Dutch cheese city  
 6. Frog's kin  
**10.** Word with horse or meat  
**14.** "It's all \_\_\_\_\_!"  
**15.** Reflection in a cathedral?  
**16.** Bio-pic subject *Brockovich*  
**17.** Headgear for Jackie Kennedy  
**19.** Like Death's horse  
**20.** Caulker's supplies  
**21.** Facilitate  
**23.** Alternative to cable broadcast: abbr.  
**24.** Peaceful poem  
**25.** Very concise description  
**32.** Layers of lettuce  
**33.** One third of a Pearl Harbor film title  
**34.** Simon, Randy, Kara, and Ellen, e.g.  
**35.** Praiseful poem  
**36.** Like Captain Jack Sparrow  
**38.** Verizon forerunner  
**39.** Spicy dance or dip  
**41.** Semi-precious Australian export  
**42.** Grab (onto)  
**43.** Top choice  
**46.** Not quite dix  
**47.** Pitcher's stat.  
**48.** Verizon competitor  
**51.** Feeling when you are 37 down  
**56.** Kind of sandwich or soda  
**57.** Tagger's supply  
**59.** Capitol Hill hire  
**60.** Common menu heading  
**61.** Muppet with a rubber duckie  
**62.** Rod's partner  
**63.** Regulars might run them  
**64.** Methods; abbr.

## DOWN

### 1. Passes between peaks

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

## Robert Stockton



© 2010

2. Mayberry man-child  
3. "The Producers" bombshell  
4. Spooned portions  
5. Chances to lower a 47 across  
6. Use a phone without speaking  
7. Folkie Phil  
8. "Gotcha!"  
9. End of many academic addresses  
10. "Carrie" director Brian  
11. Oman man, most likely  
12. Brooklet  
13. Patella's place  
18. Unattended  
22. Dryad, e.g.  
24. Book before Jeremiah  
25. Arboreal moth repellent  
26. Dancing Astaire  
27. Leave the World of Warcraft  
28. Blow up  
29. Non-Latino  
30. Cover anew  
31. Primordial matter, to physicists  
32. Anjou kin  
36. Nissin noodle  
37. Ready to retire  
40. Florida resort island  
42. Repository for 52 down  
44. Get-go  
45. "Blimey!"  
48. "Lion King" villain  
49. Ballerina's bend  
50. Kind of awakening  
51. Smidgen  
52. See 42 down  
53. One for Otto  
54. Tizzy  
55. Jeanne d'Arc, et al.  
58. T-Mobile G1, for one

is created using CrossFire (<http://beekeeperlabs.com/crossfire>)

# JOKE of the WEEK

Whenever your ex says, "You'll never find someone like me." the answer to that is. "That's the point."

# **SUDOKU**



# Your overall health is your wealth



YOUR HEALTH is your greatest wealth and asset. Your healthy body gives you the strength and energy that help you to achieve better results in every aspect of your life. Being able to sleep at night, walk without pain, eat and enjoy food is the main meaning of happiness.

Your overall health and well-being, emotional, mental, spiritual as well as physical, should always be your number one priority. Without it, nothing else matters.

Dr Danovan Whyte, well-known medical practitioner and natural health consultant/therapist, said health is not just about being well, and living healthy, it is also about your financial health, as well as your state of mind, where you live, and many other facets of life.

"Health encompasses every aspect of our lives, so that is the approach that we are to take. We need to get people involved in taking care of themselves and to become more expressive of who they are and what they are," Dr Whyte said. Without knowledge he said, people commit themselves to negative practices, much to their detriment in the long run. "We call it self-inflicting nonsense; these are things that we do to ourselves without understanding the gravity of what we are doing or saying," Dr Whyte said.

These negative actions, he said, also involve the thoughts that we entertain. "If your thoughts are negative then your actions will be negative. Our thoughts should be in harmony with who we would like to become. Once we understand who we are, we have surpassed all knowledge,

we know who God is and no one can fool us any more. The creator in your life is you," Dr Whyte said.

