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**VOLUME 7 ISSUE 12**

**Mar. 21, 2025 - Mar. 28, 2025**



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**POWER OUTAGE A  
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# PNP'S SHOCK, PDM'S DELIGHT

- **Supreme Court Rules PDM's Petition of Mechanical Hiccups with Voting Machines should Proceed**
- **Fresh Elections Could be in the Making**
- **Knocks Down PDM's Claim of Bribery and Corruption During Election**

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# Education Ministry Reviews School Safety Measures After North Caicos Near-Drowning



Education Minister  
Hon. Rachel Taylor

The Ministry of Education says it is reviewing security measures, which it says was triggered by an incident at a primary school North Caicos; residents tell NewslineTCI that it involves its a near-drowning of a primary school student during school hours. “Somebody’s child left the school compound and went to the sea and almost drown,” the individual stated. Newsline-

TCI was given the name of the school, but we decided not to publish the institution, to protect the child. The Department of Education reaffirms its unwavering commitment to the safety, security, and well-being of every student across the Turks and Caicos Islands. In response to recent concerns regarding an incident at a primary school in North Caicos, we wish to as-

sure the public that a comprehensive review of school security measures is actively underway to further enhance student protection. Immediately upon receiving official notification of the incident, the Department took swift action, engaging directly with school administrators and all relevant stakeholders to assess the situation and reinforce established safety protocols. Student safety is our highest priority, and we are resolute in our efforts to strengthen preventative measures and response strategies across all schools. Minister of Education, Hon. Rachel Taylor underscored the government’s commitment to student welfare, stating: “The safety of our children is non-negotiable. We are working diligently with our schools, parents, and law enforcement agencies to ensure that every student in the Turks and Caicos Islands is protected in a secure learning environment. This incident reinforces the need for continuous vigilance, and we remain steadfast in implementing stronger safeguards to prevent future occurrences.” The ministry said it recognises and appreciates the concerns expressed by

members of the public and the wider community’s shared dedication to student welfare. “However, we urge all discussions surrounding this matter to remain respectful of the privacy and dignity of those involved, in accordance with ethical and legal considerations,” the release said. Moving forward, the Department said it will intensify collaboration with school personnel, parents, and key Government agencies to continuously evaluate and enhance safeguarding protocols in line with the school’s Critical Incident Management Plan. Schools have been reminded of their responsibility to uphold strict safety measures and adhere to the reporting procedures that are in place to prevent future incidents. In the meantime, the Department of Education said it remains steadfast in its mission to foster secure and nurturing educational environments for all students. We will continue to take decisive action to ensure that our schools uphold the highest standards of safety. Any updates regarding policy enhancements and security improvements will be communicated in due course.



THE STRAND  
TURKS & CAICOS

◆ Bookkeeper

Job Specification:

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

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- Assist with the annual budgeting process and ongoing forecasts.

Job Requirements:

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

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

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◆ Head of Finance & Accounting

Job Specification:

As a Head of Finance & Accounting, you will possess a strong foundation in auditing and accounting.

- Your main duties will include overseeing the accounting operations of The Strand Turks & Caicos.
- You will focus on financial reporting, budgeting, forecasting, compliance, and internal controls.
- You will also apply your auditing and accounting expertise to ensure financial integrity while supporting The Strand’s strategic goals.
- You will also oversee the IT and Purchasing departments, ensuring an efficient flow of both departments operations.
- Conduct in-depth financial analyses to support decision-making, including assessments of profitability, cost management, and investment opportunities

Job Requirements:

- Bachelor’s degree in Finance, Accounting, Business Administration, or a related field. A master’s degree or CPA or ACCA designation is highly preferred.
- 5-7 years of experience in financial management, auditing, and accounting, preferably in the hospitality industry
- Strong knowledge of accounting principles, financial regulations, and best practices in hotel finance.
- Proficiency in financial software and reporting tools (e.g., Microsoft Excel, accounting software).
- Excellent analytical, problem-solving, and critical-thinking skills.

Salary expectation - \$100,000 - \$130,000 per annum

◆ Assist. Financial Controller

Job Specification:

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

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

Job Requirements:

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

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

APPLY NOW!

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







# Power Outage a Threat to Sky Poultry Farm



Sky Poultry Farm workers prepare freshly arrived fertilized eggs for incubator

A recent power outage in Grace Bay has spotlighted a pressing vulnerability at Sky Poultry Farm, the island's first full-scale commercial egg production facility, operated by local agricultural entrepreneur Sean Penn. Penn, not to be confused with the Hollywood actor of the same

name, is leading an ambitious push toward food security in Turks and Caicos by creating a fully bio-secure, self-contained hatchery and egg-laying facility that could produce up to 21,000 eggs per day once fully operational. But all of it hinges on one thing: uninterrupted power and water.



Operator of Sky Poultry Farm, Sean Penn, wheels a trolley laden with fertilized eggs to the incubator to prepare for hatching

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"This operation lives and breathes with electricity and water," said Penn. "We run 24/7 monitoring. If the power is out for more than a few minutes, we're in trouble." Sky Poultry's incubation process is a tightly controlled 21-day cycle involving live, fertilized eggs. Temperatures hover around 99.8°F, oxygen is filtered in, and humidity is precisely managed. A failure in any part of that system can have devastating effects. During a previous test batch, Penn said he lost 168 chicks due to an extended power outage lasting between 8 to 10 hours. "That's thousands of dollars down the drain. We had no warning. That can't happen again," he stressed. Backup generators are in place, but not designed for prolonged outages. The facility also depends on city water, which has seen pressure drops without notice, compounding the challenge. Despite these obstacles, Penn's mission is gaining traction. The facility is currently in test production, with full commercial distribution of locally laid eggs expected to begin in October. A smaller test batch of eggs will be available in May. "This is about food security," Penn said. "Right now, imported eggs are reaching \$13 a dozen due to bird

flu outbreaks in North America. Our local eggs will come in around \$6 per dozen—fresh and free of disease." Sky Poultry's system is designed to keep disease out from the start. Eggs are flown in under strict timelines, hatched on-site in a bio-secure environment, and raised without medication or vaccines. "This is a closed-loop system," Penn explained. "No bird flu. No contamination. We're giving Turks and Caicos a clean, local source of eggs for the first time." Expansion plans are already underway, with another layer house in the works that could double production and generate new local jobs. But for the operation to succeed long-term, Penn says improved infrastructure and clear communication from utility providers are essential. "We've built for hurricane strength," he said. "But we still need a reliable grid and stable water. This is more than a farm—it's a food security movement for the islands." With ongoing support from the Ministry of Agriculture and upcoming site visits by officials, Sky Poultry Farm is poised to play a crucial role in shaping the region's agricultural future.



# Judge's Ruling Shocks PNP, Delights PDM

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief



Premier, Hon. Washington Misick



Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood

A ruling by Supreme Court Justice Chris Selochan has sent shockwaves through the political landscape, triggering a mixture of cautious celebration within the opposition People's Democratic Movement (PDM) and unexpected concern among members of the ruling Progressive National Party (PNP).

Justice Selochan ruled on Thursday that one of two motions filed by the PDM—specifically the claim concerning irregularities with voting machines during the February 7, 2025 general election—should proceed to trial. The PDM argues that these issues could have influenced the outcome of the election, and the judge acknowledged that the claim carried enough merit to warrant judicial scrutiny. However, Justice Selochan struck down the second motion, which alleged that bribery and acts of corruption occurred during the election period. The court found that the PDM's legal team had failed to present sufficient evidence to support these accusations, rendering the motion untenable.

The split ruling has ignited a renewed political debate over the integrity of the February elections and the possible implications of a trial. Some members of the PDM have hailed the court's decision as a partial victory, while urging restraint until the legal process plays out.

"This is a step in the right direction," a senior PDM member told Newsline on condition of anonymity. "But we're taking it one day at a time. If new elections are or-

dered, that changes everything—not just for the PDM, but for the entire country."

The source acknowledged that despite the excitement within PDM ranks, a return to the polls could carry significant risks. "The PNP may not bring the same fire they did in February—but if they do, the results could be even worse for us. We have to be strategic and realistic."

One area of particular concern for the PDM is Grand Turk South, currently held by Opposition Leader Hon. Edwin Astwood. The insider noted that the narrow margin of Astwood's victory demonstrates that the seat is very much in play. "If Edwin loses again, it could put his leadership of the opposition and his role in the party in serious jeopardy," the source said. "There's no guarantee he can hold onto that seat a second time."

The insider also pointed to the Bight constituency, which the PDM won by a razor-thin margin—just one vote. That result has drawn intense scrutiny from the PNP, which has signaled its intention to challenge the legitimacy of the outcome in court.

Within the PNP camp, the reaction to Justice Selochan's ruling has been one of surprise and unease. A senior PNP figure told NewslineTCI that the party's legal advisors were confident both motions would be dismissed.

"We thought it was an open-and-shut case," the PNP insider said. "When something goes to trial, even if you're 99% sure it'll go your way, there's still that 1%

chance it won't. The judge can always see things differently, and once they make a ruling, that's the law of the land."

The PNP insider emphasized that the case is now a very real concern for the party. "It's absolutely on our radar. The fact that it hasn't been shut down means we have to treat it as a live issue."

According to the source, if the court were to rule in favor of the PDM and mandate fresh elections, it could trigger a dramatic shift in the political dynamics of the country.

"Let's say we have to go back to the polls. What happens in places like South Caicos, where Tamell 'Jell-O' Seymour, who ran as an independent, beat our candidate John Malcolm? Does John run again on the PNP ticket? Or do we try to bring Jell-O into the fold? These are real questions we'd have to answer quickly."

The insider also questioned whether all candidates would maintain the same level of enthusiasm if elections were called again, suggesting that both campaigners and voters could experience burnout.

"There's a very real chance of voter fatigue. People might be less motivated, and candidates who were full of energy the first time might not have the same drive," the source said. "That could hurt us more than it hurts the PDM, because we've got more seats at risk."

The PNP insider revealed that just last week, internal meetings within the party reflected high confi-

dence that the court would dismiss the case entirely. However, the mood has since shifted to one of guarded preparedness.

"We were hoping it would be over. But if elections are called again, we believe we'll win. The PDM would have to overcome a huge deficit—and now they've got even more problems," the source added, referring to recent legal troubles involving one of the PDM's senior figures.

"Vaden Delroy Williams has been charged with corruption-related offenses since the election. Will he even contest again if new elections are announced? And if he does, would he have the support?"

The insider also expressed doubts about the return of former PDM candidate Bishop Bryant Cox. "I doubt he'd go back into it. A new election would shake everything up, and in many ways, that plays to our advantage."

Returning to Grand Turk South, the PNP source stated with confidence that the party is already laying the groundwork to challenge Hon. Astwood's hold on the seat.

"Now we know Grand Turk South is winnable. You better believe we're going to double down and go after that seat with everything we've got. Eddie may have survived once, but we're not going to make it easy for him the second time."

As the case proceeds to trial, both parties are bracing for what could be a pivotal moment in the political future of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



# Unite to build bright future for China/ Caribbean partnership



Chen Daojiang

Recently, the 48th Regular Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community (Caricom) was successfully held, with the theme of 'Strength in Unity: Forging Caribbean Resilience, Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Development'. I noticed that most of the government heads in attendance placed emphasis on the particular significance of strengthening regional unity and building partnerships in the current international political and economic turbulence.

In recent years, China and Caribbean countries have carried out extensive and pragmatic cooperation in trade, education and ecological protection. The outcomes have benefited the peoples of both sides, making it a paradigm of South-South cooperation. As an important member of the global south and a true friend and partner of the Caribbean, China has made outstanding contributions to enhancing the regional cooperation and development.

