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One Million Visitors
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'SANTA WASHY'

Washington Misick Administration praised
for Massive Salary Increase for the Civil
Service, especially in time for the Christmas
Holidays.



Scenes from United Way Annual Gala

United Way Turks and Caicos staged its Annual Gala on December 2, at the Shore Club Resort in Providenciales. A wide cross-section of the TCI Community attended the stellar event, which attracted several United Way representatives from its regional and international body. NewslineTCI PAGE2 was on hand to capture the event. These are images from the reception period.





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- Do not walk around with large amounts of money.
- Avoid crowded areas.
- Avoid going out alone, be with company.
- Be aware of your surroundings.
- When walking to and from your vehicle, have your key in easy access.
- Do not overload, avoid too much bags while shopping.
- Inform your family members, where you are going, with whom and how long you intend to stay.



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STAY SAFE & ENJOY THE HOLIDAY SEASON



AG Investigates Authenticity of Squatters' Land Papers in Provo



The Attorney General (AG) Chambers and rel-

evant entities are scrutinizing the authenticity

of land transaction papers and receipts provided by squatters in Providenciales.

These individuals, residing in the Dock Yard community, faced the threat of demolition by the Informal Settlements Unit (ISU). However, the ISU has temporarily halted its plans due to the approaching festive season and the submission of documents by some residents indicating monetary exchanges for their occupied properties.

Head of the ISU, Retired High Court Judge Justice Carlos Simons, announced on Monday, November 27, during a news briefing, that a thorough examination of the presented papers is necessary before any demolition action can proceed. Dock Yard, a privately-owned settlement, has become a focal point for this investigation.

"People are coming forward, especially in Dock Yard, with papers indicating the exchange of money for land. It is right that the staff of the Unit, (Physical) Planning (Department), the Attorney General's Chambers, and other relevant agencies assess these papers to understand their significance in the circumstances of the people there," emphasized Simons.

The ISU, responsible for reclaiming unauthorized settlements, plans to resume its demolition activities in January 2014. Simons urged individuals to submit their paperwork, assuring transparency in evaluating claims. He said copies of documents are being compiled into files for comprehensive assessment. Simons emphasized the importance of understanding the details of financial transactions related to land occupation before carrying out any form of demolition.

"We want to assess the papers brought in and encourage people to tell us about their cases. If money has been paid, we want to know how much, to whom, for what...all of that. We want to assist these people in the best way possible," Simons informed reporters," he articulated.

Simultaneously, Simons emphasized the ISU's primary objective, which is preventing the proliferation of informal settlements. The warning was issued against the construction of illegal buildings without proper Planning permission, highlighting the imminent removal of such structures.

The investigation reflects the delicate balance between enforcing land regulations and ensuring fair treatment for residents who claim financial transactions for their occupied land. Meanwhile, as the AG examines the presented documents, the fate of the Dock Yard community hangs in the balance, with the ISU emphasizing its commitment to a transparent and fair resolution process but firm in its stance to rid the Turks and Caicos Islands of illegal structures and settlements.

Following Historic Civil Servant Pay Increase Announcement...

Public Gives Premier a Festive Nickname - 'Santa Washy' -



In the wake of the Turks and Caicos Islands government's groundbreaking announcement of

significant pay increases for civil servants, Premier Washington Misick has found himself affectionately dubbed 'Santa Washy' by members of the public.

The moniker stems from the Premier's role in delivering what has been described as a generous and historic pay hike for government employees.

The 'Pay and Grading Review,' effective from December 1, has resulted in a substantial \$18.2 million increase in manpower costs, marking a 22% rise. The announcement was made at the Premier's Office in Providenciales on Monday, December 4, and the unprecedented move has left citizens celebrating the festive season with a bit of extra cheer.

Deputy Governor Her Excellency Governor Anya Williams shared the details of the salary increases at the press conference, held on Monday December 1, at the Premiers on Providenciales.

According to Williams, every member of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government workforce, spanning various sectors and islands, will receive a minimum 10% increase in net pay, effective December 1, 2023. Certain key sectors, including Policing, Healthcare, Education, Front Line, and Administrative and Support Staff, will witness even higher increments.

A whopping 72% of the total budget for the pay

and grading review, amounting to \$13.1 million, has been allocated to salary increases in the crucial sectors of Policing, Healthcare, Education, Front Line, and Administrative and Support Staff. These sectors collectively represent 79% of the current government workforce, comprising 1,568 employees.

The highlights of the Pay and Grading Review include substantial increases in the Education sector, where 374 staff members will experience varied pay boosts, with Graduate Teachers receiving a 25% increase and Principals enjoying a remarkable 57.1% raise. The basic salary for a Graduate Teacher has been elevated to \$48,320, signaling a competitive edge in the regional teaching scales.

Healthcare professionals, numbering 173, will benefit from a 10.4% allocation of the budget, with increases ranging from 20.8% for Registered Nurse/Midwives to 28.9% for Community Health Aides.

Front-line staff, consisting of 378 Grade 5 officers, will witness a net pay increase of 28.3%, and an additional \$1,770,115 has been earmarked for senior front-line officers, ensuring a 22.5% net increase for 209 Grade 6 officers.

The Police sector, allotted \$1,480,449, will see 317 Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force staff members receiving additional net pay increases ranging from 12.2% for Constables to 17.7% for Superintendents. Combining these increments with the 14% salary increase awarded in 2022/2023, Police salaries are set to rise by 25-30%.

Support staff in Grade 4, comprising 117 members, will receive a substantial 27.3% net pay increase. Additionally, various other grades across different sectors will experience increases ranging from 13.8% to 40.4%.

The announcement also addressed remuneration adjustments for Ministers and Members of the House of Assembly, with a \$600,000 allocation for a new remuneration package.

The 'Santa Washy' moniker reflects the Premier's role in bringing a considerable financial boost to public servants, turning what would have been an ordinary holiday season into a joyous and prosperous one for many.

In the meantime, Premier Misick outlined that the consideration for the pay raise was rooted on the three pillars of justice - Equity, Equality and Need, as it relates to economic fortunes of the TCI.

"Because change is constant, we must constantly strive to counterbalance the impact of negative changes to our people. As our economy grows our people must participate in the economic dividends of growth. Social changes and demographic shifts require a rebalancing paradigm equity, equality and need. The Pay and Regrading initiative by my administration is another step in a series of steps by my government, and it reflects the critical conditions of economic justice," Premier Misick said.

The premier crowed that each time he served as a member of the executive committee he always made effort to boast the pay and working conditions of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.



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Sultan Al Jaber's obligation

Hopefully, the United Nations climate conference, COP28, hasn't been irreparably damaged and will still be able to reach agreements, based on credible science, to divert the earth from its spiralling towards becoming catastrophically hot.

For this to happen, the conference's chairman, Sultan Ahmed Al-Jaber – who, incongruously, is the CEO of the United Arab Emirates' national oil company, Adnoc – has to demonstrate not only that he believes that greenhouse gases from fossil fuels cause global warming, but is willing to lead the conference to action to aggressively phase-down, and eventually phase out, the use of oil and gas as the planet's source of energy.

Mr Al-Jaber's leadership of the climate conference was controversial from the beginning.

Many people saw a conflict of interest in an oil man leading a climate conference, where the issue of the future of fossil fuels was bound to be touchy. Matters worsened last weekend when leaked documents suggested that the Emiratis intended to use COP28 as a post-conference launching pad to drum up business for Adnoc.

What has now seriously unsettled matters is Mr Al-Jaber's remarks at a pre-COP online discussion in which he questioned the science that dramatically cutting back the use of fossil fuels was critical to keeping Earth's temperature to below 1.5 degrees Celsius by the end of the century.

CREDIBLE SCIENCE

In the forum Mary Robinson, the former Irish president and climate activist, had pressured

Mr Al-Jaber about leading the conference towards lowering, and ultimately ending, the burning of fossil fuels. His response, based on a video produced by the Guardian newspaper in the UK, was to accuse Ms Robinson of being an alarmist and to question the science.

"There is no science out there, or no scenario out there, that says the phase out of fossil fuels is what's going to achieve 1.5," Mr Al-Jaber said.

He added: "Please, help me, show me a road map for a phase out of fossil fuels that will allow for sustainable socio-economic development, unless you want to take the world back into caves."

Credible scientists and their science, of course, insist that Mr Al-Jaber is wrong. Indeed, using 2019 as the benchmark, the United Nations climate panel has said that countries must, by the end of the decade, reduce greenhouse emissions from fossil fuels by 43 per cent to have a decent shot of limiting the warming of Earth to under 1.5 degrees.

At the opening of COP28 on Friday, Antonio Guterres, the UN's secretary general, said: "The 1.5-degree limit is only possible if we ultimately stop burning all fossil fuels. Not reduce. Not abate. Phase out. With a clear time frame aligned with 1.5 degrees."

Not surprisingly, Mr Al-Jaber faced a barrage of criticism for his revisionist science.

Al Gore, the former US vice president and prominent climate activist, suggested that Mr Al-Jaber's "preposterous disguise" had fallen off, insisting that "the world needs to phase out fossil fuels as quickly as possible".