We are, he said, creating the very things that are in our minds; that of fear and doubt. We create fear and doubt, but we have to make adjustments and live life without fear. "Fear is the greatest toxin to humanity. Fear makes us acidic; fear makes us toxic. So even if we are eating and living well and are healthy, fear can make us very ill," he said.

"If people understand and have the knowledge, they can change their pattern of life. Fear comes from getting a diagnosis, and out of that fear we attempt to get the treatment from the person that has given us the diagnosis. We do not stop to question the logistics of the treatments and their effectiveness," Dr Whyte said.

He recommends that in order to combat these diseases and infection, we must have a diet that does not support the growth of infections.

The health benefits of reducing your meat consumption are significant. Eating less meat has been found to decrease the chances of developing certain cancers, heart disease, stroke, diabetes, kidney disease, liver disease or lung disease.

The World Health Organization has even classified processed meats, like sausage, bacon, and ham, as carcinogenic; having the potential to cause cancer to humans.

These cheaply produced, poor-welfare animal products also increase the risk of food-borne

diseases and contribute to antimicrobial resistance.

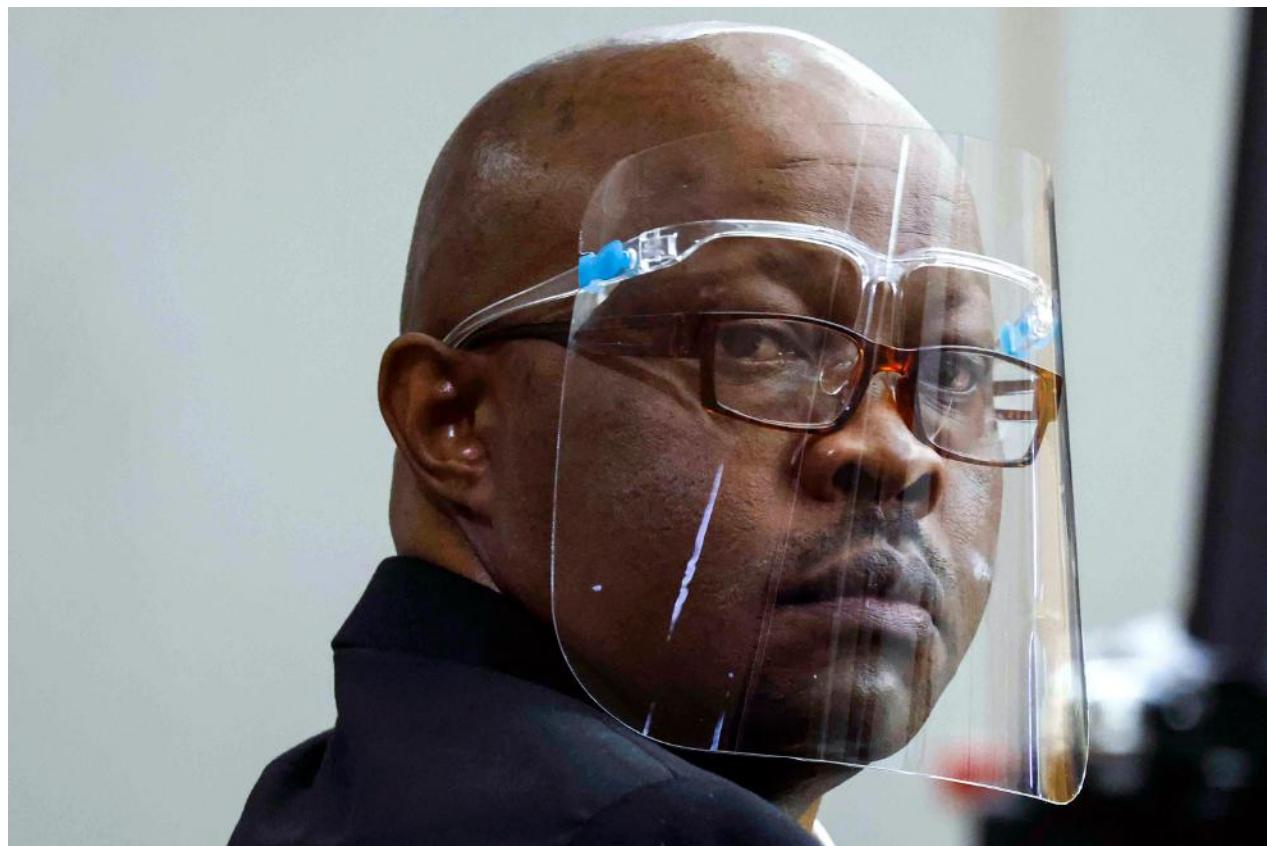
Processed wheat and grains, he said, are easily accessible, and very cheap, and very tasty, which makes them extremely dangerous because they are in almost everything. These are our pastas, bagels, breads, cookies, crackers, you name it, it is these foods that are having disastrous effects on the health of our overall society, and a huge culprit behind the increase in obesity and chronic diseases and food allergies/sensitivities. "A well-balanced diet provides all of the energy you need to keep active throughout the day, and provides nutrients you need for growth and repair, helping you to stay strong and healthy and help to prevent diet-related illness, such as some cancers.