First, high-quality development of Belt and Road cooperation injects strong impetus into regional cooperation and development. China is the region's second-largest trading partner and the largest trading partner of many coun-

tries today. China has signed free trade agreements with five countries and engaged in high-quality Belt and Road cooperation with 22 countries in this region, including Jamaica. Based on mutual respect, equality and mutual benefit, pragmatic cooperation with China has been widely praised and trending in the region.

Engaging with China has become a strong common language for countries that pursue expanding friendly, cross-regional cooperation and promoting their own development. During the Caricom meeting quite a few government heads spoke in glowing terms of the high-quality development of Belt and Road cooperation with China, and are expected to further strengthen it. In the big family of the Belt and Road Initiative, Caribbean countries support each other and work together, further enhancing regional, social and economic development. Second, Chinese modernisation brings new opportunities for regional cooperation and development. At the Caricom meeting, many countries paid high attention to China's achievements in cutting edge technologies, such as artificial intelligence. It reflects a common demand among the region to narrow the digital

gap, achieve sustainable development, and effectively respond to global challenges, such as climate change, through deepening cooperation with China.

A Chinese idiom reads, "A single flower does not make spring, whereas 100 flowers in full blossom bring spring to the garden." China is striding forward in the process of promoting the great cause of national rejuvenation through Chinese modernisation. It always holds high the banner of peace, development, and win-win cooperation; pursues an opening-up strategy focusing on mutual benefit; and demonstrates its empowering characteristics everywhere.

Chinese modernisation is for shared development, common security and mutual learning. It will surely benefit more countries of the global south, including Jamaica and other regional countries, by sharing the yields of modernisation, providing more opportunities of coordinated development and empowering them to unite more closely and cope with common challenges, hand in hand.

Last but not least, the vision of building a community of a shared future for mankind provides Chinese wisdom for regional cooperation and development. At the Caricom meeting, many delegates emphasised that confrontation is against the interests of all countries and the demands of people all over the world. They explicitly opposed confrontation in the field of science and technology, and called for unity and cooperation. I totally agree with that.

At present, unilateralism and protectionism undermine the world order and economy. Facing the profound changes unseen in centuries, China has always stood firmly on the right side of history and the progress of human civilisation, and promoted the common value of humanity as well as the concept of building a community with a shared future for mankind. With the strong support and active participation of countries around the world, including the Caribbean partners, building a community with a shared future for mankind has become a broad international consensus and has been transformed into rich prac-

tices, providing a Chinese solution to the common problems mankind is facing.

China is willing to further strengthen exchanges of experience in state governance with Caribbean countries, actively share the fruitful practices and remarkable achievements of building a community with a shared future for mankind, and provide a vivid model with reference value for regional cooperation and development.

As an ancient Chinese poem says, "The mountains are as majestic and green as a gorgeous lotu." Whenever I stand on the Blue Mountain peak, I can't help but gasp with admiration at the unparalleled beauty of the Caribbean. The Chinese and Caribbean peoples have always been connected, and the deep affection across time and space is eternal and ever-growing.

"If there is no path ahead, I dare to blaze a trail." This is a line from China's latest animated blockbuster

Ne Zha 2. In a world of chaos, China will firmly remain a strong force for empowerment, and continue to adhere to the spirit of openness, inclusiveness, innovation and cooperation. Upholding joint work for this one and only planet, unity and cooperation, mutual benefit and win-win principle, China is also going to cooperate with a broad range of global south countries to jointly maintain peace and promote development, and perform the powerful melody of the new era even better.

— Chen Daojiang is the Chinese Ambassador to Jamaica.

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



# Pregnant Women Among Haitians Intercepted by Local Authorities



A file photo of a boat laden with Haitian Migrant intercepted by local authorities.

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Three pregnant women were among the 277 Haitian migrants intercepted at sea late Friday night as law enforcement authorities carried out a decisive maritime operation to curb illegal migration.

Shortly after 10:00 p.m. on March 14, 2025, the United States Air Support (USAS) Unit detected an unauthorized vessel approximately 15 miles south of Providenciales. The vessel, carrying 234 males and 43 females, including the expectant mothers and one minor, was swiftly reported to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RT&CIPF) Marine Branch.

Acting with urgency, the Marine Branch deployed two response vessels to intercept the craft. With a well-coordinated effort between the USAS and the Marine Branch, the vessel was successfully stopped, ensuring the safety of those on board.

To aid in the transport of the intercepted migrants, a Royal Bahamas Defence Force vessel conducting patrols under the Shiprider Agreement was diverted to assist. The individuals were taken to Providenciales, where they were handed over

to the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force with additional support from the TCI Regiment for processing and further action.

Authorities underscored the risks associated with such perilous journeys, particularly for vulnerable individuals such as pregnant women and minors. The RT&CIPF praised the swift response and coordination of the agencies involved, reaffirming their commitment to border security and public safety.

Officials issued a stern warning to those engaged in human smuggling operations, urging them to cease such illegal activities. They also cautioned against attempts to enter the Turks and Caicos Islands unlawfully, reiterating the stringent measures in place to prevent unauthorized entry.

The RT&CIPF is appealing to the public to report any information regarding illegal entry into the territory. Individuals can contact the nearest police station, dial 911, or reach the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842. Anonymous reports can also be made through Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477 or via the Crime Stoppers P3 app.



# EGYC Launches Groundbreaking Hospitality Soft Skills Training Programme for Youth

By Vivian Tyson, Editor-in-Chief



It's an investment in our young people, our industry, and the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



Caesarina Paul, Programme Development Manager.



Mark Garland, Director of Education



JENNINGS..."At Wymara, we believe in empowering the next generation."



A section of the audience at the event

The Edward Gartland Youth Centre (EGYC) officially launched its much-anticipated Hospitality Soft Skills Training Programme, a transformative initiative designed to equip young people with the critical soft skills needed to thrive in the Turks and Caicos Islands' tourism industry.

The event took place on Tuesday, March 18, 2025, at the Edward Gartland Youth Centre, Downtown Providenciales.

The programme targets youth between the ages of 16 and 25, providing them with the tools to succeed in the workplace and contribute meaningfully to one of the nation's most vital economic sectors.

"This is more than just a training programme," said Roxan Wake-Forbes, Executive Director of EGYC. "It's an investment in our young people, our industry, and the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands. We're empowering youth

with confidence, professionalism, and real-world readiness."

From the Classroom to the Career Path

The initiative, known as BOSS (Building Outstanding Soft Skills), spans eight weeks of in-class training, followed by a six to eight-week internship for successful participants. The curriculum includes modules such as:

- Customer Service Excellence
- Effective Communication
- Professionalism & Work Ethic
- Teamwork & Leadership
- Cultural Awareness & Guest Diversity
- Time Management & Conflict Resolution
- Career Development & Job Readiness

Participants will develop professional portfolios, engage in on-site learning, and benefit from mentorship by industry professionals.

The training is aligned with Caribbean Vocational Qualification (CVQ) standards.

The programme will be facilitated by Melanie Smith of Turks and Caicos Recruitment Group, with additional support from guest speakers and hospitality experts.

## High Demand and Diverse Representation

The pilot intake saw 55 applicants, from which 30 participants were selected — 24 young women and 6 young men — representing nine educational institutions, unemployed youth, and early-career individuals.

"The demand showed us just how essential this programme is," said Programme Development Manager Caesarina Paul. "It's clear that our young people are eager to learn, grow, and build futures in hospitality."

Participants include students and graduates from institutions such as Clement Howell High School, TCI Community College, Maranatha Academy, Wesley Methodist, and others.

## Powered by Partnerships

EGYC's soft skills training is made possible through the generous support of partners, particularly Wymara Resort and Villas, which has contributed \$100,000 annually over the past three years to youth development through EGYC.

"At Wymara, we believe in empowering the next generation," Elisha Jennings, Director of Owner Relations, Wymara Resort and Villas. "Soft skills like communi-

cation, adaptability, and professionalism are what elevate service—and we're proud to support a programme that instills those qualities."

Additional partners include Grace Bay Resorts, the Hartling Group, and the Ministry of Education, which expressed full support during Monday's event. Mark Garland, Director of Education, speaking on behalf of the ministry, emphasized the importance of such programmes in building not only employability but character and community cohesion.

## Youth Voices, Future Leaders

Two participants — Rokeisha Joseph and Ario Taylor — addressed the audience during the launch.

"I want to refine the skills I already have and build new ones that will help me succeed," said Rokeisha. Ario shared, "This is a chance for young men like me to grow, gain confidence, and be ready to represent Turks and Caicos in the right way."

## Looking Ahead

With strong interest and clear impact, EGYC hopes to expand the programme in the future, bringing more young people into hospitality careers and strengthening the local workforce.

"We're proud to be shaping a new generation of skilled, confident, and professional youth," said Wake-Forbes. "With our partners, we're creating real opportunities that will have lasting benefits for individuals, families, and the entire country."



# TCI to Host First International Variety Trade Show March 25



Form left Caesar Campbell, Norman Hamilton and Phillip Misick

The Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) is set to host its first International Variety Trade Show, marking a significant step in strengthening economic ties with the Dominican Republic.

The event, organized by the Turks and Caicos/Dominican Republic Alliance, is scheduled to take place at the Shore Club on March 25, with an opening reception on March 24 and a closing ceremony on March 26.

At a press conference on Wednesday to announcing the event, Norman Hamilton, a director of the trade alliance, emphasized the historical trade relationship between TCI and the Dominican Republic, which dates back to the 1940s. Hamilton pointed out that over the

years, trade between the two nations has expanded, with current estimates exceeding \$100 million annually, primarily in building materials, food products, and medical services. Hamilton highlighted the economic benefits that increased trade could bring, including reduced costs for essential goods and improved business opportunities.

“Our goal is to weave a stronger and more structured trade relationship between the Turks and Caicos Islands and the Dominican Republic,” said Hamilton. “This trade show is an important step in that direction, fostering opportunities for businesses on both sides to collaborate and grow.”

A Platform for Trade and Investment

Caesar Campbell, another director of the trade alliance, elaborated on the objectives of the trade show. The event aims to introduce Dominican suppliers to potential buyers in TCI, promoting commerce in sectors such as food distribution, construction materials, hotel supplies, and healthcare.

“In addition to trade, we are also promoting investment opportunities,” Campbell stated. “Turks and Caicos Islanders are already investing in the Dominican Republic in various ways, and this trade show will further facilitate bilateral business ventures.”

Diverse Participation and Sponsorship

The trade show has garnered sup-

port from various sponsors, including Invest TCI, Tropical Shipping, Pro Dominicana, Ports Authority, and Inter-Caribbean Airways. The event has also attracted participation from major TCI supermarkets such as Graceway IGA, and Sunny Foods, as well as hotel chains and specialized medical service providers.

One of the notable exhibitors is a new cigar company in TCI that sources its products from the Dominican Republic. Other participating businesses specialize in textiles, eyewear manufacturing, and logistics within the healthcare industry.

Future Prospects for Trade and Development

The trade alliance envisions the event as a starting point for more structured trade and economic initiatives between the two nations. While this inaugural trade show primarily focuses on supplier-buyer interactions, future editions may include industry presentations and conferences to expand opportunities for collaboration.

Campbell noted the potential for expanding TCI’s trade offerings, particularly as the government looks into developing agricultural ventures. “At this stage, we are still in the early days of local agricultural production, but in the future, we could explore exporting surplus produce to the Dominican Republic,” he said.