HUMAN EXISTENCE ON EARTH IN PERIL

On Monday, Mr Al-Jaber back-pedalled a bit, even as he claimed, without offering evidence of how, that his words had been "taken out of context with misrepresentation and misinterpretation that gets maximum coverage".

"I respect the science in everything I do," said the engineer and economist. "I have said over and over that the phase-down and the phase out of fossil fuels is inevitable." Believing that something is inevitable is one thing; it is quite another to do something to accelerate that inevitability. Or to make the process slower than necessary.

Global warming has meant rising sea levels, longer droughts and more frequent, and unpredictable, storms and floods. It puts human existence on Earth in peril.

Small, poor island states like Jamaica feel the brunt of these disruptions. They are, however, without the economic resources to adapt fast enough to the changing environment. Burning less fossil fuels and transitioning to renewable energy is, ultimately, in the interest of countries like our own. So, insisting that Mr Al-Jaber keep the conference on track is crucial.

Yet, even after all that is done, poor countries still have to bear the consequences of, and adapt to, a crisis to whose creation they contributed little.

COP28, therefore, also has an obligation to fulfil, and expand on, the developed world's promises of financial support for poor countries. That, too, is part of Mr Al-Jaber's mandate.

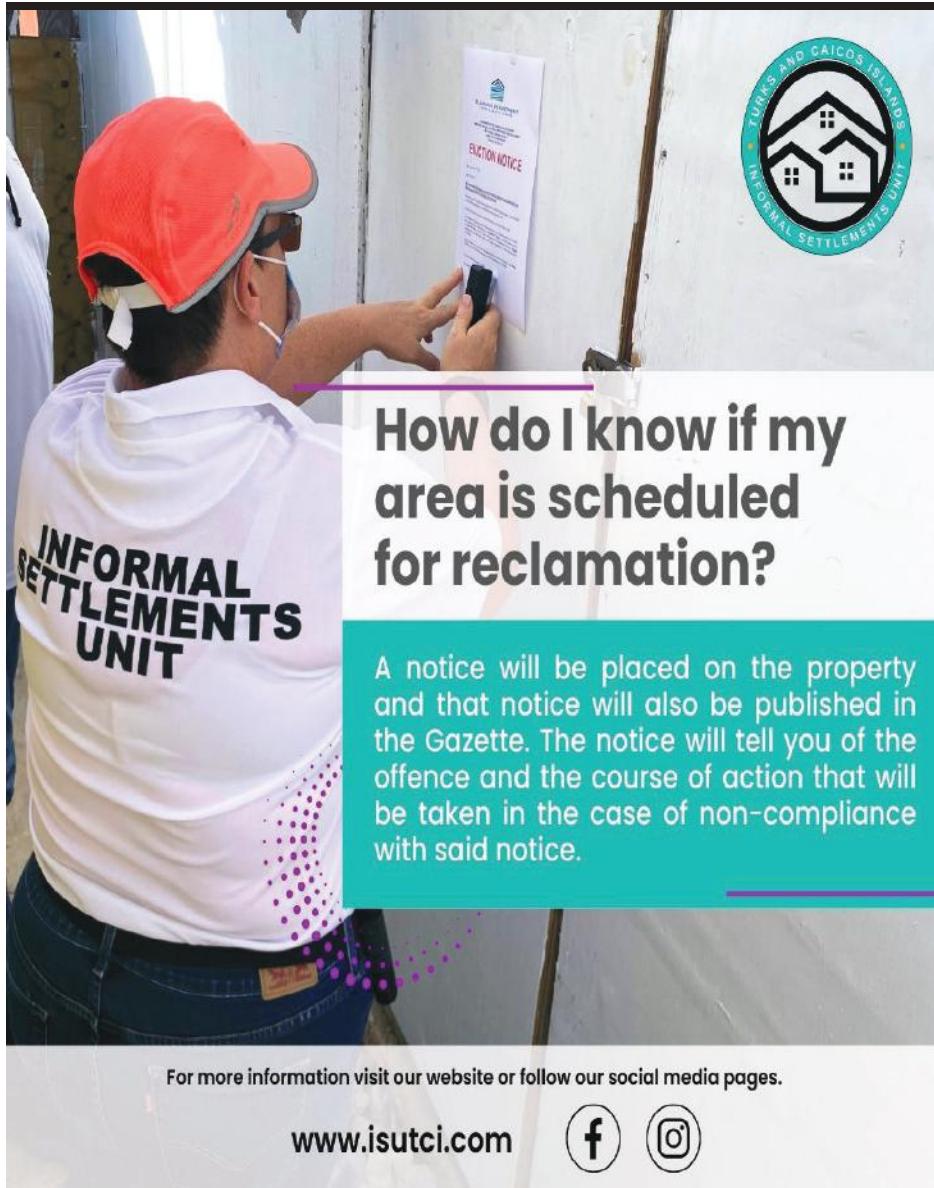


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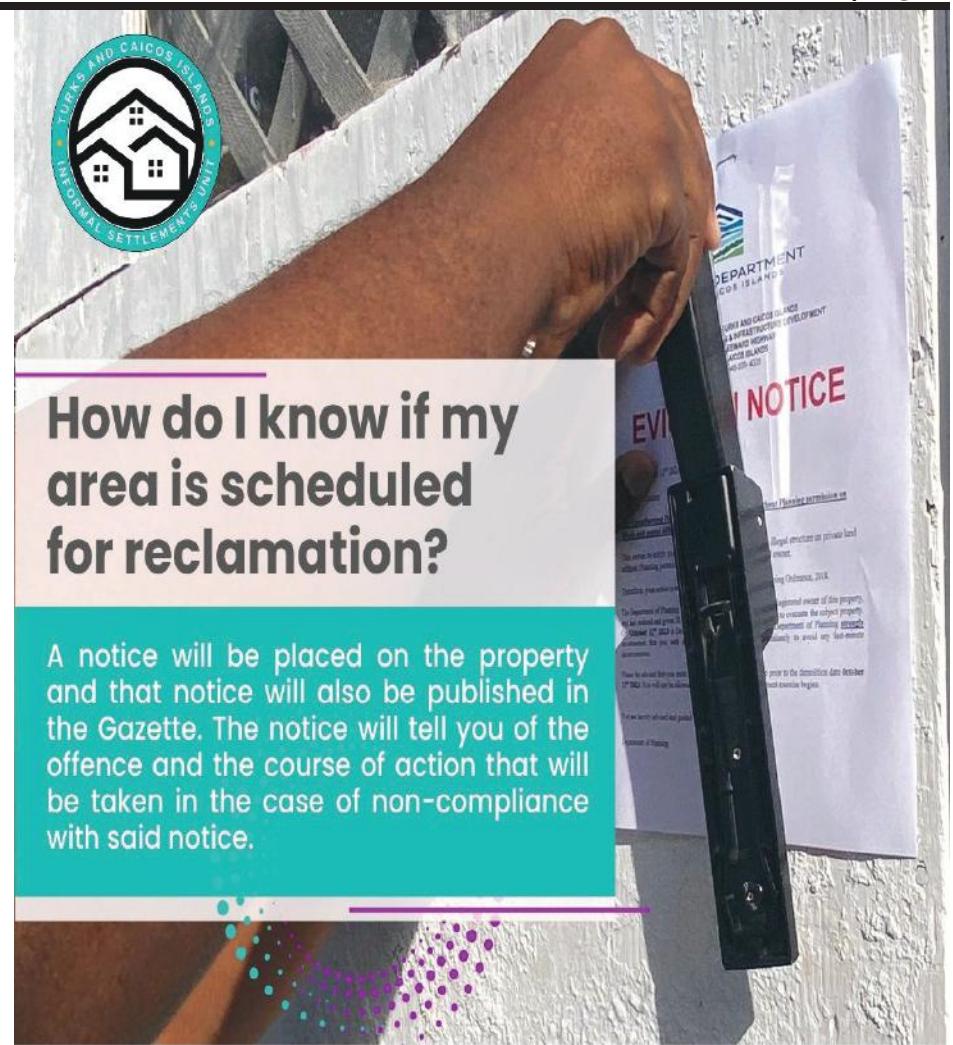


How do I know if my area is scheduled for reclamation?

A notice will be placed on the property and that notice will also be published in the Gazette. The notice will tell you of the offence and the course of action that will be taken in the case of non-compliance with said notice.

For more information visit our website or follow our social media pages.