Keeping active and eating a healthy balanced diet can also help you to maintain a healthy weight," Dr Whyte said.

An increasing number of people are now shifting to natural foods, which are shown to have multiple health benefits. Fruits and vegetables are rich in essential vitamins, minerals, and fibre, which play a vital role in keeping your health and fitness levels and protecting you from chronic diseases.

People who eat generous amounts of natural foods as part of a healthful diet are at the least risk of chronic diseases, such as diabetes, cardiovascular diseases, stroke, and cancer. In fact, today, your health primarily depends on the life-style choices you make.

# Man accused in deaths of 22 elderly women killed in prison



A man accused of killing nearly two dozen older women and who was convicted last year in the slayings of two was killed Tuesday morning by his cellmate at a Texas prison, an official said. Billy Chemirmir, 50, was found dead in his cell, said Texas Department of Criminal Justice

spokesperson Hannah Haney. She said that Chemirmir's cellmate, who is serving a sentence for murder, was identified as the assailant, but said she couldn't release the cellmate's identity or how Chemirmir was killed.

Family members of the victims who gathered at

a news conference expressed shock and relief at the news.

"My mother died in fear. This man did not have a peaceful passing. There's some relief in feeling that he didn't get off easily," said Shannon Dion, whose 92-year-old mother, Doris Gleason, was among those Chemirmir was charged with killing.

The authorities said Chemirmir preyed on older women in the Dallas area over a two-year span, killing them and stealing their valuables. Time after time, their deaths were initially determined to be from natural causes, even as family members raised alarm about missing jewellery. Chemirmir was caught after a 91-year-old woman survived a 2018 attack and told police a man had forced his way into her apartment at an independent living community for seniors, tried to smother her with a pillow and took her jewellery.

Police said they found Chemirmir the following day in the parking lot of his apartment complex holding jewellery and cash, having just thrown away a large red jewellery box. Documents in the jewellery box led them to the home of Lu Thi Harris, 81, who was found dead in her bedroom.

After Chemirmir's arrest, police across the area re-examined deaths, and the charges against him grew. Many of the victims' children have said they were left perplexed by the deaths at the time, as their mothers, though older, were still healthy and active.

## Biden's Democratic allies intensify pressure for asylum-seekers to get work permits



As more than 100,000 migrants arrived in New York City over the past year after crossing the border from Mexico, Mayor Eric Adams and Governor Kathy Hochul have begged President Joe Biden for one thing, above all others, to ease the crisis.