Challenges and Opportunities

One of the primary challenges in

expanding trade has been transportation logistics. The alliance is actively exploring ways to improve the efficiency and frequency of shipments between TCI and the Dominican Republic. Increased shipping capacity could lead to better access to affordable goods, reducing reliance on imports from more distant markets like Miami.

Additionally, investment opportunities from Dominican businesses in TCI’s hospitality and real estate sectors remain promising. There is growing interest from Dominican investors in TCI’s hotel industry and condominium market, which could open doors for new development projects.

Anticipated Impact

With an estimated 25 vendors participating, the trade show is expected to lay the foundation for deeper economic ties. The event will provide a structured platform for businesses to establish long-term partnerships, benefiting both economies in terms of trade volume, job creation, and investment. As Hamilton emphasized, “We are working to create a more formal and organized trade relationship. This trade show is the first step in fostering a mutually beneficial economic partnership between TCI and the Dominican Republic.”

The organizers encourage local businesses, investors, and industry professionals to attend the trade show and explore the opportunities it presents for growth and collaboration.

## Turks and Caicos United Investment Ltd. Launches to Empower Local Investors and Build Generational Wealth



Drexwell Seymour, Chairperson of TCUI

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands – A bold new chapter in financial empowerment has begun with the official launch of Turks and Caicos United Investment Ltd. (TCUI) on Tuesday, March 17th, during a special edition of Financially Speaking. This initiative is set to transform how

Turks and Caicos Islanders—both at home and abroad—engage in wealth creation and economic growth.

Uniting Investors, Strengthening the Economy

TCUI is more than just an investment platform; it is a movement designed to unite and empower Turks and Caicos residents to take control of their financial future. By pooling resources, TCUI members will have access to strategic investment opportunities that foster economic sustainability, financial independence, and generational wealth.

“Our goal is to ensure that Turks and Caicos Islanders are at the forefront of economic development,” said Drexwell Seymour, Chairperson of TCUI. “Through collaboration and smart investing, we are creating a pathway for residents to build long-term financial security and preserve a legacy for future generations.”

A Vision for Prosperity

The idea for TCUI emerged after the Government’s announcement of a \$1,000 cost-of-living relief stimulus. Instead of viewing the stimulus as a short-term fix, a group of more than 20 forward-thinking individuals came together to establish an organization that would provide lasting financial benefits. Their collective vision is to create an investment vehicle that allows Turks and Caicos Islanders to actively shape the nation’s financial landscape.

With an emphasis on community-driven investing, TCUI is positioning itself as a catalyst for economic transformation. The company aims to support ventures that not only yield strong financial returns but also contribute to the overall development and sustainability of the Turks and Caicos economy.

Meet the Leaders Behind TCUI

TCUI is backed by a strong leadership team committed to guiding the orga-

nization to ward success:

- Drexwell Seymour – Chairperson
- Jena Janse – Deputy Chairperson
- Kendi Jones – Secretary
- Tekarra Gardiner – Treasurer
- Ranekia Lightbourne Daley – Member & Liaison Relationship Director

How to Get Involved

TCUI is inviting residents of Turks and Caicos Islands and TCI citizens abroad to become part of this groundbreaking initiative. Whether you’re an experienced investor or new to the world of finance, TCUI offers a structured, community-driven approach to wealth-building that ensures every investor has a stake in the nation’s future.

To learn more about TCUI and how you can participate, visit [www.tcunitedinvestment.com](http://www.tcunitedinvestment.com).



# FORTISTCI 13TH ANNUAL NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY FAIR - A RESOUNDING SUCCESS



FortisTCI President and CEO Ruth Forbes presents Holy Family Academy with the first-place award and prizes for their innovative project, “Building Green: Sargassum Eco-Brick for the Future.,” in the 2025 National Science Project Competition High School segment.



Permanent Secretary within the Ministry of Education, James Astwood, presents Eliza Simons Primary School with their award and prizes for securing victory in the 2025 National Primary School Quiz, marking their third win over the years since the inception of the quiz competition.



Hon. Rachel Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, presents award and prizes to Enid Capron Primary School for winning the 2025 National Science Project Competition Primary School segment with their project on “What Effect does compost have on plant growth?”



Hon. Erwin Jay Saunders, Minister of Innovation, Technology and Information, presents award and prizes to Maranatha Academy, for winning the 2025 National High School Science Debate, after placing second last year.

The 13th annual FortisTCI National Science and Technology Fair held on March 5 and 6, 2025, brought together more than 100 student participants for two days of scientific exploration and competition under the theme: “From Ideas to Invention: Redefining What’s Possible.” The Gustarvus Lightbourne Sports Complex was transformed into a hub of discovery during Education Week, as scores of students, educators, stakeholders, and general attendees buzzed with excitement during for the national science quiz, debate, poster, and project competitions. The 5th annual National High School Science Debate recorded a fierce showdown, with Maranatha Academy claiming victory after placing second last year. The debate team amassed 142 points to Clement

Howell High School’s 129.5 points in the grand finale. Students argued whether it is possible to meet rising energy demand without relying on fossil fuels. Holy Family Academy secured third place. Holy Family Academy won first place in the National Science Project Competition high school category with a creative approach to tackling the ongoing sargassum issue by creating sustainable eco-bricks. Raymond Gardiner High School secured second place for its North Caicos Beach Bricks project, which focused on enhancing the product’s strength and durability. H.J. Robinson High School secured third place with a project on the manufacturing of insect repellent. The A. Louise Garland Thomas High School received this year’s Presi-



A. Louise Garland Thomas High School received this year’s President’s Award for its project on integrating mimetic photosynthesis in solar cell technology.

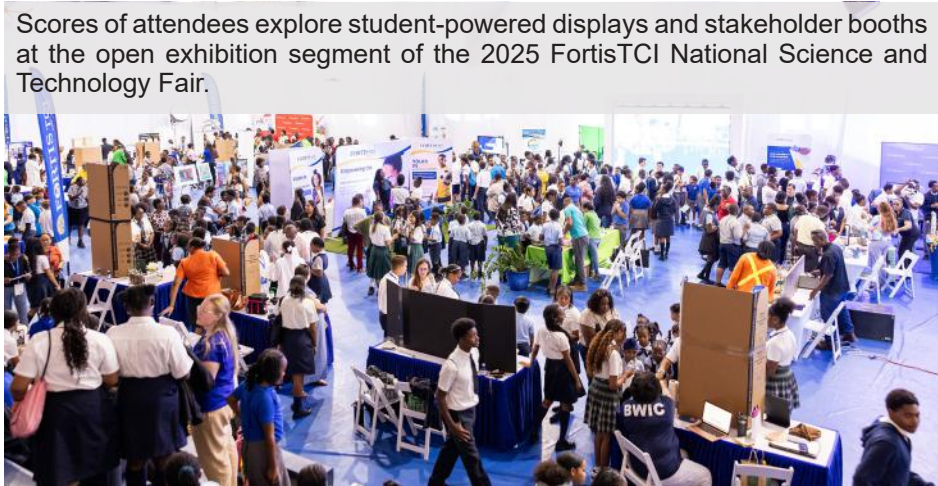


Clement Howell High School was among the top scorers in the National Science Poster Competition, which challenged participants to translate this year’s science fair theme into a visual masterpiece.

dent’s Award for its project on integrating mimetic photosynthesis in solar cell technology. FortisTCI President and CEO Ruth Forbes presents this special annual award to projects demonstrating outstanding creativity, innovative thinking, and skillful execution in scientific pursuits.

Enid Capron Primary School secured first place in the primary school category for their science project investigating the effect of compost on plant growth. Holy Family Academy secured second place with their experiment on hydroponics versus traditional farming. Ianthe Pratt Prima-





Scores of attendees explore student-powered displays and stakeholder booths at the open exhibition segment of the 2025 FortisTCI National Science and Technology Fair.

ry School secured third place with a project examining how different materials affect composting speed. Eliza Simons Primary School rose to the top after placing second last year in the National Primary School Science Quiz. Charles Hubert James Primary School won second place, and Holy Family Academy rounded out the top three. The National Science Poster Competition challenged students to translate the fair's theme into a visually compelling masterpiece through

creative art and graphic art. The top-performing schools across both categories were Clement Howell High School, H.J. Robinson High School, Maranatha Academy, Providenciales Middle School, Holy Family Academy and Majorie Basden High School. Beyond the competitions, the event featured dynamic stakeholder booths including electric vehicles and drone showcases, virtual reality simulations, and Chroma keying tech-



The open exhibition held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, featured a range of interactive stakeholder booths and free virtual reality activities.

nology for weather broadcasts. During her remarks at the closing awards ceremony, FortisTCI President and CEO Ruth Forbes stressed that the science fair is all about opportunity and endless possibilities. She shared an inspirational story of an eighteen-year-old California student and former science fair project winner, Vasya Tremisin, who invented a solar-powered device to detect

outdoor fires, now called Torch Early Detection Fire Sensors. These sensors are helping firefighters and first responders combat wildfires in California. She illustrated how science fair projects can morph into successful products, encouraging students to continue their scientific exploration, as their efforts and inventions can one day help create a better world for all.



# JOB FAIR

Wednesday, March 26th, 2025  
8:30am

## DREAM BIG WITH US!

Opportunity, training, education, and the potential to turn dreams into a better life, that is the story of Beaches Turks and Caicos Resorts and it can be yours too. Join us in our mission to create Caribbean moments and memories that inspire people, their families, and our global community to dream bigger and live more prosperous, sustainable, and fulfilling lives.

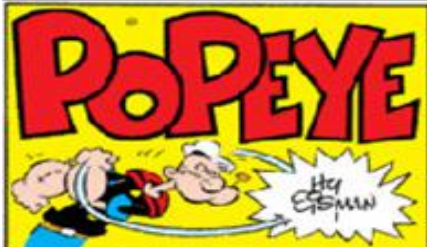
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|---|---------------------|----------------------|
| • Assistant Maintenance Manager-Waterplant/Plumbing | • Photographers     | • Restaurant Servers |
| • Boat Captains *                                   | • Room Attendants   | • Groundsman         |
| • Scuba Instructors*                                | • Cook 1,2,3        | • Bartenders         |
| • Dive Master*                                      | • Room Technicians  | • Bar Porters        |
| • Projects Coordinator                              | • Stove Technicians | • Laundry Attendants |
| • VIP Driver  | • Finish Carpenter  | • Stewards           |
|   | • Security Officer  |                      |

**REQUIRMENTS:** Updated Resume | Passport | Freelance Permit | Residence Permit | Permanent Resident | Local Status Document [Belonger Card Certificate, Naturalization Certificate] | Qualifications/Experience required

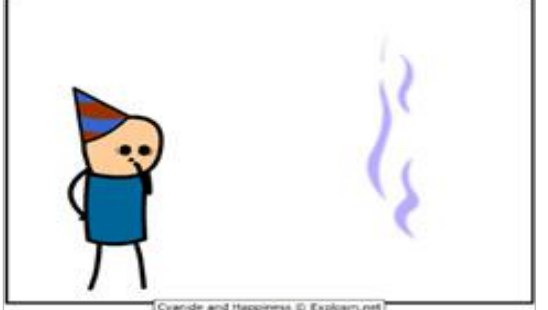
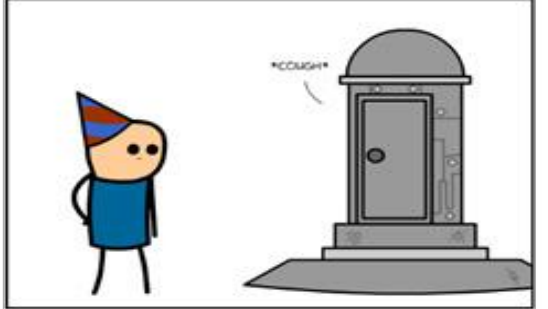
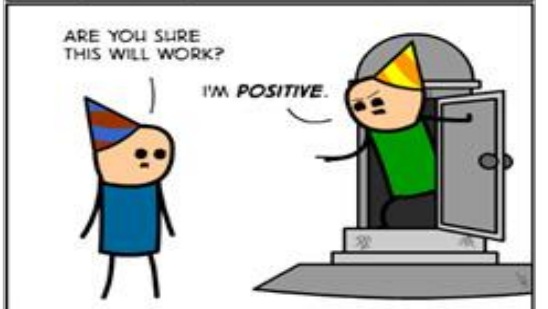
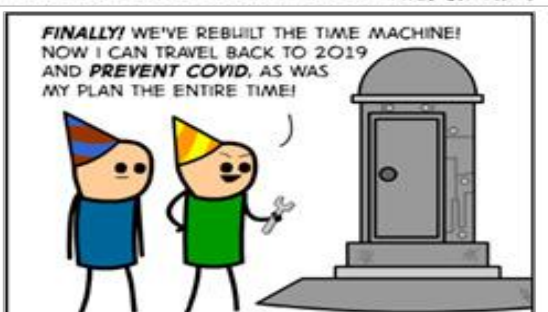
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I DIDN'T THINK IT COULD GET ANY WORSE THAN HER PLAYING...UNTIL SHE STARTED SINGIN'!