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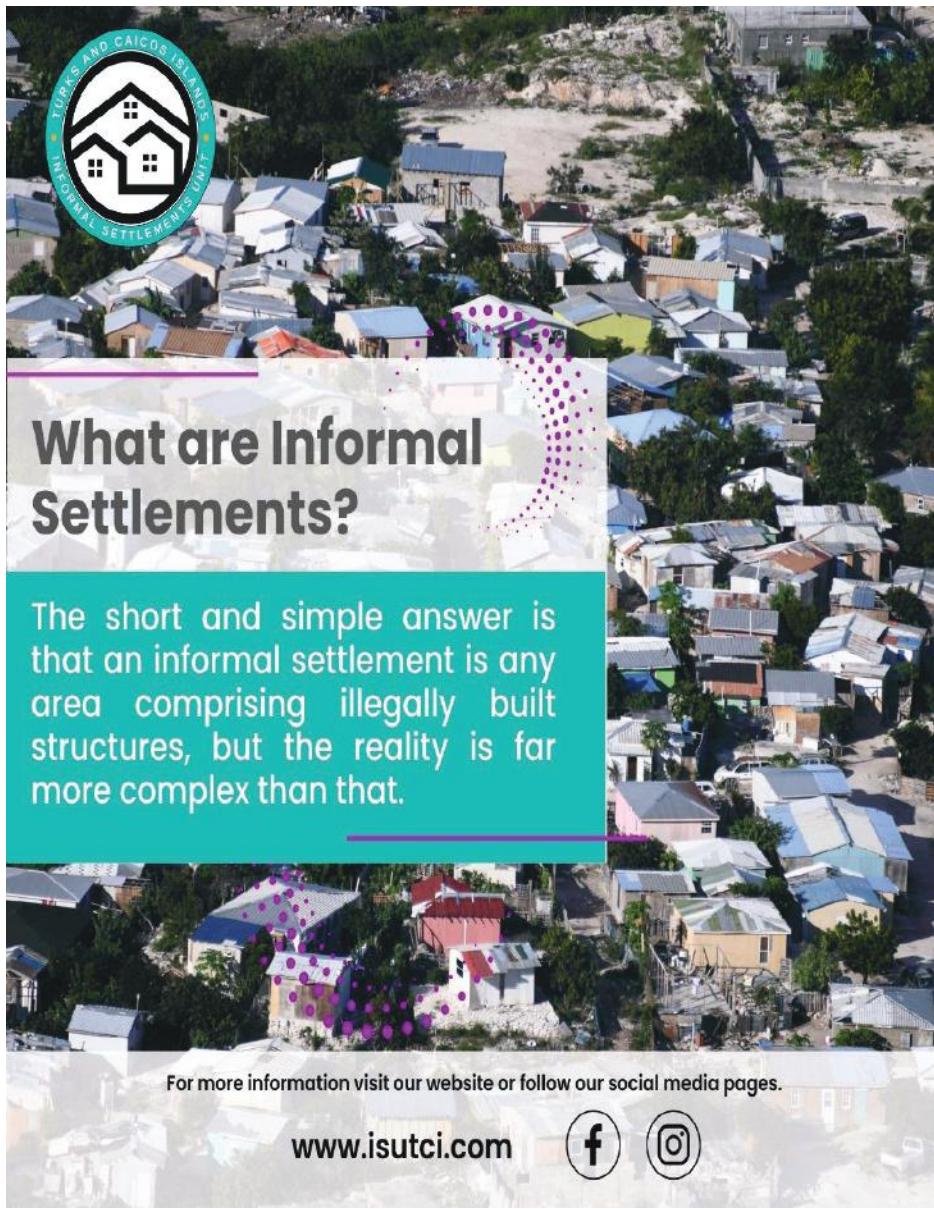


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For more information visit our website or follow our social media pages.

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What are Informal Settlements?

The short and simple answer is that an informal settlement is any area comprising illegally built structures, but the reality is far more complex than that.

For more information visit our website or follow our social media pages.

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How do I know if I am squatting on Crown Land?

If you have no documentation showing your title to the land or if you have documentation that has not been registered with the Land Registry, you are considered to be squatting. In either of these instances you will receive a notice from the Crown Land Unit informing you of your status as a squatter. If you have documentation showing your title to the land, you are urged to contact the Crown Land Unit should you receive such a notice.



For more information visit our website or follow our social media pages.

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Massive Pay Rise A Campaign Promise – Deputy Premier



SAUNDERS: "One of the things I said was, if we hit \$400 million, we would be able to do some pretty good things for the country, including increasing the civil servants' pay."

Deputy Premier and Minister of Finance and Trade Hon. E. Jay Saunders is reminding the public that the massive increase doled out to civil servants which was announced this week was the manifestation of a campaign promise.

This move, he emphasized, is the fulfillment of that campaign promise made during a period when the country's revenue was around \$300 million, impacted by the challenges posed by COVID-19.

The finance minister further explained that the commitment to increase civil servants' pay was contingent on the country achieving a revenue milestone of \$400 million. With current revenues surpassing this target, the government is allocating \$19.1 million in the next year's budget, starting from April 1, 2024, to fund this pay raise. Additionally, \$16 million has been allocated to the Public Service Pension Fund.

"During our campaign, the country was doing about \$300 million in revenue or a little bit less at that point because of COVID...but I think the best the country had done was over \$300 million. And one of the things I said was, if we hit \$400 million, we would be able to do some pretty good things for the country, including increasing the civil servants' pay, as well as being able to do more for the country," Saunders pointed out.

The Deputy Premier highlighted the government's aim to make the Turks and Caicos Civil Service one of the best globally. He stressed the importance of better pay in enhancing efficiency and morale within the civil service, ultimately attracting top talent from both the private sector and among recent graduates.

Saunders expressed optimism that this pay increase would motivate individuals to join the civil service, leading to an improvement in overall efficiency. Furthermore, he anticipated a positive impact on the private sector, as employers would be compelled to match government salaries to retain their top employees. This, in turn, could result in a broader increase in salaries across the board.

"They are going to feel better; they are going to do a much better job. Top graduates are going to join the civil service...top people in the private sector are going to join the civil service. Efficiency will automatically increase," he argued. Turks and Caicos Civil Service will now start to attract the best from the private sector...because people are going to realize now that... 'I can do better with the civil service.'

"The top graduate, when they come home, they are going to work with the civil service, and that is going to push up the efficiency."

Because people will become more energized to work because they now know that the government is looking out for them," Saunders added.

The Deputy Premier framed this initiative as an example of the Turks and Caicos Islands Government taking a leadership role in prioritizing its workforce. By becoming the employer of choice, the government aims to set a standard for the private sector to follow.

"...But something else will happen...as the private sector employers realize that they can't retain top employees anymore, they are going to match government salary, and so, everybody's salary overtime will start to increase. Because the country is doing well, we could pay civil servants well, and the private sector will follow suit and it will trickle down to everybody."

"This is an example also of Turks and Caicos islands' Government leading from the front. The Turks and Caicos Islands Government has now become the employer of choice. And if we could do this at \$400 million, imagine what we can do when we reach to \$500 million."

Looking ahead, Saunders suggested that the government's ability to implement such positive changes could continue to grow as the country's revenue surpasses \$500 million, signaling potential for further advancements in public sector compensation and national development.

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Turks and Caicos Attracts Over One Million Visitors January to October



The world famous Grace Bay Beach

The Turks and Caicos Islands is celebrating over a million visitors to the destination by air and cruise.

From January to October 2023, the Turks and Caicos saw 535,893 visitors arrive by air and 677,943 via cruise.

The air arrivals for January to October 2023 represent a 4.8 percent increase over 2022, which saw 511,132 air arrivals in the same period. The air arrivals also represent an 18 percent increase over the 2019 figure of 450,443 arrivals for the same period.

"We are very pleased to see the increased number of visitors to the Turks and Caicos Islands by air and cruise for 2023. The Turks and Caicos Islands is renowned for its pristine turquoise waters and white sand beaches, world-class resorts and villas, culinary diversity, cultural experiences and natural beauty, 'Beauty By Nature'. The increased visitation demonstrates the Turks and Caicos Islands' appeal for barefoot luxury and unique experiences.

"As a multi-island destination, we are also diversifying the product experience and encouraging our visitors to experience the culture, heritage and activities for day tours and/or overnight stay beyond Providenciales in the Turks and Caicos," said Minister of Tourism, Hon. Josephine Connolly.

The United States market remains the leading source market with 434,343 arrivals from January to October. There were 35,606 arrivals from

Canada.

There were 8,541 arrivals from the United Kingdom, versus 2022 for the same period January to August 2023. The addition of Virgin Atlantic Airways, from London, Heathrow, increases the ease of travel to the Turks and Caicos Islands from the UK and Europe, with twice weekly, non-stop flights.

Premiere travel, lifestyle and luxury publications Travel + Leisure and Conde Nast Traveler have listed the Turks and Caicos Islands as one of the destinations to visit for 2024, further supporting the anticipated increase in visitation to exceed figures from 2019 and 2022.

The cruise arrivals of 677,943 mark a 30.5 percent increase over the period in 2022 which saw 519,418 cruise passengers. The diversity of our tourism product allows for increased spend on island for Grand Turk and Salt Cay through a range of activities. These include diving along the 7000-feet wall, the third largest barrier reef in the world; getting up close and personal with stingrays at Gibbs Cay, also known as "Stingray City"; dining at local restaurants and exploring historical sites such as the lighthouse, the national museum and the Salt Salinas.

Helcyann Selver, Layton Lewis join Experience Turks and Caicos Team



Helcyann Selver, Local Representative, Experience Turks and Caicos



Layton Lewis

Experience Turks and Caicos has welcomed Helcyann Selver and Layton Lewis to its team serving in different capacities, effective December 5, 2023.

Selvers has been named Local Representative, while Lewis has been task with the role of Events Organiser Specialist.

Selver is currently pursuing a Master of Science in Human Services, with a specialisation in Mental Health from Walden University Online and a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from Benedict College, Columbia, South Carolina.