"Let them work," both Democrats have said repeatedly in speeches and interviews.

Increasingly impatient leaders of Biden's party in oth-

er cities and states have hammered the same message over the last month, saying the administration must make it easier for migrants to get work authorisation quickly, which would allow them to pay for food and housing.

But expediting work permits isn't so easy, either legally or bureaucratically, experts in the process say.

Politically, it may be impossible. It would take an act of Congress to shorten a mandatory, six-month waiting period before asylum-seekers can apply for work permits. Some Democratic leaders say the Biden administration could take steps that wouldn't require congressional approval. But neither action seems likely.

Biden already faces attacks from Republicans who say he is too soft on immigration, and his administration has pointed to Congress' inability to reach agreement on comprehensive changes to the US immigration system as justification for other steps it has taken.

The Homeland Security Department has sent more than one million text messages urging those eligible to apply for work permits, but it has shown no inclination to speed the process. A backlog of applications means the wait for a work permit is almost always longer than six months.

As frustrations have mounted, Hochul has said her office is considering whether the state could offer work permits, though such a move would almost certainly draw legal challenges. The White House has dismissed the idea.

Immigrants are frustrated as well. Gilberto Pozo Ortiz, a 45-year-old from Cuba, has been living, at taxpayer expense, in a hotel in upstate New York for the last three months. He says his work authorisation is not yet in sight as social workers navigate him through a complex asylum application system.

"I want to depend on no one," Ortiz said. "I want to work."

# Venezuela mounts protest against Guyana's oil auction



The Venezuelan Government has mounted a protest against Guyana's recently concluded oil blocks auction. In a statement issued by its Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the administration said, "The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela strongly rejects the illegal bidding round for oil blocks currently being carried out by the Government of the Cooperative Republic of Guyana since it intends to have maritime areas pending delimitation between both countries."

It further noted that the Government of Guyana does not have sovereign rights over these maritime areas and consequently any action within their limits is a violation of international law, as long as they are not carried out through an agreement with Venezuela.

The missive added, "The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela reiterates that any illicit and arbitrary concession that Guyana grants, has granted or intends to grant in the areas in question is unacceptable and violates its sovereign rights, and warns that these actions do not generate any type of rights for third parties to participate in this pro-

cess."

Guyana's Head of State, Dr. Irfaan Ali categorically stated however that his administration is entitled to pursue economic development within the nation's maritime borders. The President said, "The Government of Guyana reserves the right to pursue economic development activities in any portion of its sovereign or any appurtenant maritime territories. Any unilateral attempt by Venezuela to restrict the exercise by Guyana of its sovereignty and sovereign rights will be wholly inconsistent with the Geneva Agreement and the rule of international law."

Guyana and Venezuela are currently before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) to address the latter's spurious claims over the former's sovereign territory. Such aspersions were raised by Venezuela after an ExxonMobil-led consortium marked its first discovery in the Stabroek Block, following which it blazed a trail of over 33 significant discoveries.

The exploration success has not only catapulted Guyana to international stardom in the oil and gas arena but was

responsible for generating significant interest in the country's first oil blocks auction that featured 11 shallow water blocks and three deepwater concessions.

Vice President, Bharrat Jagdeo and chief policymaker for Guyana's oil sector said last week that eight of the 14 blocks received bids from six groups of companies.

The companies that submitted bids include: Total Energies EP Guyana B.V, Qatar Energy International E&P LLC, & Petronas E&P Overseas Ventures SDN BHD (Malaysia); Delcorp Inc – Guyana, Watad Energy, Arabian Drillers (Saudi Arabia); Exxon Mobil Guyana Limited, HESS New Ventures Exploration Limited, and CNOOC Petroleum Guyana Limited; Liberty Petroleum Corporation (USA) and Cybele Energy Limited (Ghana); Sispro Inc. (Guyana); and lastly International Group Investment Inc. (Guyana), in joint venture with Montego Energy SA (London). The Vice President did not state which companies made bids for certain blocks. Be that as it may, the official said, "We are very pleased with the offers that we had from the bid round (which closed September 12, 2023). The blocks that we did not receive bids for are D3, S1, S2, S6, S9, and S11. So that means some of the blocks are very competitive. A number of people are questioning whether this was a successful bid round or not but we are pleased with how the round has gone."