# Turks & Caicos NATIONAL MUSEUM



NEWSLINE  
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

The Turks and Caicos Islands National Museum located in Guinep House on Front Street in Grand Turk is the National Museum of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Established in the 1980s and opened in 1991, the museum is publicly funded as a nonprofit trust. It exhibits prehistoric Lukayan culture and records the history of the islands of the colonial era and the slave trade, all related to the sea. An Arboretum is in adjacent to the museum. Guinep House one of the oldest stone structures in the island. The house, built prior to 1885, was named after the large Guinep tree in the front yard. It was built in local limestone by a former shipwright. The structural material of the building also came from local shipwrecks, including a ship's mast, which is one of the building's main supports. The building which was earlier a lodge for some of the divers was donated to the museum in 1990.



# Graceway Communities Donates \$100,000 Playground to Ianthe Pratt Primary School

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE EDITOR-IN-CHIEF



Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor (sixth from left) and Member of Parliament for the Bight Hon. Audric Skippings (seventh left) assisted by Edit Cox (fourth from left) of Graceway Communities, Nikeemo King (second left), Principal of the Ianthe Pratt Primary School, along with other members of the Graceway Communities, students of the school and Principal of the Thelma Lightbourne Primary School and former Ianthe Pratt Vice Principal Robin Cox- Foster (fifth from left) cut the ribbon to officially declare the playground open.



Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor (fourth from right) and Hon. Audric Skippings (third from left) unveil the Ianthe Pratt Primary School Playground Welcome Sign. Looking on are members of the school staff and the Graceway Communities team.

Excitement and gratitude filled the air at Ianthe Pratt Primary School on Monday, March 17, as Graceway Communities, the philanthropic arm of the Graceway Supermarkets, officially handed over a brand-new \$100,000 playground to the school.

The joyful occasion was attended by several distinguished guests, including Minister of Education, Youth and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor, Hon. Audric Skippings, Member of Parliament for The Bight, Education Director Mark Garland, and executives of Graceway Supermarkets, including Edith Cox and Ivor Stanbrook.

The new playground, which includes swings, climbing frames, slides, and see-saws, was made

possible through the Blue Token initiative, a community-driven program by Graceway Supermarkets. This initiative allows customers to earn Blue Tokens with each use of a reusable bag, which they can then use to vote for a community cause. The Ianthe Pratt Primary School emerged as the top recipient, thanks to overwhelming community support.

Speaking at the event, Edith Cox expressed her pride in seeing the initiative come to life. "This playground represents more than just a recreation area; it is a vital part of our students' development, fostering physical activity, social interaction, and essential life skills such as teamwork and communication," she remarked. She also highlight-

ed that this is the third playground donated by Graceway Communities, with more projects planned in the future to support education and sports across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Matthew Brace, a key figure in the playground project, described the extensive planning that went into designing a space suitable for the school's 600 students. "We ensured that there were play structures suitable for both younger and older children," he explained. "Some students were eager to be the first on the swings, others on the slides, and a few even joked about climbing trees to get to the climbing frame. It's heartwarming to see how much excitement this playground brings."

Hon. Audric Skippings, reflecting on his own experiences at Ianthe Pratt Primary, emphasized the lasting impact of such a gift. "This new playground is more than just a place for fun. It's a space where children will build friendships, develop confidence, and create memories that will stay with them for a lifetime," he stated. He also urged the community to continue working together to create opportunities and resources for the younger generation.

Director of Education Mark Garland reinforced the importance of collaboration in projects like this. "Today is a testament to what we can achieve when we assist each other. We are grateful for this partnership and look forward to more



Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor tries out one of the swings at the Ianthe Pratt Primary School Playground.

initiatives that enhance our children's educational experience," he said, while joking about wanting to test the swings himself.

Minister of Education, Hon. Rachel Taylor, also expressed her gratitude and excitement, emphasizing the importance of community partnerships. "When a community comes together with a shared vision, incredible things happen. This playground is proof of that," she stated. She also hinted at upcoming initiatives like the 'Partners in Progress' policy, which will encourage structured collaborations between businesses and schools. The event concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks from Principal Nikeemo King, who acknowledged the numerous contributors who made the project possible. "This playground will provide our students with a safe, engaging space to play and grow. We are truly grateful to Graceway Communities and all involved in making this dream a reality," she expressed.

The newly inaugurated playground stands as a symbol of community spirit and investment in the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands' youth, promising years of joy and development for the students of Ianthe Pratt Primary School.

**SEE PHOTO HIGHLIGHTS ON PAGES 20-21**



Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

This week on Newsline Featured Church, we turn the spotlight on All Saints Mission Church, located along the Leeward Highway in Providenciales. The minister for that body of Christ is Pastor James Prospere. All Saints Church, which has one of the largest memberships of the any such body in the Turks and Caicos Islands, conducts two services on Sunday – the Sunday Morning Service and the Sunday Night Service. On Wednesday Night is Prayer Meeting and on Friday its their Youth Service.



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.

<b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581	<b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240	<b>Firm Foundation Ministries International</b> Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624
<b>Christ is the Answer Ministry,</b> George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030	<b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b> Providenciales Tel:941-3438	<b>Paradise Baptist Church,</b> Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349
<b>One Nation Empowerment Center</b> Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com.	<b>Roman Catholic Church,</b> Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136	<b>Revival Faith Center,</b> North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349
<b>Touch of Love Ministries International Center</b> Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731	<b>Faith Tabernacle Church of God,</b> Providenciales, Tel:946-4073	<b>Salem Baptist Church,</b> Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565
<b>Abundant Life Ministries International</b> P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755	<b>New Testament Church of God,</b> South Caicos Tel:946-3631	<b>Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries</b> International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181
<b>Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk,</b> Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289	<b>Methodist Church,</b> Grand Turk Tel:946-2352	<b>St. Monica's Anglican Church</b> P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499
<b>Bethany Baptist Church,</b> Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118	<b>Healing Waters Ministries,</b> Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867	<b>Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh</b> <b>Day Adventists,</b> P.O. Box 803, Providenciales
<b>Church of God of Prophecy,</b> Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854	<b>House of Prayer Church of God,</b> Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309	<b>United Pentecostal Church,</b> Brown's Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852
<b>Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk</b> Tel:946-1866	<b>Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses,</b> Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727	<b>Wesleyan Methodist Church,</b> Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596
<b>Calvary Baptist Church,</b> South Caicos. Tel:946-3212	<b>Mount Mariah Baptist Church,</b> Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205	<b>Editor's Note:</b> 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
<b>Harvest Bible Chapel TCI,</b> Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc.	<b>New Beginning Harvest Ministry,</b> Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759	
	<b>New Testament Church of God</b> Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402	



# Highlights of AA Inaugural Flight to South Caicos

It was a surreal occasion for many South Caicos residents to see international airlift returning to the ‘Big South’, when American Airlines made its inaugural flight to that island on Saturday March 15, 2025. Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, Tourism Minister Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, Member of Parliament for South Caicos Hon. Tamell Seymour and Permanent Secretary Wesley Clerveaux made the flight from Miami to Norman B. Saunders Sr. International Airport. The following are photo highlights of the event.









# TCI Top Model Not to be Confused With Other Fashion Shows



Courtney Robinson, Managing Director of Good Street Management

The organisers of the 2025 TCI Top Model Contest – En Vogue – have issued a statement to clarify that the prestigious fashion event is an independent production, exclusively owned and executed by Mr. Courtney Robinson, Managing Director of Good Street Management.

In a recent announcement, Mr. Robinson emphasized that while the contest collaborates with various partners to enhance its production, TCI Top Model is not affiliated with any other fashion shows, events, or event producers in the Turks and Caicos Islands or beyond.

Established in 2008, with its inaugural event held on May 2nd, 2009, TCI Top Model has built a reputation as the premier platform for fashion, beauty, arts, and entertainment in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The show was designed to provide aspiring models, designers, and creatives with a stage to showcase their talents, helping to launch careers both locally and internationally.

Mr. Robinson underscored that the contest operates with the highest standards of professionalism, integrity, and excellence. He reiterated that TCI Top Model maintains a distinguished reputation, upheld through transparency and ethical conduct.

“To avoid any misunderstandings, we respectfully request that the general public not confuse or conflate TCI Top Model with any other fashion show, beauty pageant, or entertainment event,” said Robinson. “Likewise, neither I nor the organising team are associated with any other event producers or events of a similar nature in the Turks and Caicos Islands.”

The organisers expressed their gratitude for the continued support of the community, partners, and participants, reaffirming their mission to foster talent, creativity, and excellence within the country.

For official updates and information on the TCI Top Model Contest 2025 – En Vogue, which is set to take place on Saturday, May 31st, 2025, at Brayton Hall, Providenciales, the public is encouraged to follow the event’s verified channels.

## Guidelines for the Filing of Declarations for Specified Persons in Public Life

The Integrity Commission wishes to inform the public and, in particular, to remind the Specified Persons in Public Life (Declarants), as set out in Schedule 1, that they must file their Declarations of Income, Assets and Liabilities, as required by Section 39 of the TCI Integrity Commission Ordinance.

The filing of declarations will take place, on an on-going basis, between 1 April 2025 - 30 June 2025.

All Declarants are required to deliver their completed Declaration forms, along with the relevant supporting documents, in person, at an office of the Commission, BY APPOINTMENT ONLY.

Declarants will be contacted individually, with a specific date, time and location, for delivery of declaration forms.

Specified Persons in Public Life include the following:

All Specified Persons in Public Life who made their last filing on or before 30th June 2023.

All persons who are appointed to Statutory Boards, effective 1st April 2025, or thereafter.

All Specified Persons in Public Life who are appointed, within the TCIG Government, effective 1st April 2025, or thereafter.

All persons who are no longer sitting members of Statutory Boards, as at 31st March 2025.

All persons who have resigned their posts, or whose contracts

have not been renewed, within the TCIG Government, are required to file within 90 days of the end of their tenure.

All other persons who are considered Specified Persons in Public Life, but who would not have been aware of their obligation to file, under section 39 the Integrity Commission Ordinance.

Declaration Forms are available on the Commission’s website at: [www.integritycommission.tc](http://www.integritycommission.tc).