Selver, who is from North Caicos, reports to the Destination Development Department and is responsible for product development in North, Middle and East Caicos.

Selver said she is excited to develop the tourism product in the sister islands.

"It is an amazing opportunity to be a local representative from North Caicos and to be able to

help with the development of tourism in my island and the sister islands. It is an honour to be able to be a part of the change that you want to see in our community. In working with Experience Turks and Caicos I now have the opportunity to market and promote my hometown with hopes of attracting not only tourists but to encourage the development of local businesses," she said.

Lewis holds a Bachelor's degree in Tourism and Hospitality Management from Mount Saint Vincent University in Canada with a minor in Marketing and an Associate Degree in Business Administration from the Turks and Caicos Community College in Grand Turk.

A native of Grand Turk, Lewis previously worked as a Marketing Executive for the Canadian office of the Turks and Caicos Islands Tourist Board.

In his capacity as Events Organiser Specialist, he will be responsible for planning and coordinating marketing events for Experience Turks and Caicos.

In welcoming Mr. Lewis to the team, Ms. Racquel Brown, Change Manager and Interim CEO of Experience Turks and Caicos, said his role is an important one for the organisation.

Lewis said he is humbled by the opportunity.

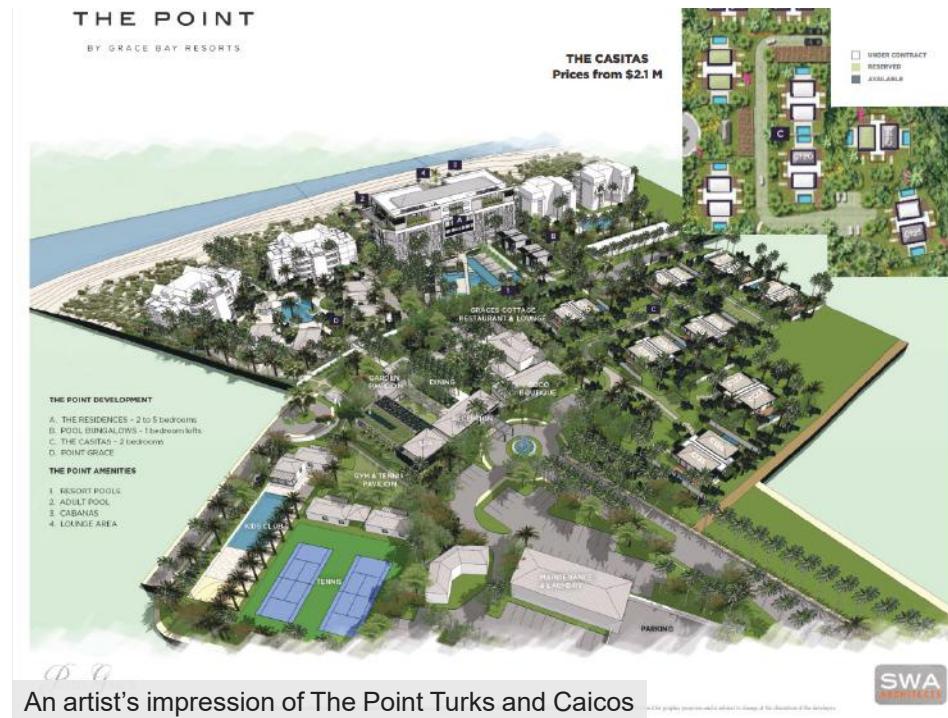
"I'm eternally grateful and humbled to be hired for the role as Events Organiser Specialist within Experience Turks and Caicos. An opportunity to serve my country in this capacity will not be taken lightly. Thanks be to God, for he is good!"

In welcoming Selver to the team, Racquel Brown, Change Manager and Interim CEO of Experience Turks and Caicos, said her appointment is in keeping with the thrust to market and promote the Turks and Caicos Islands as multi-island destination.

"We are positioning the destination beyond Providenciales as we seek to increase visitation and spend. Developing the tourism product in our sister islands is key to this and, as such, the addition of Miss Selver to our team allows for the enhancement of North, Middle and East Caicos for more activities to increase day tours and to increase spend on island to the benefit of our communities and stakeholders," she said.

In regard to Lewis, Brown said: "As the Event's Organiser Specialist, Mr. Lewis is an important addition to Experience Turks and Caicos due to the diversity of events we will execute. These include, press conferences, hosting visiting Travel Agents and Journalists, Workshops, Stakeholder Meetings. In this role, he will be assisting departments with the planning and execution of all events in the Turks and Caicos Islands and Source markets to ensure all events represent the branding of Experience Turks and Caicos and objective(s) of all events."

Grace Bay Resorts Launches New Luxurious 'The Point Turks and Caicos'



An artist's impression of The Point Turks and Caicos



Mark Durliat (right), CEO of Grace Bay Resorts speaks with international interior designer Young Huh (left) and Rory Stevens, Director of SWA Architects at the launch of The Point Turks and Caicos.



Mark Durliat (right) CEO of Grace Bay Resorts, introduces his team spread across the Grace Bay Resorts chain, to attendees at the event.

Grace Bay Resorts, a prominent developer and operator of luxury resorts and branded residences in Turks and Caicos, announces its latest resort residential offering, The Point.

Situated at the renowned Point Grace resort on Grace Bay Beach, this exclusive project follows the success of Grace Bay Resorts' Rock House development.

The Point, scheduled for completion in 2026, comprises two-bedroom casitas starting at \$2.1 million, two & three-bedroom condominiums ranging from \$2.7 to \$3.6 million, and four to five-bedroom residences priced at \$6.0 million. Two unique double-story corner Penthouses are also available at \$11 million each. The project has witnessed

strong early sales, with nearly 50% of the inventory already sold to the loyal customer base of Grace Bay Resorts.

Grace Bay Resorts, with two decades of development experience in Turks and Caicos, brings The Point into its prestigious portfolio, which includes renowned properties like Grace Bay Club, Rock House, West Bay Club, and the soon-to-open South Bank.

According to CEO Mark Durliat, who unveiled the project on Thursday, December 7, in front of a throng of real estate agents, representing the top agencies in the Turks and Caicos Islands, The Point project was conceived over a 10-year period, culminating in Grace Bay Resorts' selection as the new steward of Point Grace in 2018.

Durliat pointed out that this acquisition included the Point Grace brand, Grace's Cottage restaurant, poolside cottages, and 9.5 acres of beachfront land, with a commitment to preserving the property's low-density, intimate legacy.

The Point, spanning nearly 300 feet of Grace Bay Beach, features 38 luxury condominiums, including single-family branded two-bedroom casitas with private gardens and swimming pools—a first in Grace Bay. Durliat pointed out at the event that, despite economic pressures and planning codes allowing for taller buildings, Grace Bay Resorts has maintained low-density and minimum heights on the 9.5-acre property.

He pointed out that residents and guests will enjoy upscale amenities such as new restaurants and bars, four luxurious pools, underground parking, a double-height spa & fitness center, tennis and pickleball courts, oceanfront cabanas, and a kids' discovery zone.

Designed by award-winning architects SWA Architects and Young Huh Interior Design, The Point embodies modern luxury with high-quality materials and finishes. Residences feature 10 ft ceilings, Italian porcelain tiling, Sub Zero and Miele appliances, Waterworks bath fixtures, and Scavolini solid timber kitchens with natural stone walls. The Point offers an artful collaboration between indoor and outdoor living, with generous terraces providing expansive ocean views. Ground floor residences boast private plunge pools, and all units provide lock-out capability for enhanced rental flexibility.

United Way International Lauds Local United Way on 'Magnificent' Reading Programme



Yolanda Nokuri Hegngi (left) Senior Vice President for the International Network of United Way collects a plaque from Claudine Ewing, Chief Executive Officer of United Way Turks and Caicos, at the Annual Gala held on Saturday, December 2, at the Shore Club Resort.

The international executive of United Way, Yolanda Nokuri Hegngi, has praised the Local United Way Reading initiative in Turks and Caicos, describing it as magnificent. Nokuri Hegngi, Senior Vice President for the International Network of United Way, and who oversees 43 countries outside the United States for the International Network of United Way, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, commended the program and emphasized the importance of building on its foundation.

"I think it is great, and I think that it is the foundation that we can build on," Nokuri Hegngi said. "We must continue doing it, and we must continue to ensure that that foundation is strong, and even, so that we can continue with them as they grow older and help them get ready for the workplace with some marketable skills."

She highlighted the need to continue supporting the youth in Turks and Caicos, ensuring a strong foundation and providing them with marketable skills for the workplace. Nokuri Hegngi expressed interest in a program similar to Miami's 'Upskilling for Smart Jobs,' focusing on preparing young people for upcoming job opportunities. Her goal is to help the youth stay within

their communities, avoid leaving the country, and contribute to building a strong Turks and Caicos.

"Miami has something that is called 'Upskilling for Smart Jobs'. What are the jobs that are coming ahead that we can look and say, 'Let's help these young people get ready,' so they don't have to leave the country. We all left our home countries. They can stay home within their communities and with their families and build a strong TCI," she noted.

Nokuri Hegngi also discussed her role in coordinating and leading United Ways across different countries, emphasizing the importance of synergy and learning from each other, particularly in the post-COVID era.