He said the government is satisfied with the outcome, especially since the auction was held after the modernization of the legislative and regulatory framework. The chief policy maker for Guyana's oil sector was pleased with the fact that authorities kept its promise to not conclude the bid round without new model Production Sharing Agreements (PSAs) in place to govern deepwater and shallow water blocks. He also lauded the passage of the Petroleum Activities Law.

Along with having a more robust regime in place, Jagdeo said one needs to appreciate the global context within which the new system was implemented. He noted in this regard that there is a push for oil companies and the world over to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels. As a result, oil companies he said are finding it more challenging to raise financing for petroleum related activities.

With those factors considered, Jagdeo said the interest for eight of the 14 blocks on offer was commendable. He said the next stage is for authorities to review the bids received, following which, more details would be released. Jagdeo also anticipates that awards will be made before the year's end.

# Girl falls into uncovered water tank, dies

Residents looking at an open concrete tank in which the child is suspected to have drowned on Tuesday.



Residents of Comfort district, a few miles south of Mandeville, were left in shock and disbelief after a little girl, said to be about seven years old, is suspected to have drowned in an open concrete tank on Tuesday.

The child was identified only as Kimmy, a grade-one student at a nearby school.

Residents told the Jamaica Observer that about midday the child was attempting to retrieve a

slipper from the tank when she lost her balance and fell in.

They said firefighters who responded to their calls later removed the child's body from the tank.

One resident, who identified himself as Val, pointed to the danger in having open concrete tanks

"As a father, I feel it to know that a child lost her life like this. We need to take some steps to deal with safety because even adults can make a wrong step and fall in it. I don't even know the little girl, but I feel it, like my own child, it is just sad," he said.

"From now on we have to take things more seriously. This tank, it has to be covered now, whether [water in] it is used for feeding animals or plants," he added.

Another resident who asked not to be named said she knew the child well.

"She is just seven. She just graduated from basic school and started grade one," the woman said.

"She [mother] is always around her four chil-

dren no matter if it is day or night. She just got a job and had to leave the children in the care of somebody else," one resident said.

"If me did know seh she wanted somebody to keep the children, I would have done so," added the resident.

Residents claimed the children were left by their mother in the care of her spouse. But it was unclear if the little girl and her siblings were being supervised in the moments leading up to the suspected drowning.

Workers from the Child Protection and Family Services Agency visited the community on Tuesday following the incident.

On September 18, 2020 there was the suspected drowning of Nardesha Smith, 19, a pregnant woman in the neighbouring community of Settlement.

Smith, who was visiting her boyfriend in the community, fell into an open concrete water tank while seeking cover in bushes during an attack by gunmen. Aljay Green, 20, was killed by gunmen in the attack.

# School sports Season Officially Opens



After an active summer of events, Turks and Caicos Islands School Sports (TCIIS) season 2023/24 will open with TCIIS Football for Boys and Girls on September 30, 2023.

The opening ceremony of TCIIS Football will take place at the TCI Football Association on Venetian Road, Providenciales and we will commute to the National Stadium for the games. Games will take place weekly on Fridays and Saturdays. After making their debut last year, TCIIS Girls Football will run concurrently with Boys Football on a split pitch from September through October. The championship games are slated for October 28, 2023.

Last year's Girls' football champions were the Marjorie Basden High School after defeating the British West Indies Collegiate 2-1. The Boys' champions were the Clement Howell High School who beat out the Elite High School who forfeited the game 1-0. All current students, fans and alumni are encouraged to watch the games weekly each Friday and Saturday, with tickets for Adults \$5 and Children \$3.