For any inquiries about an appointment, please call 946-1941 or 941-7847 or send an email to [info@integritycommission.tc](mailto:info@integritycommission.tc)

For those declarants who fail to attend their scheduled appointment, please be mindful of the

following:

A failure, without reasonable cause, to file a Declaration is a criminal offence, punishable with imprisonment for 1 year, or a fine of \$15,000, or both. In addition, the Commission is, among other things, obligated to publish the fact of such failure in the Gazette.

All Declarations are confidential documents. Please DO NOT submit your completed Declaration form through a third party, or via electronic or surface mail.

Persons who have filed a Declaration during the calendar year 2024 and were required to do so at that time as per regular filing cycle, will NOT be required to file in 2025.



# Acting Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey Visits South Caicos, Engages Stakeholders



Acting Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey (third from right standing) and Member of Parliament for South Caicos Hon. Tamell Seymour (fourth from right standing) share a photo moment with members of the South Caicos pastors' fraternal.



Acting Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey (left) share photos with South Caicos Police and also Member of Parliament for that island Hon. Tamell Seymour



Acting Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey engages a South Caicos Fisherman

Acting Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey visited South Caicos yesterday (March 19), where he paid courtesy visits to District Commissioner Yvette Cox, representatives of the South Caicos Pastors Fraternity, and other stakeholders.

The Acting Commissioner also engaged with South Caicos Member of Parliament Hon. Tamell Seymour and other community representatives to discuss collaborative approaches to public safety and community development.

He emphasized the importance of strong partnerships between the police and residents to ensure a safer environment. One main issue raised was the need for additional officers to strengthen security efforts on the island, given its rapid development.

Commissioner Bailey also visited the Iris Stubbs Primary School, where he spoke to students about the value of hard work and perseverance. Encouraging them to “reach for the stars,” he reminded the young minds that among them could be future doctors, lawyers, pastors, and even a Commissioner of Police. Principal Earleen Elliot thanked the Commissioner for his inspiring words, highlighting the importance of positive role models for the island's youth.

Additionally, Commissioner Bailey met with officers stationed on the island, listening to their concerns and reaffirming his commitment to enhancing law enforcement operations in the community.



# GRACEWAY COMMUNITIES GIFTS IANTHE PRATT PRIMARY ATTRACTIVE PLAYGROUND

Students at Ianthe Pratt have been gifted a brand-new playground made possible through the kind courtesies of the Graceway Communities, the charitable arm of the Graceway Supermarkets, comprising Graceway IGA, Smart, Graceway Cash and Carry and Graceway Gourmet. The event was attended by Minister of Education Hon. Rachel Taylor, Member of Parliament for the Bight Hon. Audric Skippings and other dignitaries. The following are photo highlights of the event.









# New hope in stroke treatment: Cutting-edge advances save lives



REVOLUTIONARY ADVANCES in stroke treatment are dramatically improving patient outcomes, offering new hope for patients and their families across Jamaica and the Caribbean. According to leading neurology expert Dr

Italo Linfante of Baptist Health's Miami Neuroscience Institute, recent developments have transformed stroke care. These advances, he said, have come at a crucial time, as stroke continues to be a leading cause of death and disability in

the region. An effective procedure called mechanical thrombectomy, which removes blood clots from brain vessels, has revolutionised stroke treatment as reported in several clinical trials published in 2015. "We have made leaps and bounds in both technology and timing," said Dr Linfante, who recently shared these developments at the Caribbean Neurosciences Symposium in Jamaica. "At Baptist Health South Florida, we can deliver initial treatment within 20 minutes of a patient's arrival, and complete the clot removal procedure within an hour. This speed and efficiency are crucial for saving brain tissue and improving recovery outcomes," he said. The procedure involves carefully navigating through blood vessels to physically remove the clot that is blocking blood flow to the brain. "This technique has proven remarkably effective. When combined with traditional clot-busting medications, we are seeing dramatic improvements in patient outcomes," Dr Linfante said. Even more promising is the development of new neuroprotective treatments. Dr Linfante leads groundbreaking research on HEMERA-1, an innovative oxygen carrier that helps dilate blood vessels, deliver oxygen and protect brain cells during stroke. This treatment, currently in clinical trials at Baptist Health Miami Neuroscience

Institute, could further improve survival rates and recovery outcomes. The data of the first phase of trials were presented at the 2025 International Stroke Conference. The institute takes a comprehensive approach to stroke care, combining cutting-edge treatments with rehabilitation and prevention programmes. "It's not just about treating the acute stroke," Dr Linfante said. "We have strong clinical programmes for rehabilitation and prevention, helping patients recover and reduce their risk of future strokes. Our close collaboration with cardiologists at the Miami Cardiac and Vascular Institute ensures patients receive comprehensive care for all aspects of their vascular health," he added. This integrated approach includes sophisticated imaging technology, specialised nursing care, and advanced rehabilitation services. "Modern stroke care is a team effort. From emergency response to rehabilitation, every step is crucial for optimal recovery," Dr Linfante said. The future of stroke treatment looks even more promising. "We are continuously participating in clinical trials and developing new techniques. With each advancement, we're getting closer to our goal of eliminating stroke-related disability and death. The progress we have made is remarkable, but we're not stopping here," he said.

# The growing importance of health literacy

By Dr Felix Nunura

AS A cardiologist, I am seeing every day, more patients coming to me in the final stage of heart disease with their hearts weakened and enlarged (heart failure). Most of them have very high blood pressure, high sugar levels, are overweight with high cholesterol and may have had a previous heart attack which had been left uncared for. Such patients say to me, "Doc Felix, mi never know ...". The healthcare challenges of today demand more from individuals than ever before. Chronic illnesses like diabetes, heart disease, and obesity require continuous management, making health literacy vital for adherence to treatment regimens and healthier lifestyle changes.

**A QUICK OVERVIEW OF THE MEANING OF HEALTH LITERACY**

'Health literacy (HL) is a fundamental skill that enables people to make informed evidence-based decisions about their health and well-being' – World Health Organization (WHO). Studies have confirmed clear relationships between education and HL. The WHO has pointed out clear correlations between low HL and:

- a) Increased hospital admissions
- b) Poor medication adherence

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- c) Poor prevention activities
- d) Increased prevalence of health risk factors
- e) Limited self-management of chronic diseases and poorer health outcomes
- f) Increased healthcare costs, and
- g) Poorer general health status, including increased mortality.

Health information comes from many different sources and is delivered through multiple channels. Unfortunately, many of these sources present potentially conflicting, biased or incomplete information. In an age where information flows freely and technology advances at a staggering pace, the future is increasingly shaped by the accessibility and comprehension of health-related knowledge and access to timely and relevant health services. Health literacy – the ability to access, understand, appraise and apply information to make informed decisions and manage health and well-being – emerges as a critical cornerstone for a healthier Jamaica society.

**THE ENEMY: THE HEALTH MISINFORMATION**

Unfortunately, misinformation and local sociocultural beliefs ("bush medicine") and the proliferation of pseudoscience in the digital age threaten public health. However, health-literate societies can

discern credible sources, counter misinformation, and foster trust in evidence-based healthcare systems. I agree with what Mr Wayne Cambell wrote in The Gleaner, titled: 'Health literacy key for all Jamaicans' – "It is quite unfortunate that when we speak about literacy and all its variations, we tend to overlook health literacy. Health literacy is an issue that requires our attention, as it is the bloodline through which the solutions towards 'sustainable development will be achieved'."

I also share the view of Dr Stephanie Mullings, who made mention in the Jamaica Observer in the article titled, 'The twin epidemics: Low health literacy and poor self-care agency threaten public health': "The growing inability of people to understand health information and effectively manage their care is a crisis that demands urgent attention and action. Low health literacy, poor self-care agency, and lifestyle-related diseases converge to create a public health crisis of unprecedented scale, affecting thousands of Jamaicans and putting immense strain on our healthcare systems," highlighted Dr Mullings

**TIME TO TAKE MORE ACTION**

Improving HL should be prioritised by the Government, healthcare providers,

health educators, universities, and individuals (patients). This can be achieved through public health campaigns, more formal planned educational programmes, professionals, and community-based initiatives that empower individuals with the knowledge and skills needed to make healthier choices.

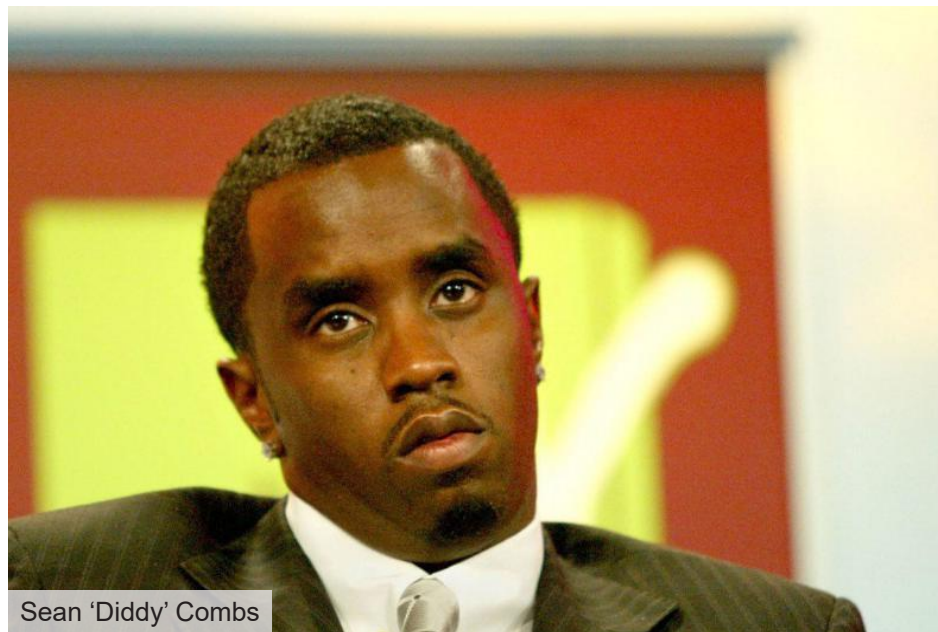
As a medical doctor and an educator, I believe addressing low HL should be a priority in improving public health. The more you know, the more you engage, the more you can benefit from the experience of health and well-being and select what matters to you. By empowering our patients and the general citizens with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to take control of their health, we could reduce the burden of heart disease and heart failure in Jamaica with prevention measurements, earlier specialised diagnosis and treatment, counter health misinformation, medication errors, heart complications and creating a healthier Jamaican society.

Health literacy matters. It should be recognised as a fundamental human rights issue.

Dr Felix Nunura is a Peruvian cardiologist, providing healing to Jamaicans' hearts since 2012. Email: felixnunura@gmail.com.



# Diddy pleads not guilty ahead of May sex trafficking trial



Sean 'Diddy' Combs

Sean 'Diddy' Combs returned to federal court in New York City on Friday, pleading not guilty to the latest version of an indictment charging him with two decades of sex trafficking crimes.

The 55-year-old Combs, his beard noticeably greyer than even weeks ago, stood with his hands folded before him as he told Judge Arun Subramanian that he had read the indictment and understood the charges against him.

Combs, who has been held without bail since his September arrest, hugged two of his lawyers as he entered the courtroom and he blew kisses to family members and waved as he was led out by US marshals afterwards.

Subramanian told lawyers that questionnaires will be distributed to hundreds of prospective jurors at the end of April so that questioning of would-be jurors can begin on May 5, with opening state-

ments expected to occur on May 12.

According to the indictment, Combs used the "power and prestige" he wielded as a music mogul to intimidate, threaten and lure women into his orbit, often under the pretence of a romantic relationship.