She outlined the three pillars of United Way—Education, Health, and Economic Mobility—and stressed her commitment to building on education, particularly the reading programs, to ensure that youth are prepared for the workforce.

"My core role is to ensure that we have good leadership of all the United Ways, both at the top in terms of the chief exec, including Ms (Claudine) Ewing here. Then on top of Claudine Ewing, is to also make

sure that they are well coordinated so that there is synergy (within the regional United Way branches) and that they learn from each other, and they don't feel so isolated, especially after COVID.

"And so, we have vice presidents. And in the past, we had an issue with the Caribbean because it is such a unique region, and the last two acting vice presidents were in Central America – Columbia and Honduras – and they were Spanish-speaking. And so, the Caribbean has not always felt integrated.

"So, John Emge has been the Regional Engagement Director for the Northeast Region, and he has been the coordinator with Claudine Ewing, and with Miss Toni Cunningham in Jamaica. And I really wanted to change that, because United Way has three pillars – Education, which we heard all about tonight; Health; and of course, Economic Mobility.

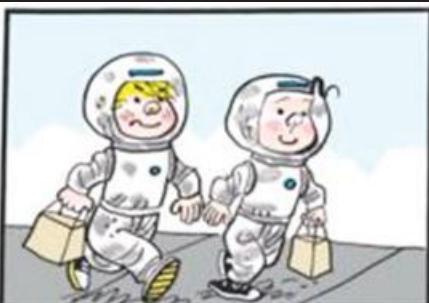
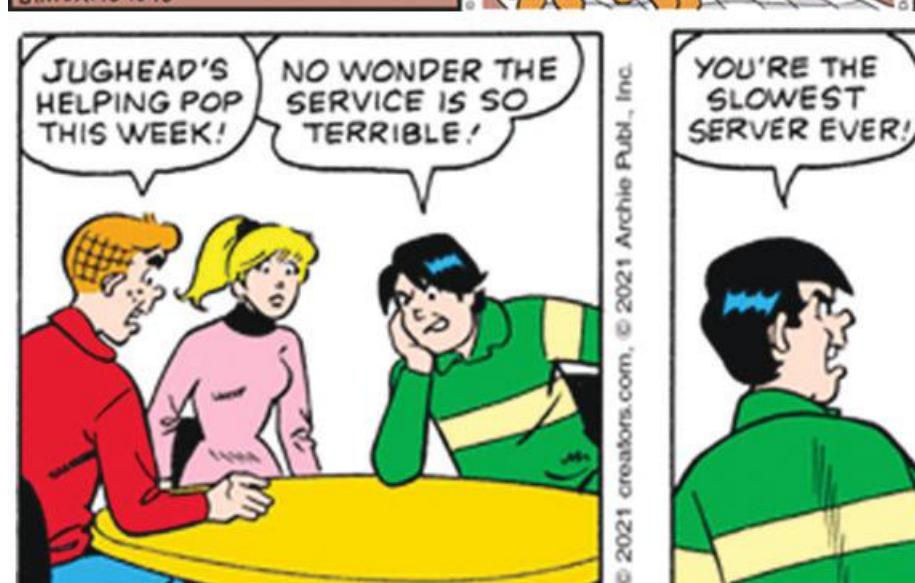
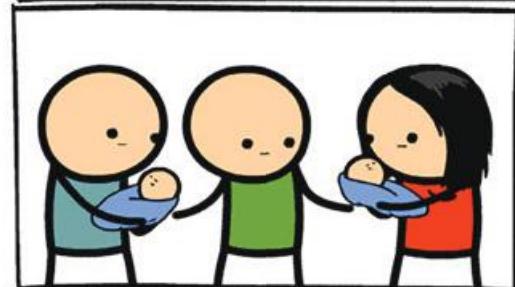
"However, for me, I want to build on education...on the reading programmes by going upstream to help the youth. How do we ensure that the youth are the current... not only the future. How could we build on education...the reading programme to ensure they are ready for work. How do we make sure that those who dropped out of school can get apprenticeship and show that they are ready for work. How do we tell corporations that they can come to Turks and Caicos because the youth are ready to work.

"That's my vision. My role is to pass the vision with strategic direction that aligns this region in a way that is also aligns with worldwide, but also with the economic needs of the corporation sellers.

"So, while Ms Claudine Ewing is so busy with her successful reading programme, I would like to mobilize some corporations to start adding to the reading programme with youth workforce development...that is my role. Vision and strategic direction in a way that is synergistic, and in a way that reflects what the economy is asking us to do," Nokuri Hegngi said.

She also acknowledged the impact of COVID on global education, with students losing approximately two years of education due to the challenges of virtual learning.

Nokuri Hegngi was in the TCI attending the Turks and Caicos Islands United Way Annual Gala, held at the Shore Club Resort on Providenciales, Saturday, December 2.


**NEWSLINE[®]
COMICS**


Cheshire Hall Plantation

NEWSLINE
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



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

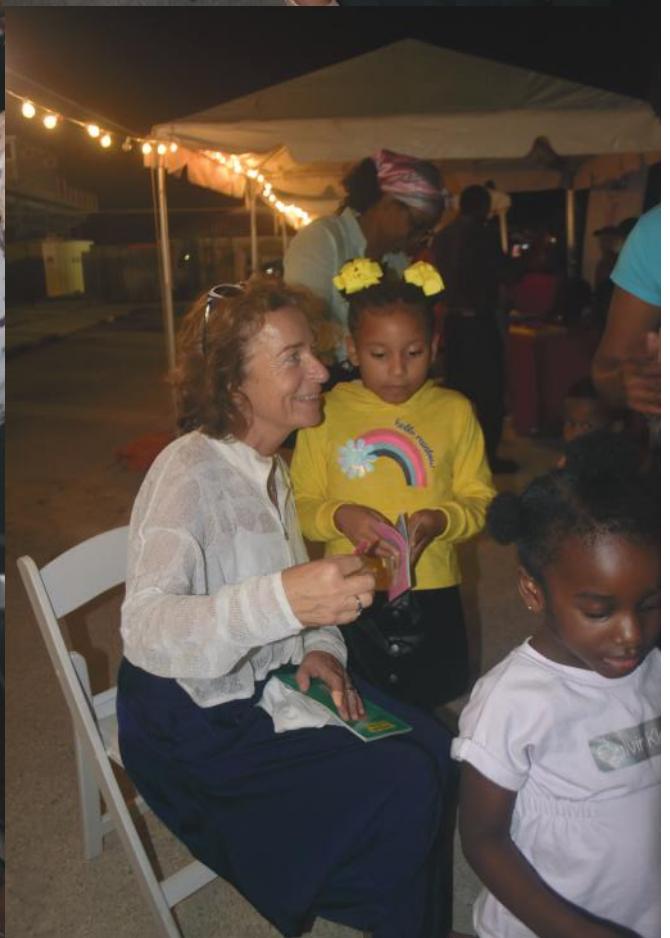
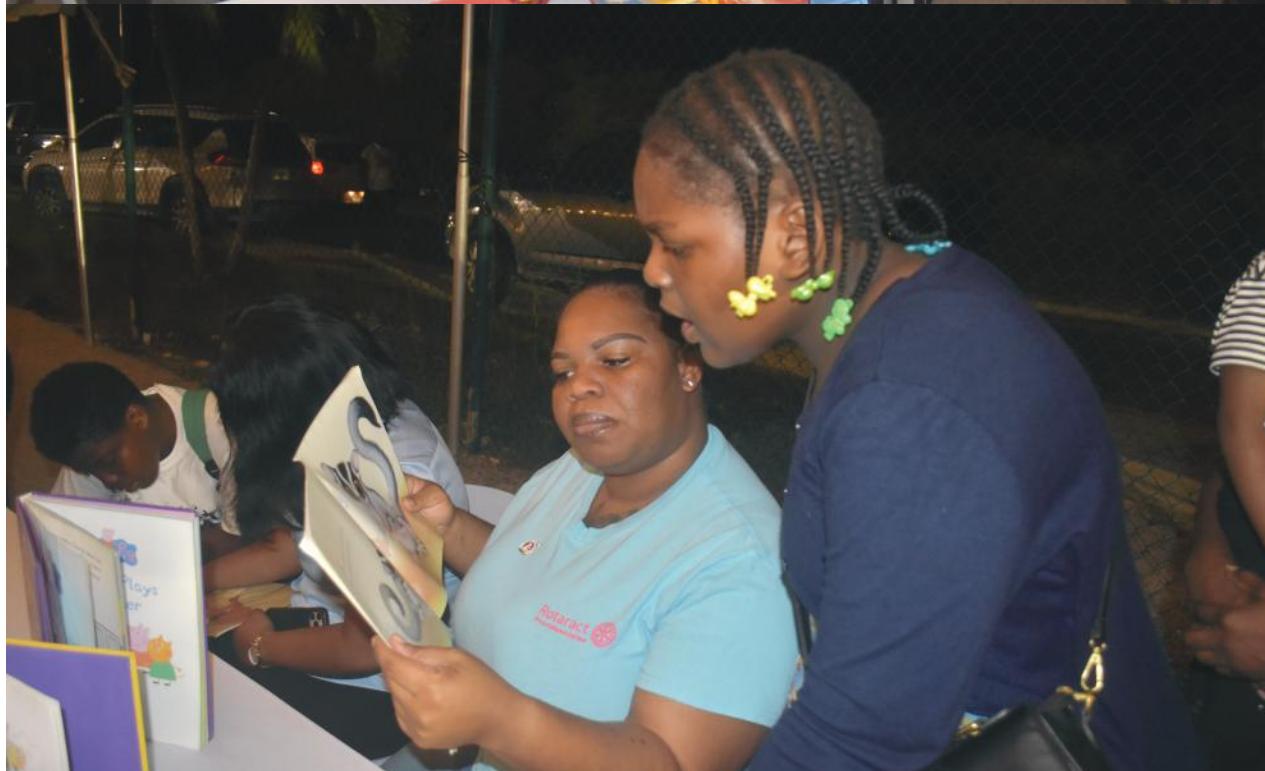
Up to the early 1800s, Cheshire Hall was the most important site on Providenciales and at its height was comprised of about five thousand acres and employed hundreds of slaves.