TCIIS Boys Basketball quickly picks up after the Football season ends, spanning from early November 2023 to January 2024. Home and away games are one the highlights of this event, affording all teams a chance at a 'home-court' advantage throughout the season. As is tradition in TCIIS, schools will be randomly selected and placed into pools to compete. Ultimately the strongest teams will meet at the championships. The reigning champions are the Clement

Howell High School who defeated the A. Louise Garland Thomas High School 92-56 for the gold. In a double-team affair, TCIIS Girls Softball will launch a few weeks post Boys Basketball's commencement, for a season which lasts from November 2023 - January 2024. This means softball and basketball seasons will run concurrently like last year, and tickets will allow entry to both games. The reigning champions are the HJ Robinson High School who won the championships 14-6 in their hometown Grand Turk against the Wesley Methodist High School. The championships will return to the nation's capital next year, in honour of last year's champions.

Ending the TCIIS season will be the Track and Field events also known as Athletics. The Athletics opener will be the Track and Field Development meets. Historically this has been segmented into two meets: Sprints and Throws, Distance and Jumps.

Following will be the TCIIS Inter-High Track and Field Championships also known as Nationals

in March 2024 then the TCIIS Inter-Primary Track and Field Championships also in March. Last year's champions of Inter-High was the A. Louise Garland Thomas High School and for Inter-Primary the Ona Glinton Primary School. After being implemented last season, TCIIS Track and Field champions are determined by a medal count with gold holding the most weight.

## TCIIS 2023/24 Sport Schedule

TCIIS Inter-High School Football Boys, TCIIS Inter-High School Football Girls - September 30, 2023- October 28, 2023 (Providenciales)

TCIIS Inter-High School Basketball - November 2023- January 2024 (All-Island)

TCIIS Inter-High School Softball - November 2023- January 2023 (Season Games- Providenciales. Semi-finals & Championships - Grand Turk)

Track and Field Development Meets- February 2024

TCIIS Inter-High School Track and Field- February- March 2024 (Providenciales)

TCIIS Inter-Primary School Track and Field - March 2023 (Providenciales)

The full TCIIS event schedule and further updates will be found on the TCI Sports Commission's website [www.gov.tc/sports/](http://www.gov.tc/sports/).

For the latest news on the TCIIS, fans can follow on Instagram (@tcisportscommission) and Facebook (Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission). To share your experience with TCIIS on social, use the hashtags #TCIIS and #morethanjustsports.

# TCI Sports Commission Summer Camps 2023 closes with outstanding results



Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, September 14, 2023- Following a successful year of sports competitions, the TCI Sports Commission executed a prosperous summer of camps.

Nine sports camps were hosted, amassing over 222 campers, and touching four islands across the country. In addition, the Commission financially supported the TCI Basketball Federation's Elite Basketball Camp which was facilitated by NBA-certified coaches TJ Bannister and Ronald Taylor from the United States. Among the camps completed were:

North Caicos Cricket  
North Caicos Basketball  
North Caicos Softball  
North Caicos Sports Performance  
South Caicos Sports Performance  
Grand Turk Sports Performance  
Providenciales Elite Basketball  
Providenciales Sports Performance  
Providenciales Track and Field  
Providenciales Drillz & Skillz Basketball  
The various students ranged in age from 12 to 18, all having an opportunity to play and train at their varying skill levels. The sports camps were successful, due to superseded expecta-

tions through high participation numbers and increased buy-in by budding athletes to continue training towards the Turks and Caicos Islands School Sports (TCISS) 2023/24 season. In addition to the sports camps, the commission facilitated the Project IDEA Media Club, offering practical learning opportunities and nurturing early careers in sports media. Students were afforded a three-month opportunity, to utilise their learned presenting, photography, videography and cinematography skills at events. Returning in November 2023, Project IDEA will reopen applications to students and graduates 14-21 years old.

# School Sports Season Officially Begins

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