The indictment said he then used force, threats and coercion to cause victims, including three women specified in the court papers, to engage in commercial sex acts.

It said he subjected his victims to violence, threats of violence, threats of financial and reputational harm and verbal abuse.

"On multiple occasions, Combs threw both objects and people, as well as hit, dragged, choked and shoved others," it said. "On one occasion, Combs dangled a victim over an apartment balcony."

Defence lawyers have argued that prosecutors used the charges to try to demonise sex acts between consenting adults.

Part of the discussion in court Friday revolved around what will be allowed at the trial regarding a

video that aired on CNN last year that showed Combs punching his former protégé and girlfriend, the R&B singer Cassie, and throwing her on the floor in a hotel hallway. Assistant US Attorney Mitzi Steiner said the video was "critical to the case."

Defence attorney Marc Agnifilo said the video was "deceptive and not in accordance with the actions that took place".

He said certain actions were speeded up in the video by as much as 50 per cent and others were taken out of order.

"From the defence standpoint, it's a misleading piece of evidence, a deceptive piece of evidence, a piece of evidence that has been changed," he said.

Steiner also said the government was reluctant to share information about accusers who may testify in the case with defence lawyers until deadlines arrive that require the information to be turned over.

She said many of the "individuals are incredibly frightened" not only at having their names revealed publicly but also having them disclosed to defence attorneys.

# Tracy Morgan says he's OK



Tracy Morgan

Food poisoning caused incident at Knicks-Heat game

Tracy Morgan says food poisoning was to blame for his taking ill during Monday's Knicks-Heat game, and that he's "doing OK".

The actor-comedian posted an

update on Instagram on Tuesday morning, along with a smiling photo from a hospital bed, thanking fans for their concern. He also suggested, humorously, that perhaps his health episode spelled good luck for the Knicks.

"I'm doing OK now and doctors say it was food poisoning. Appreciate my MSG family for taking such good care of me, and I need to shout out the crew that had to clean that up. Appreciate you!" Morgan wrote.

"More importantly, the Knicks are now 1-0 when I throw up on the court, so maybe I'll have to break it out again in the play-offs," he quipped, ending his post with a #goknicks hashtag.

Morgan took ill in the second half of Monday night's Heat-Knicks game, interrupting the action at Madison Square Garden with 6:09 left in the third quarter while workers cleaned up the area around his seat. The delay lasted more than 10 minutes. The Knicks went on to win, 116-95.

The 56-year-old Morgan, a longtime Knicks fan, was featured prominently during the Saturday Night Live 50th anniversary weekend events, at both the SNL50: The Homecoming Concert and the live SNL50: The Anniversary Celebration special.

He also has an upcoming untitled comedy pilot on NBC opposite Daniel Radcliffe, in which he plays a disgraced former football player looking to remake his image.



# Bounty Killer back in US after 15 years



Dancehall star Bounty Killer is pictured relaxing in a plane in a post to his Instagram account on Tuesday, March 18, 2025. The entertainer's US visa has reportedly been reinstated after 15 years. (Photo: Instagram/Bounty Killer)

Dancehall star Bounty Killer returned to the United States for the first time in 15 years on Tuesday after his visa to the North American country was reinstated.

The entertainer made the announcement on social media, posting a photo of himself relaxing in a plane with the caption: "God is the greatest all the times despite how it may seem like in March 2010 my visa was revoked for what reasons up until this day is unknown fast forward 15yrs later today March 2025 i arrived in the states with no hassle the greatest thing I never had to beg bend or bow i stayed true to myself vigilant and resilient."

His announcement of his arrival in the country was met with a flood of congratulatory messages from colleagues and fans alike.

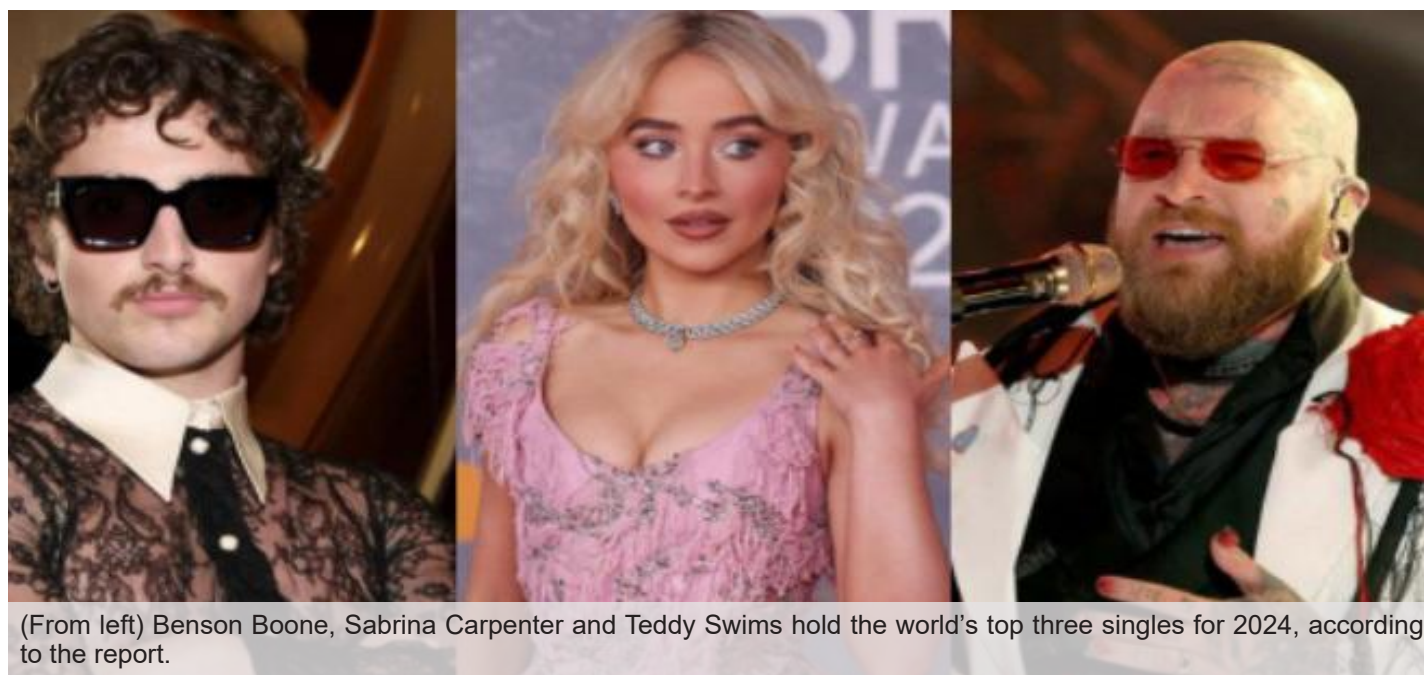
Vybz Kartel, whose US visa was reinstated last month, posted a plane emoji with the hashtag #GodIsTheGreatest, while hip-hop producer Swizz Beatz responded with several fire emojis.

Ziggy Marley, Rohan Marley, Shaggy, Busy Signal and Safaree also expressed their support to the dancehall icon.

The 51-year-old, given name Rodney Price, had said his inability to travel to the US was "devastating" to his music career and family.

"I don't even know how I survive. Most of my fans are in the US, and that's where the music market is biggest. I can't even get to go promote my songs or greet my fans or even my family, my kids. I got several kids in the US, so this affected me devastatingly," he said in a previous interview.

## Global music business raked in US\$29.6b in 2024 — report



(From left) Benson Boone, Sabrina Carpenter and Teddy Swims hold the world's top three singles for 2024, according to the report.

The global music industry raked in a record US\$29.6 billion last year as online streaming propelled revenues to their highest level since records began in the 1990s, new figures showed on Wednesday. Industry bigwigs at the launch of the annual International Federation of the Phonographic Industry (IFPI) report in London said paid

streaming models were driving profits, but voiced concerns over the rise of generative artificial intelligence (AI). The IFPI, which represents global record companies, also confirmed that Taylor Swift had topped their list of the most listened-to artists in 2024. But the report said the world's big-

gest singles last year were Beautiful Things by Benson Boone, with 2.11 billion streams, followed by Sabrina Carpenter's Espresso (1.79 billion streams) and Lose Control by Teddy Swims (1.7 billion streams). The music industry grew for the tenth consecutive year with revenues up 4.8 per cent, the report said. Streaming now accounts for

more than two-thirds (69 per cent) of global revenues, or US\$20.4 billion.

Revenues from physical formats dropped by 3.1 per cent in 2024, following a 14.5 per cent increase in 2023.

But vinyl revenues were up 4.6 per cent in 2024, the 18th consecutive year of growth.

The biggest music markets remained the United States, Japan and Britain, while the fastest-growing regions were the Middle East and North Africa (up 22.8 per cent), Sub-Saharan Africa (up 22.6 per cent) and Latin America (up 22.5 per cent).

At the launch event, representatives from the music industry voiced concerns over the use of generative AI.

IFPI boss Victoria Oakley said the technology was "ingesting" copyrighted music to train models without permission.

AI represented an opportunity for the industry, but also a "huge challenge ahead," she said, calling it "a very real and present threat to human artistry".



# Caribbean tourism officials pleased with sector's role in economic development



The Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association (CHTA) Wednesday said the tourism industry remains overwhelmingly positive, with 98 per cent of respondents confident in the sector's trajectory in 2025.

In its annual Caribbean Tourism Industry Performance & 2025 Outlook Report, the CHTA said businesses anticipate continued revenue growth, driven by strong visitor demand, continued capital expenditures to upgrade properties and destinations and ongoing investments in workforce development and destination marketing.

"The Caribbean tourism industry continues to show incredible resilience and adaptability," said CHTA Chief Executive Officer, Vanessa Ledesma.

"Even with rising costs and global uncertainties, the region remains one of the world's top travel destinations, thanks to strategic investments and a strong commitment to growth. Insights from this report will help guide CHTA's efforts to better support our

members, strengthen the industry, and ensure continued success for hospitality and tourism professionals across the Caribbean," she added.

The CHTA said the United States remained the top source market for the region with strong growth from the United Kingdom, Canada and intra-Caribbean travel.

It said that while the industry showed strong overall performance, one-third of respondents still reported a net loss, largely due to rising operating costs.

The report said that high taxes and inflation continue to put pressure on businesses with 87 per cent reporting rising operating costs and 52 per cent seeing increases that outpaced inflation.

The CHTA, which has been conducting annual surveys since 2014, provides its members and other stakeholders with insights and benchmarks to help gauge their progress and guide decision-making.

It said despite rising operating costs, labour shortages and profitability

challenges, most businesses reported profits, demonstrating resilience and confidence in the industry's future.

The report, based on a survey of tourism businesses across 20 Caribbean destinations, provides a comprehensive look at the industry's performance in 2024 and expectations for the year ahead.

It explores key trends such as revenue growth, labour market shifts, rising operational costs, and investment activity, offering insights into how businesses are navigating challenges and capitalising on opportunities.

Among the key findings of the report, CHTA said that 65 per cent of businesses raised room rates to offset increasing expenses, while 57 per cent saw higher food and beverage. The report noted that 47 per cent of businesses expanded their workforce in 2024, and 36 per cent plan to hire more in 2025.

However, 73 per cent reported difficulty recruiting specialised staff such as chefs and engineers.

The report noted that 62 per cent of businesses increased capital expenditures with 59 per cent using tax incentives for renovations and 24 per cent for new developments—investments that more than half of recipients said would not have been possible without these incentives.