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

United Way Reading Fair Overwhelmingly Supported

Charitable organization – United Way Turks and Caicos – staged its Annual Dr. Seuss Reading Fair at the National Stadium on Monday, December 4. Hundreds of primary age children, for whom the fair has been designed, turned out to take part in the fair. Many local businesses and social clubs took part in the event. The following are photo highlights of the event.





54 Blue Hills Families Benefit From Maranatha Academy Thanksgiving Distribution



Students and teachers seize a photo op before going out into the community to distribute care packages to the Blue Hills community.
Photo:Vivian Tyson

Thursday, November 23, amidst the Thanksgiving celebrations in the United States, the Maranatha Academy in Blue Hills went beyond the traditional festivities, engaging in a heartwarming community outreach initiative.

Teachers and students of the academy collaborated to assemble and distribute 54 care packages filled with essential food and clothing items to members of the surrounding communities.

Michelle Arthur, the Vice Principal, shared with NewslineTCI that the funds for purchasing the items were primarily sourced from the generous contributions made by the students. She said this act of giving back has become a tradition for Maranatha Academy, with community projects being an integral part of the school's identity over its 21-year existence.

The care packages, which she said has

been a symbol of love and kindness, included staple items such as rice, sugar, canned foods, and noodles. Additionally, some packages contained clothing items, contributed by families associated with the school. Arthur emphasized that the initiative aimed to make a positive impact on the community, especially during the Thanksgiving season.

Before distributing the care packages, teachers and students conducted a thorough community assessment to determine the number of recipients and their specific needs. Arthur explained that a special focus was placed on families with young children, as these packages included toys and snacks tailored for them. As part of the school's commitment to its students, Arthur mentioned that each year, ten packages are distributed internally to selected students from each class. The remaining packages are then

distributed to the broader community. This year's outreach was described as even more significant than the previous one, with plans for a similar event in the upcoming term.

Highlighting the unique aspect of Maranatha Academy's approach, Arthur expressed the excitement among the students to participate in these outreach programs. She pointed out that as a Seventh Day Adventist School, the engagement goes beyond material assistance—each interaction includes prayers for the families. Additionally, the care packages include spiritually enriching elements such as books and Quarterlies. She pointed out that the initiative reflects the school's growth and commitment to giving back to the community, showcasing the values of compassion and solidarity instilled in the students of Maranatha Academy.



FEATURED CHURCH

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

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



LIFE LINE CHURCH DIRECTORY

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk
Tel:946-1866

Calvary Baptist Church,
South Caicos
Tel:946-3212

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

Roman Catholic Church,
Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136

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

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

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

Methodist Church,
Grand Turk Tel:946-2352

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Le Smoking Tuxedo

Le Smoking tuxedo 1966



"For a woman, Le Smoking is an indispensable garment with which she finds herself continually in fashion, because it is about style not fashion. Fashions come and go, but style is forever."

Yves Saint Laurent

This week, I'd like us to take a look back into fashion history, specifically, 'Le Smoking tuxedo' of 1966. This garment, like the bikini or mini dress, is just another in a long list of once-controversial women's garments which have now blended into the fashion mainstream.

The name nods to the 19th Century men's smoking jackets, whose silk lapels were designed to allow any ash falling from cigars or cigarettes to slide off, keeping the jacket clean.

Revealed in his Haute Couture Fall/Winter 1966 collection, it came at a time when it was frowned upon for women to wear trousers in public. The reactions between fashionistas and the layman were quite different. Fashionistas had overwhelmingly positive reactions whilst the masses did not gravitate towards the new style. Only one was sold at the time. However, the label's younger clientele was quick to purchase it, eventually making the tuxedo a classic.

The silhouette pioneered minimalist androgynous styles for women, as well as the general popularity of pantsuits today.

When it was first revealed, it was the first time that any couturier had presented trousers as an option for eveningwear, and women wearing it were refused entry by some restaurants the following season. Undoubtedly, one of the main reasons 'Le Smoking' was initially controversial was the fact that it dared to challenge the gender regulations of fashion. Today, it exists as a symbol of gender openness and flexibility. The design of the 'Le Smoking' suit at the time was a costume of rebellion.

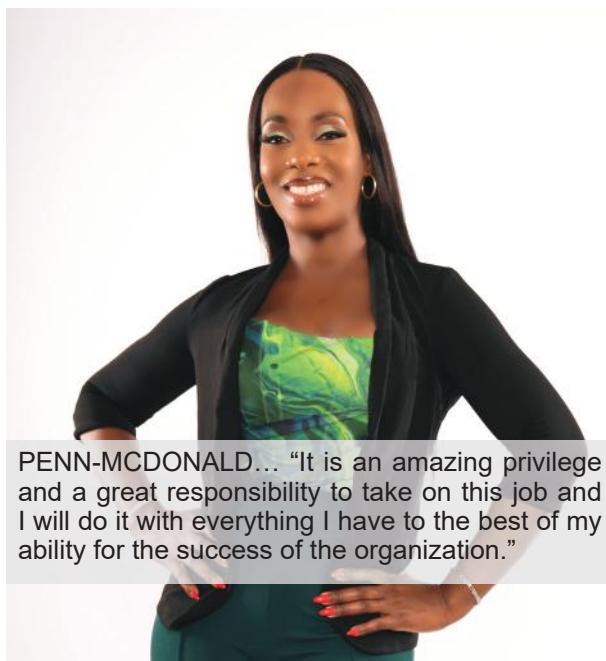
When socialite Nan Kempner was turned away from restaurant Le Côte Basque in New York, she removed her trousers and wore the blazer as a mini dress, single-handedly mocking the establishment's dated dress code.

Le Smoking tuxedos found their moment to shine when the 70's were entered. That new decade gave way to more adventurous fashions and more rebels willing to try them—a far cry from the conservative '60s.

Today, 'Le Smoking' is a versatile staple for the modern woman—make it classy with some pumps and minimal accessories or go bolder with a crop top underneath and a bold lip.

This suit is constantly being reinvented, solidifying itself as a truly timeless article that should be in every woman's arsenal.

Kitchandra Penn-McDonald joins Experience Turks and Caicos Team



Experience Turks and Caicos is pleased to welcome Mrs. Kitchandra Penn-McDonald, Human Resources Manager, to their team, effective today, December 4th, 2023.

Mrs. Penn-McDonald is currently enrolled in a master's degree programme in Human Resources Management and Development at the University of Salford, Manchester, Mrs. Penn-McDonald has eight years of experience working in the Human Resources Management.

Before Experience Turks and Caicos, Mrs. Penn-McDonald was Director of Human Resources at Waterloo Hotel Management Limited (Ltd.). She was also employed as the Human Resources Manager at The Sands at Grace Bay. In welcoming Mrs. Penn-McDonald to the team, Ms. Racquel Brown, Change Manager and Interim CEO of Experience Turks and Caicos, said she is pleased to fill this critical position.

"Hiring Mrs. Penn-McDonald, Human Resources Manager, is essential for talent recruitment and management to ensure the build-out and success of Experience Turks and Caicos. She will be essential in assisting me in ensuring that the organisational structure is in place to promote and enhance a positive and effective work environment for product development and to market and promote the Turks and Caicos Islands. I look forward to working with Mrs. Penn-McDonald in the coming months," she said.

Mrs. Penn-McDonald described her new role as an amazing opportunity.

"I am deeply honoured to be the Human Resources Manager for Experience Turks and Caicos. It is an amazing privilege and a great responsibility to take on this job and I will do it with everything I have to the best of my ability for the success of the organisation," she said.

EU Grants €337,562 to Combat Sargassum in the Caribbean through Innovative Educational Initiatives



In a significant move to address the pervasive issue of Sargassum in the Caribbean, the School for Field Studies (SFS), in collaboration with Marine Conservation without Borders (MCB) and Stichting Nationale Parken Bonaire (STINAPA), has launched the project titled "Novel Educational Tools to Foster Local Ecosystem Sustainability Practices."

This pioneering initiative, backed by a €337,562 (US\$355,406) grant from the European Union's Resilience, Sustainable Energy and Marine Bio-

diversity (RESEMBID) programme, aims to enhance access to ecosystem education resources across the region.

The 14-month project introduces a dynamic strategy to tackle the challenges posed by Sargassum, a genus of large brown seaweed that floats in island-like masses, affecting marine ecosystems. The initiative focuses on creating multilingual educational materials through a podcast and an online 'Sargassum Champions Course.' Additionally, a multilingual biocultural

curriculum on local marine ecosystems for primary and secondary school students will be developed.

The project's digital tools aim to provide a comprehensive understanding of the ecological impacts of Sargassum, raising awareness about climate change challenges and opportunities for new business solutions. The podcast, accessible on four social media channels, features over 64 interviews with Sargassum stakeholders, offering valuable insights into the issues and potential solutions.

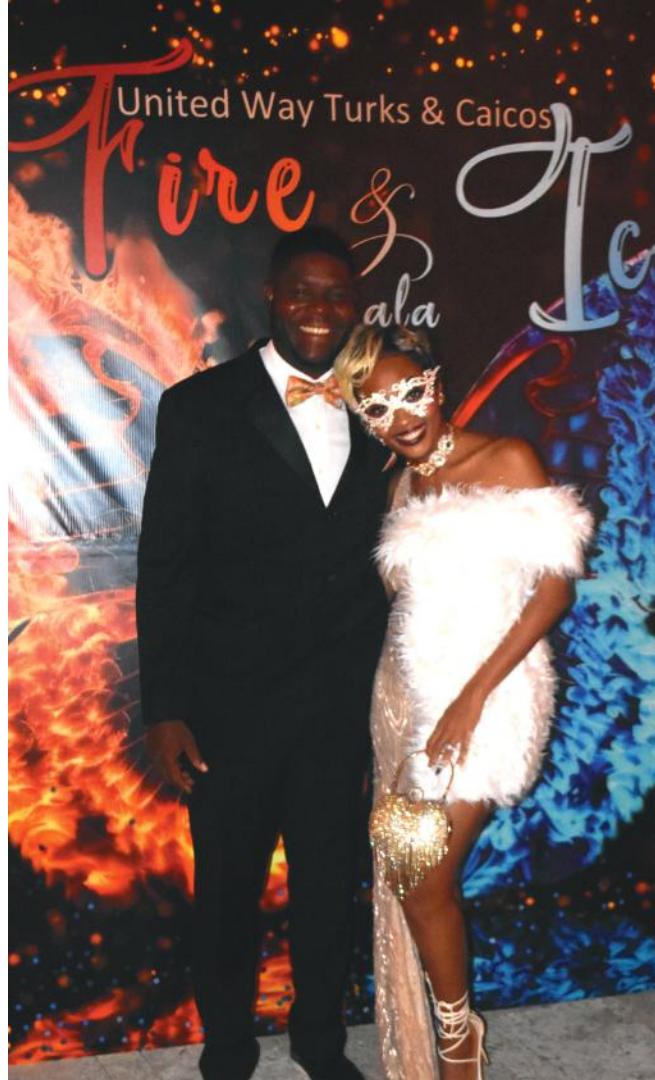
Supported by the EU grant, the project is expected to benefit approximately 2,450 individuals, including adults and students, from Overseas Countries and Territories (OCTs) and the wider Caribbean. The Sargassum podcast, enabled by this funding, plans to continue for an additional 20 episodes, featuring more voices from the OCTs.

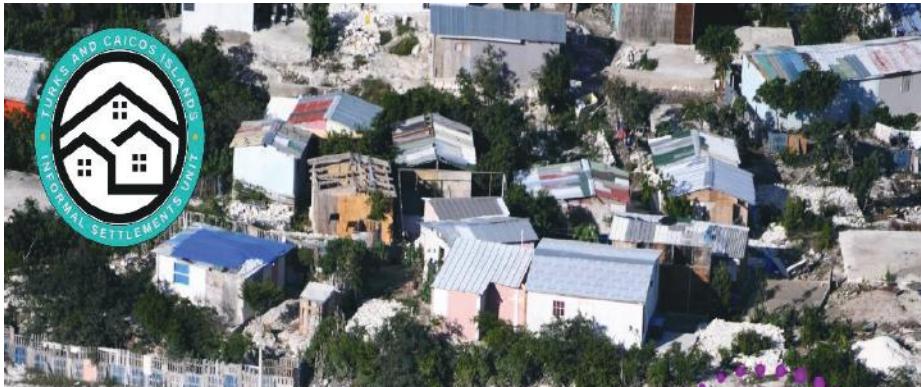
The first online Sargassum course, held from August 11 to September 6, 2023, witnessed the participation of over 20 local residents from OCTs. Participants gained insights into Sargassum beaching events, removal methods, and potential byproducts. Interactions with experts and stakeholders from various Caribbean Islands equipped them to become Sargassum champions, sharing their knowledge within their local communities.

This innovative project not only addresses the immediate challenges posed by Sargassum but also contributes to fostering sustainable practices and awareness about the broader impacts of climate change on marine ecosystems in the Caribbean.

United Way Gala was dazzling

United Way Turks and Caicos staged its Annual Gala at the Shore Club Resort on Providenciales, Saturday, December 3. The event's theme was dubbed 'Fire and Ice' and bore the décor accordingly. The event saw, in addition to supporters of United Way being honored for their benevolence, the evening was packed with spectacular performances from several groups, including the Thelma Lightbourne Primary and the Beaches Dancers. Female crooner Tess Charles brought the house down with her crisp silky voice together with her energetic performance. The following re photo highlights of the event.





How do I know if my land papers are legitimate and registered correctly?

To verify the validity of your documentation you should contact the Crown Land Unit or check the registers of the title with the Land Registry.



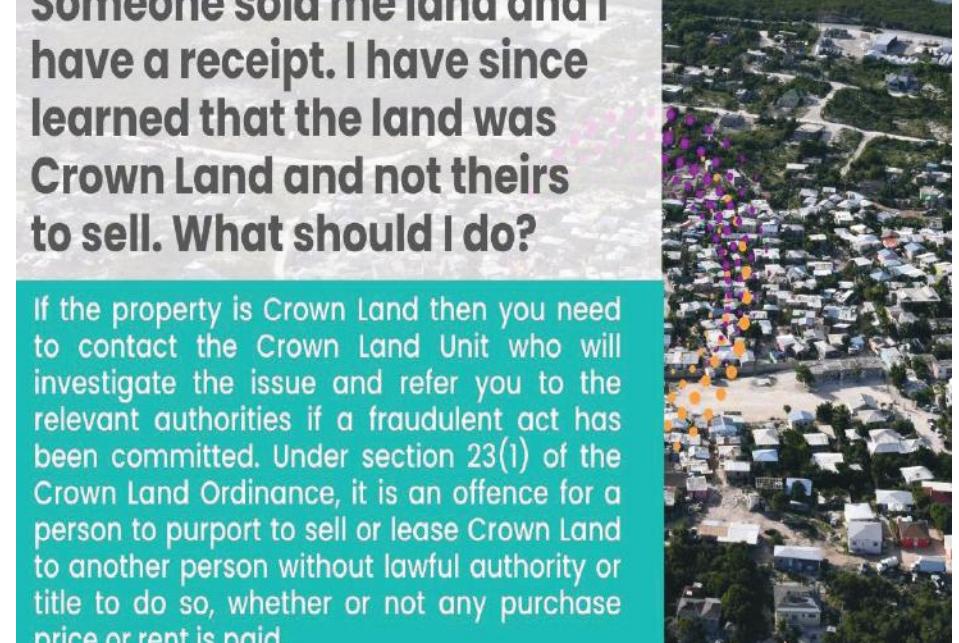
For more information visit our website or follow our social media pages.

www.isutci.com



Someone sold me land and I have a receipt. I have since learned that the land was Crown Land and not theirs to sell. What should I do?

If the property is Crown Land then you need to contact the Crown Land Unit who will investigate the issue and refer you to the relevant authorities if a fraudulent act has been committed. Under section 23(1) of the Crown Land Ordinance, it is an offence for a person to purport to sell or lease Crown Land to another person without lawful authority or title to do so, whether or not any purchase price or rent is paid.



For more information visit our website or follow our social media pages.

www.isutci.com



NEWSLINE[®] & Chill

Spring Word Scramble

URLMLBAE

TSFUETREIBL

REFWOSL

SNUYN

UTISLP

NHSIUNES

LSBMOOS

BAORIWN

NICPCI

GENRDA

9. Picnic 10. Garden
5. Tulips 6. Sunshine 7. Blossom 8. Rainbow
1. Umbrella 2. Butterflies 3. Flowers 4. Sunny

The Wrath of....