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# Two men found guilty in smuggling conspiracy where 53 immigrants died in hot tractor-trailer



Police and other first responders work the scene where officials say dozens of people have been found dead and multiple others were taken to hospitals with heat-related illnesses after a semitrailer containing suspected migrants was found, Monday, June 27, 2022, in San Antonio.

Two smugglers charged after 53 immigrants died in the back of a sweltering tractor-trailer with no air conditioning were found guilty Tuesday after a two-week trial. The 2022 tragedy in San Antonio was the nation's deadliest smuggling attempt across the US-Mexico border.

Jurors in federal court in San Antonio took only about an hour to convict Felipe Orduna-Torres and Armando Gonzales-Ortega, finding that they were part of a human smuggling conspiracy that resulted in death and injury. They face up to life in prison and have a June 27 sentencing date.

The immigrants had come from Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico and had paid between \$12,000 and \$15,000 each to be smuggled into the United States, according to an indictment in the case. They had made it as far as the Texas border city of Laredo when they were placed into a tractor-trailer with broken air conditioning for a three-hour drive to San Antonio.

As the temperature inside the trailer rose, those inside screamed and banged the walls of the trailer for help or tried to claw their way out, investigators said. Most eventually passed out. When the trailer was opened in San Antonio, 48 people were already dead. Another 16 were taken to hospitals, where five more died. The dead included six children and a pregnant woman.

"These defendants knew the air conditioning did not work. Nevertheless they disregarded the danger," Acting US Attorney Margaret Leachman for the Western District of Texas said in a news conference after the verdict Tuesday. Orduna-Torres was the leader of

the smuggling group inside the US, and Gonzales-Ortega was his "right-hand man" she said.

Five men previously pleaded guilty to felony charges in the smuggling case, including the truck driver Homero Zamorano Jr., who was found hiding near the trailer in some bushes. He faces a maximum sentence of life in prison. Also pleading guilty are Christian Martinez, Luis Alberto Rivera-Leal, Riley Covarrubias-Ponce and Juan Francisco D'Luna Bilbao. All five will be sentenced later this year. Another person charged in the US remains a fugitive, Leachman said. Several others have been charged in Mexico and Guatemala.

The incident is the deadliest among tragedies that have claimed thousands of lives in recent decades as people attempt to cross the US border from Mexico. Ten immigrants died in 2017 after they were trapped inside a truck parked at a Walmart in San Antonio. In 2003, the bodies of 19 immigrants were found in a sweltering truck southeast of San Antonio.

# British teenager who killed family and planned school massacre gets minimum 49 years in prison



A 19-year-old British man who shot and killed his mother and two younger siblings and who wanted to carry out a high-profile school shooting has been told he will not be eligible for parole for at least 49 years.

At the sentencing hearing at Luton Crown Court on Wednesday, Justice Bobbie Cheema-Grubb said she had considered handing Nicholas Prosper a full life order in prison but opted against that given his

age — he was 18 at the time of the shootings — and the fact that he had pleaded guilty.

Last month, Prosper admitted at a hearing to murdering his mother Juliana Falcon, 48, and his 13-year-old sister Giselle Prosper and 16-year-old brother Kyle Prosper at the apartment the family shared in Luton, Bedfordshire, on September 13. He had also stabbed his brother more than 100 times.

The judge said Prosper had wanted to emulate and outdo atrocities around the world, including the massacre at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut in December 2012, when 26 people, mostly children were killed, and the mass shooting at Virginia Tech in April 2007 when 30 people were killed.

"Your ambition was notoriety," she told Prosper, who had to be forced to come to the court to hear his fate. "You wanted to be known posthumously as the world's most famous school shooter of the 21st century."

The judge said Prosper's case featured many "recurrent themes" seen in school shootings around the world, including a sexual interest in children, a withdrawal into an online world, a lack of empathy towards victims and the selection of a "uniform" for the killings.

The court was told that Prosper, who had been unable to stay in education or hold down a job, had managed to forge a gun license and used it to buy a shotgun and 100 cartridges from a legitimate firearms dealer the day before the murders. His plan, the court was told, was to carry out a mass shooting at his old elementary school on Friday the 13th.

At about 5 a.m. that morning, Prosper carried out a test shot into a teddy bear in his bedroom. His mother had woken first, realizing something was "terribly wrong." Prosper killed her, leaving a copy of the novel "How to Kill Your Family" on her legs, before shooting his sister as she hid under a table,

and then stabbing and shooting his brother.

"The lives of your own mother and younger brother and sister were to be collateral damage on the way to fulfil your ambition," the judge said.

With police swarming the area after the attack on his family was reported, Prosper flagged down police officers in a nearby street and showed them where he had hidden a loaded shotgun and 33 cartridges.

Bedfordshire Police Detective Superintendent Rob Hall read a statement on behalf of Prosper's father Raymond Prosper, in which he said the deaths of his ex-partner Juliana and his son Kyle and daughter Giselle, had "much more meaning and importance"

"Their deaths and the fast response of Bedfordshire Police stopped any other family in the community going through the pain we have suffered," he said.

- First reported by the AP



# Father in Bahamas found guilty of having sex with daughter



Police and other first responders work the scene where officials say dozens of people have been found dead and multiple others were taken to hospitals with heat-related illnesses after a semitrailer containing suspected migrants was found, Monday, June 27, 2022, in San Antonio.

A High Court judge in the Bahamas has set June 11 as the date for sentencing for a father who was unanimously found guilty of incest over a four-year period.

Justice Petra Adderley

thanked the nine-member jury, including seven women, that had deliberated for nearly three hours in finding the father guilty.

The father, who had been on bail during the trial, showed

no emotion as he was handcuffed and led away by officers.

The Supreme Court heard that the father had engaged in unlawful sexual intercourse with his daughter between 2015 and 2019 when she was just 10 years old at the time. The now 19-year-old daughter told the court that she initially kept the abuse a secret out of fear, but by age 15, it had become too much to bear and she began experiencing nightmares, and in March 2021, she confided in her mother by allowing her to read a journal where she had written what happened to her.

The teenager later turned over the journal and her cell phone containing alleged voice recordings of her father

to the police.

However, neither item could be located initially.

The court heard that the sexual acts were committed in Abaco when the father visited her and in Freeport when she and her brothers spent summers with him.

Adderley, in her summation, reminded jurors that the burden of proof rested entirely on the prosecution, which had to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant committed the offences. She also noted that the defendant, through his attorney, denied the allegations and chose not to testify.

"He does not have to prove anything," she said, adding that his silence should not be taken as an admission of guilt.

## Trinidad and Tobago to hold early elections in late April



Trinidad and Tobago's new Prime Minister Stuart Young speaks during his swearing-in ceremony, in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, March 17, 2025.

Stuart Young announced the date for a general election less than 24 hours after he was sworn in as the eighth prime minister of Trinidad and Tobago.

Young, 50, who replaced Dr Keith Rowley as prime minister and named his 24-member Cabinet on Monday, said the election will be held on April 28, four months ahead of the fifth anniversary of the 2020 General Election when the ruling People's National Movement (PNM) won 22 of the 41 seats in the Parliament.

The other 19 seats went to the main Opposition United National Congress (UNC), which has been

calling for an early general election and insisted that Young's elevation to the top position in the Government was unconstitutional.

The UNC said it was prepared to have the matter challenged in court, even as some prominent attorneys brushed aside the comment.

President Christine Kangaloo, in a three-page statement, defended her decision to appoint Young as prime minister following what she termed as "the present unique circumstances surrounding the transition from one prime minister to another".

She said that her statement was

also being made "in the interest of transparency and so as to assist the public in understanding why I have acted as I have".

A brief statement from the Office of the Prime Minister said that Young had advised the president to dissolve Parliament as of midnight on Tuesday.

Nomination Day is April 4 and the statement said that the writs of election are to be issued on March 18.

In an immediate response, UNC and Opposition Leader Kamla Persad Bissessar said the party, which has been holding talks with minor Opposition parties and some trade unions, is prepared for the general election.

"The UNC is ready, and we will do what PNM MPs failed to do, which is to protect our country from being gifted to a selfish select group of Young's financiers," she said, adding that "Young hurriedly called the date to preempt the UNC legal action that was coming regarding his illegitimate and illegal anointment as prime minister.

The PNM last weekend presented its 41 candidates at a special convention of the party held at Wood-

ford Square in the heart of the capital, while the UNC has been holding cottage meetings and screening candidates to contest the election.

Apart from the two main political parties, the election will most likely be contested by Gary Griffith's National Transformation Party (NTP) and the Tobago People's Party, led by the current chief secretary in the Tobago House of Assembly, Farley Augustine.

Political analyst, Derek Ramsamooj, told the Caribbean Media Corporation (CMC) that, "It is surprising that Prime Minister Young made the decision to call the election without giving the electorate the opportunity to see his prime ministerial leadership." He added that there are "economic uncertainties and political volatility" tied to the Drag oil deal between Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago, given the United States position under Donald Trump to seek to reverse most of the decisions taken by his predecessor, Joe Biden.

"Many had anticipated an election much later this year. This has certainly made the election a 60m sprint," Ramsamooj told



A portrait of Sonia Fulford, a woman with long brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a dark blue jacket with a blue scarf and large hoop earrings. The background is a solid dark blue.

# HISTORIC!

**Sonia Fulford re-elected to FIFA Council unopposed for unprecedented third consecutive term**

**FIFA**

**See Story on Page 32**



# IOC set to include boxing on 2028 Olympics programme



Boxing is set to be among the sports at the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics after a

new governing body was selected, IOC chief Thomas Bach said on Monday.

Bach said the IOC's Executive Board approved including boxing on the 2028 programme after his organisation recognised World Boxing to oversee the sport at the Olympics, ending years of divisions over the way the sport is run.

The decision still needs to be rubber-stamped by a full IOC Session of about 100 members later this week, but that is expected to be a formality.

The IOC stepped in to organise the boxing tournaments at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021 and the Paris Olympics last year after breaking with the Russian-led International Boxing Association over financial, governance and ethical concerns.

Bach had warned that boxing's national

federations needed to find a new and "reliable" international partner if it wanted to be included at the 2028 Games.

Last month, the IOC provisionally recognised World Boxing as the body to oversee the sport at future Games.

"I am very confident that the session will approve it so that all the boxers of the world then have certainty that they can participate in the Olympic Games LA 2028 if their national federation is recognised by World Boxing," Bach said on Monday. IOC members will elect Bach's successor on Thursday.

The front-runners in the field of seven candidates are IOC veteran Juan Antonio Samaranch Junior, World Athletics president Sebastian Coe and former Olympic swimmer Kirsty Coventry of Zimbabwe.

# Athanaze headlines list of protected players for Breakout League



Alick Athanaze

WEST INDIES players Alick Athanaze, Amir Jangoo, and Shamar Springer are among 42 protected players who have been selected in the upcoming West Indies Breakout League T20 competition.

In a press release issued yesterday by Cricket West Indies, the six franchise teams competing in the

Breakout League confirmed their seven protected players ahead of the upcoming player draft.

As per tournament regulations, each team is allowed to protect seven cricketers, with a maximum of three players aged between 27 and 29. One of the players must be a leg spinner.

The remaining seven players per

squad will be selected during a draft, and they must all be 26 years old or younger.

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Players eligible to participate must be under 30 years old or at the start of the tournament have played fewer than 40 List A T20 matches and fewer than 10 T20 Internationals.

The 26-year-old Athanaze has played 13 Tests, 13 ODIs, and four T20Is for the West Indies and has been selected by the Windward Islands Infernos, along with all-rounder Springer, who has turned out for the regional team in two T20Is.

Jangoo, who had a memorable ODI debut against Bangladesh last December where he scored a century, has featured in one ODI and one Test match for the West Indies, will turn out for the Trinidad and Tobago Legions.

Test players Keacy Carty and Mikyle Louis have been selected by the Leeward Islands Thunder.

The West Indies Breakout League is a premier T20 cricket tournament designed to spotlight emerging talent from across the Caribbean and will take place from April 25 to May 10 at the Brian Lara Cricket Academy in Trinidad and Tobago.

Each team is closely affiliated with a Caribbean Premier League (CPL) franchise, providing players with an opportunity to showcase their skills on a larger stage and progress their cricketing careers.

Protected players

Trinidad and Tobago Legions:

Kamil Pooran, Amir Jangoo, Jyd Goolie, Crystian Thurton, Navin Bidaisee, Mikkel Govia, Joshua James.

Leeward Islands Thunder:

Jeremiah Louis, Keacy Carty, Kofi James, Karima Gore, Mikyle Louis, Jewel Andrew, Micah McKenzie.

Windward Islands Infernos:

Darel Cyrus, Shadrack Descarte, Shamar Springer, Alick Athanaze, Dillon Douglas, Teddy Bishop, Ackeem Auguste.

Guyana Rainforest Rangers:

Nial Smith, Kemol Savory, Ronaldo Alimohamed, Kevin Sinclair, Ashmead Nedd, Kevlon Anderson, Riyad Latiff.

Barbados Pelicans:

Leniko Boucher, Kadeem Alleyne, Joshua Bishop, Nyeem Young, Shaqkere Parris, Kevin Wickham, Zishan Motara.

Jamaica Titans:

Deethmar Anderson, Leroy Lugg, Ramaal Lewis, Jeavor Royal, Kirk McKenzie, Jordan Johnson, Tamarie Redwood.



# Messi scores off the bench as Miami progress in Jamaica



Inter Miami Lionel Messi

Lionel Messi came off the bench and scored as Inter Miami eased into the quarter-finals of the Concacaf Champions Cup with a 2-0 win at Jamaica's Cavalier earning them a 4-0 win on aggregate.

Messi, who had been rested for Miami's last three games including the first leg against Cavalier, started on the bench but came on in the 53rd minute to the delight of the crowd at the National Stadium.

The Argentine scored Miami's second with the final kick of the game, running on to a fine through ball from teenager Santiago Morales and clipping it first-time past the advancing Vinco Barclett.

With the home side's hopes of an upset win already dashed there were cheers for the goal from the Jamaican fans who were delighted to see the eight-time Ballon d'Or winner play in their country for the first time.

Miami knew an away goal would kill the tie and they began in positive mode with a long-range drive from Telasco Segovia flashing wide. A bumpy surface made it tricky for either side to play much in the way of attractive passing football but Miami showed urgency and Luis Suarez flashed a well-struck volley just wide from a tight angle.

Miami lost midfielder David Ruiz to injury with Benjamin Cremaschi replacing him in the centre of the park but the visitors continued to press forward.

The goal came in the 37th min-

ute when Inter's Argentine forward Tadeo Allende went down under challenge from Christopher Ainsworth and referee Keylor Vilalobos pointed the spot.

Suarez confidently rattled home the penalty to give the visitor's a 3-0 lead on aggregate and a cushion of comfort that allowed them to play out the rest of the game with little stress.

The young Cavalier team, featuring several of the more promising talents from the island nation, never lost heart though, clearly determined to leave their mark on the tournament.

They almost got some reward for their efforts when substitute Kaile Auvray burst in from the left and his low shot was only kept out by a fine save at the near post from Oscar Ustari.

Then came Messi's moment, a classy finish from the 37-year-old, to cap a win that ensures Miami progress into the last eight where they will face Los Angeles FC in an all-MLS tie.

# Mottley lauds Harris over historic FIFA appointment



Randy Harris has become the first ever Barbadian to be elected to FIFA Council

PRIME MINISTER of Barbados, Mia Mottley, has congratulated president of the Barbados Football Association (BFA) Randy Harris on being elected to the FIFA Council.

Harris, who was also president of the Caribbean Football Union (CFU), created history on Saturday when he became the first Barbadian to be elected to the prestigious FIFA Council during the 40th Ordinary Congress of the Confederation of North, Central America, and Caribbean Association Football (Concacaf) in St Lucia.

In a post on social media, Mottley described Harris'

election as a "well-deserved achievement".

"A historic moment for Barbados!

"Big congratulations to Randy Harris on his election to the FIFA Council, the first Barbadian to ever hold a position on this high-level football body," Mottley said.

"With close to five decades of dedication and leadership in football administration in Barbados and the Caribbean, this is truly a well-deserved achievement.

"We look forward to seeing you champion local and regional football on the global stage," the prime minister added.



# Jaguars Roar Past Beaches in Thrilling T20 Encounter

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE SPORT EDITOR



Man of match Daniel Bourne collecting his award

Downtown Ball Park witnessed an exhilarating T20 showdown on March 16, 2025, as the Jaguars stormed to a commanding victory over Beaches in Match #2 of the series.

With a disciplined bowling effort and a solid batting display, the Jaguars chased down the target to secure a 7-wicket triumph.

Batting first after winning the toss, Beaches struggled to build momentum against the Jaguars' disciplined bowling attack. Opener Chabbie Chorley started cautiously but was dismissed early by R. Kumar for 3 runs. The top order failed to capitalize, with wickets tumbling at regular intervals. Jerome Daley (5), Earl Henry (2), and Steve Hunter (4) were all sent back cheaply.

The middle order also found it tough to resist the Jaguars' attack,

with Ricardo Brown (0), Kenneth Alexis (4), and Anthony McKnight (3) all falling in quick succession. However, a late surge from Michael Wong (7\*) and a flurry of extras (30 in total) pushed Beaches to a respectable 120 before they were bowled out in 17.4 overs.

For Jaguars, R. Kumar (3-25), Parmanand (3-22), and Rady Daulys (2-18) led the charge, dismantling the Beaches' lineup with lethal spells.

Jaguars Cruise to Victory

Chasing 121 for victory, Jaguars' innings started with aggression as Daniel Bourne played a match-winning knock of 42. His opening partner, Rady Daulys, contributed a brisk 10 before being run out. Mark Austin (12) and Kritley Chorley (6) kept the scoreboard ticking.

However, it was a composed in-

nings from Parmanand (27) and a late cameo from Kimoy Charlemagne (14) that steered Jaguars home in 19 overs with a total of 163, comfortably sealing a 7-wicket win.

Earl Henry (4-23) was the stand-out bowler for Beaches, while Jerome Daley and Chabbie Chorley chipped in with two wickets each.

Key Performances:

🏆 Man of the Match: Daniel Bourne (42 runs)

🏆 Best Bowler: R. Kumar (3-25)

🏆 Final Scores:

Beaches: 120 all out (17.4 overs)

Jaguars: 163/10 (19 overs)

With this win, Jaguars made a strong statement in the tournament, showing their depth in both batting and bowling. Beaches, on the other hand, will need to regroup and come back stronger in their next fixture.

## Salt Rakers Aquatic Club Hosts Thrilling Third Annual Swimming Competition



Members of the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club

On Saturday, March 15, 2025, the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club made waves as it hosted its third annual Swimming Competition on the stunning shores of Grace Bay, in front of Rickie's Flamingo

Café Restaurant.

With more than 30 enthusiastic swimmers diving into the competition, the event featured an exciting lineup of races, including the 2K and 1K adult races, as

well as the 100m and 50m children's events.

The energy was high as swimmers of all ages competed for top honors. In the fiercely contested 2K adult race, Nicola Jordan claimed third place, Clayton Moss secured second, and Lex Olorenshaw emerged as the champion. The 1K race saw Kevanque Harvey finishing third, John Evans taking second, and Rishith Gururaja touching the finish line first to claim victory.

The young competitors also put on a spectacular show. In the 100m children's race, Evan Polon swam to third place, Asher Soderquist took second, and Kian Jules captured the First Place. The excitement continued in the 50m, where Ethan Williams placed third, Lorenzi Smith finished second, and Devon Modeste claimed first place in an impressive performance.

In addition to the podium finishes, all participants were recognized with Certificates of

Participation, celebrating their dedication and sportsmanship.

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club extends heartfelt appreciation to its sponsors—Fortis TCI, Beaches TCI, Grace Bay Pharmacy, Sun Bun, and Lemonies—for their generous support in making this event a success. A special thank you is also extended to the volunteers and parents who played a crucial role in ensuring the smooth execution of the competition.

Looking ahead, the Salt Rakers Open Water Competition will return in 2026, promising another year of exciting races, fierce competition, and community spirit.

For those eager to dive into the sport, Salt Rakers Aquatic Club continues to welcome new swimmers and looks forward to further growing the love for swimming in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Stay tuned for more upcoming events and see you in the water next year!



# SONIA FULFORD HISTORICALLY RE-ELECTED TO FIFA COUNCIL UNOPPOSED

Sonia Fulford, President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) created history at the FIFA Council when she was re-elected unopposed for an unprecedented third consecutive term.

The announcement was made at the Concacaf Council in St. Lucia on Saturday, March 15, 2025.

This remarkable achievement reaffirms Fulford's status as a trailblazer, being the first woman to hold these positions on both the FIFA and Concacaf Council for three successive terms.

Fulford was initially elected to the FIFA Council in 2013, ahead of the FIFA's reform which introduced term limits of no more than three four-year terms, which makes Fulford the second longest-serving sitting member of the FIFA Council.

Fulford's journey in football began on the field as a player for the Turks & Caicos Islands National Team. Her passion for the sport led her to serve as General Secretary of the Turks & Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) in 2006 before being elected as its President in 2014. Over the years, she has become a formidable force in shaping the development of football in the Turks & Caicos Islands, the Caribbean and beyond.

Under her leadership, Fulford has been a relentless advocate for the growth and inclusivity of the sport, championing development programs and funding, increasing opportunities for women in football, and ensuring that smaller nations have a voice on the global stage. Her re-election is a testament to the trust and confidence placed in her by the footballing fraternity, recognizing her unwavering commitment to the sport's progress. Expressing gratitude for this significant moment, Fulford



Sonia Fulford being congratulated by delegates and officials on her re-election unopposed to the FIFA Council for an unprecedented third term.

stated:

"I am deeply honored and humbled by the confidence shown in me by my colleagues and the global football community. This journey has never been about personal accolades but about creating opportunities, fostering growth, and ensuring that football continues to unite and inspire. I extend my heartfelt thanks to the members and stakeholders who have supported me throughout the years. My gratitude also goes to my dedicated staff and the entire TCIFA family, present and past, who have made my job easier with their unwavering commitment. To my family, especially my husband Guardvin Missick, your support has been my pillar of strength, and I share this achievement with you."

Looking ahead, Fulford reaffirmed her pledge to continue her mission of empowering the people of the region, particularly women, and ensuring that Caribbean football continues to thrive on the world stage.

"This re-election is not just a victory for me but for the entire region. It is proof that our voices matter and that we have a seat at the highest levels of



Sonia Fulford at the Concacaf Congress with husband Guardvin Missick and mother MayAlice Forbes.

decision-making. I remain steadfast in my commitment to advocating for our region, fostering talent, and ensuring that football serves as a vehicle for positive change."

Her re-election serves as a proud moment for the Caribbean and the Turks & Caicos Islands, highlighting the region's

growing influence in global football governance. The announcement was made during the 40th Concacaf Ordinary Congress, held on March 15, 2025, in Castries, St. Lucia. As she embarks on another term, the future of football in the region looks brighter than ever under her steadfast leadership.