ACROSS

1. He may cross the line
5. Literary Finn
9. Divide
14. Desire
15. Eye with desire
16. Desire
17. Made mad
18. "Kaboom!"
19. Loosen up
20. CON
23. Affirm at the altar
24. Liza Doolittle's dwelling
25. CON
32. Drilled
35. Domain of Eos
36. Put to flight
37. Hollywood Gardner
38. Stan's comedic pal
39. Former fort near Salinas
40. "99 Luftballons" singer
42. Freshman, typically
43. Dates with a Dr., perhaps
45. CON
48. Word with go or by
49. Recited in rhyme, perhaps
53. CON
58. Tartan garment
59. "Night Sins" author Tami
60. SASE, typically
61. Dancer's support
62. Fit
63. "Dollhouse" heroine
64. Jerk
65. Mexican sauce
66. Eye affliction

DOWN

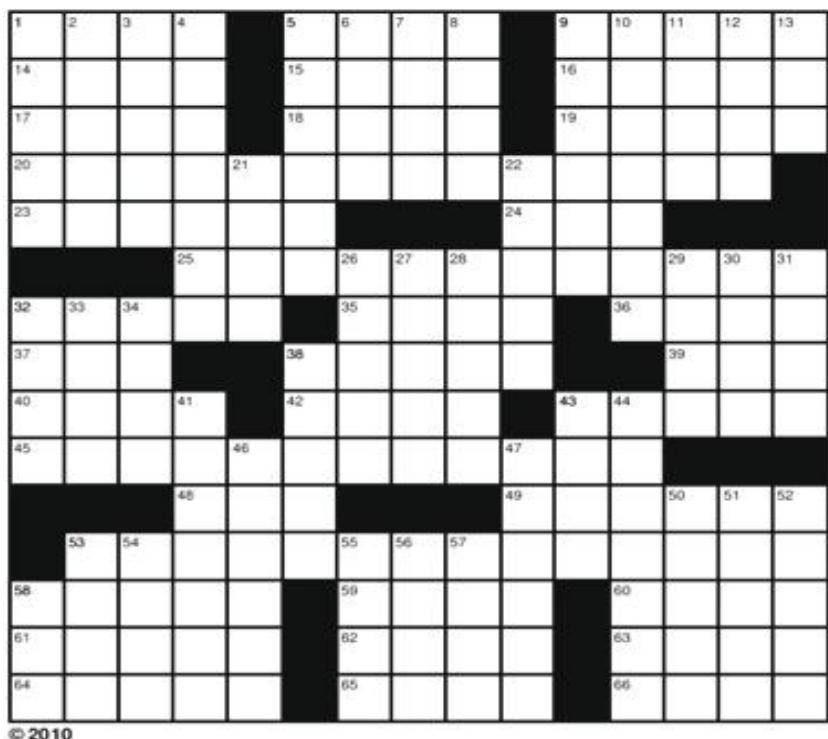
1. Sends to stores
2. Jazz Chick
3. Rich Little's trade
4. Place for a glasses case
5. Rub elbows
6. Unpleasant-sounding citrus

Brain Teaser

I can be short and sometimes hot. When displayed, I rarely impress. What am I?

Answer: Temper

Robert Stockton



7. They may have their own tartan
 8. 1996 VP candidate
 9. Cut corners
 10. Factory configurations
 11. "Mission: Impossible" composer Schifrin
 12. "Meatballs" director Reitman
 13. Popular cowboy nickname
 21. Was laid low by a high?
 22. Broadcasting pioneer Arledge
 26. Jung contemporary
 27. Yarns
 28. "Dallas" family name
 29. "Breakfast for Dinner" eatery
 30. _____ cloud (home for comets)

31. Assents
 32. "Kaboom!"
 33. Out's partner
 34. Punjabi princess
 38. SNL alum, Cheri
 41. Surreptitious romances
 43. Love personified
 44. Jazz-men Ellis and Russell
 46. Type of bicycle
 47. High point
 50. Color lightly
 51. Like wool sweaters, for some
 52. Daphnis's love
 53. Response to a rake
 54. Legal opening?
 55. Imitation
 56. Bindlestiff
 57. Eden event
 58. NOVA network

Birds Seen In TCI

Warbler
 Hummingbird
 Vireo
 Gnatcatcher
 Osprey
 Gull
 Tern
 Cattle egret
 Dowitcher
 Mangrove cuckoo
 Bananaquit
 Brown pelican
 Stilts
 Sanderling
 Green heron

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

J of the JOKE WEEK

I went down the street to a 24-hour grocery store. When I got there, the guy was locking the front door. I said, "Hey! The sign says you're open 24 hours." He Said, "Yes, but not in a row!"

SUDOKU

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

6	8			1		3	9
1				9	2	5	
9	5		2			8	
3	9	1			8		
8	1		2	9			
2		9				1	
5		2	9	8			
3	8	1		5			

Unveiling the mysteries around diabetes and the eye



DIABETES OCCURS when the blood sugar levels in the body are too high. This disease can cause problems such as heart disease, kidney failure and amputations.

Blindness is also one of the severe complications of diabetes and knowing how many people can actually go blind due to diabetes is a global concern.

Diabetes is in fact one of the leading causes of blindness in the world today. This is particularly true for the global working-age population between 20 and 70 years old, and is a growing problem due to the rise of diabetes and the ageing global population.

Eye diseases that can affect people with diabetes include diabetic retinopathy, macular edema (which usually develops along with dia-

betic retinopathy), cataracts, and glaucoma. All can lead to vision loss, but early diagnosis and treatment can go a long way towards protecting your eyesight.

According to Dr Seslyn Maylor, optometrist, every person with diabetes is at risk of developing diabetic retinopathy. This includes people with type 1, type 2, and gestational diabetes, that is diabetes during pregnancy.

EXTENT OF THE RISK

"The duration of diabetes plays a role in determining the extent of the risk. Patients who have had diabetes for longer are more prone to develop retinopathy. Other well-established risk factors include persistent high blood sugar levels, high blood pressure and high cholesterol levels," Dr Maylor said.

The Gleaner's morning and evening newsletters.

Diabetic retinopathy is caused when high blood sugar damages blood vessels in the retina (a light-sensitive layer of cells in the back of the eye). Damaged blood vessels can swell and leak, causing blurry vision or stopping blood flow. Sometimes new blood vessels grow, but they are not normal and can cause further vision problems. Diabetic retinopathy usually affects both eyes.

"One of the two stages of diabetic retinopathy that requires treatment is diabetic maculopathy where the central retina can swell and cause blurred vision. The second of two stages of diabetic retinopathy that requires urgent

treatment is proliferative diabetic retinopathy where abnormal blood vessels can grow from the retina and bleed," Dr Maylor said.

Diabetes can damage your eyes over time and cause vision loss, even blindness. The good news, she said, is managing your diabetes and getting regular eye exams can help prevent vision problems and stop them from getting worse.

"There are over 100 million people in the world with diabetic retinopathy. There are no early symptoms of diabetic retinopathy, hence the need for screening for the disease," Dr Maylor said.

Diabetic retinopathy tends to progress slowly over a period of time often without causing any symptoms. Patients are generally asymptomatic during the initial stages of diabetic retinopathy. In rare cases, people experience a sudden onset of blindness, without any symptoms and no mild vision problems at first.

Patients with severe and irreversible retinal damage may develop a few symptoms such as:

- Pain in the eye
- Blurring of vision, which does not improve even with glasses
- Alternative worsening and improvement of the vision
- Seeing spots, cobwebs, or a hole in the field of vision
- Sudden loss of vision, especially after events like coughing and sneezing

You should be checked for diabetic retinopathy immediately if you are diagnosed with type 2 diabetes. If you have type 1 diabetes, you should be checked within five years of your diagnosis and then regularly thereafter, typically every year. The sooner you are treated for diabetic retinopathy, the better that treatment will work.

People with diabetes are also more likely to have glaucoma, which can come in several forms or types. Pressure builds up inside your eye when fluid cannot drain like it should. This can damage nerves and blood vessels, and cause changes in vision.

Medications can treat open-angle glaucoma, the most common form. They lower eye pressure, speed up drainage, and reduce the amount of liquid your eye makes. This type of glaucoma may not cause any symptoms until it is further along and you have major vision loss. Your doctor can catch it earlier, during an annual exam.

Treatment can include medicine and special eye drops. Surgery and laser treatments can help lower eye pressure.

If you have diabetes, you are also more likely to get a rare condition called neovascular glaucoma. This makes new blood vessels grow on the iris, the coloured part of your eye. They block the normal flow of fluid and raise eye pressure. The primary treatment of neovascular glaucoma is to reverse the formation of new blood vessels.

SOURCES: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; Health Talk Sundays

Coral Gardens Management Co Ltd

whose address is Penn's Road, Lower Bight; Providenciales is seeking suitable qualified Belongers to fill the following positions:

HOUSEMAN

- Cleans, maintains and prepares arrival and departure guest rooms and bathrooms.
- High level inside & Outside cleaning, shifting furniture's using heavy cleaning equipment, ladders, shampoo and vacuum carpet
- Maintain and clean assigned public areas & guest room
- Collects soiled linen for laundering from housekeeping carts
- Cleans and restocks the facilities, administration offices and

This position is held by Work Permit Holder. Qualified Belonger candidates with clean police record are encouraged to submit a CV by e-mail to: marsha@misickstanbrook.tc (Marsha Blanche) Applications should be received no later than December 15, 2023.

A Texas judge grants a pregnant woman permission to get an abortion despite the state's ban



A Texas judge on Thursday gave a pregnant woman whose fetus has a fatal diagnosis permission to get an abortion in an unprecedented challenge over bans that more than a dozen states have enacted since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned.

The lawsuit by Kate Cox, a 31-year-old mother of two from the Dallas area, is believed to be the first time since the landmark U.S. Supreme Court decision last year that a woman has asked a court to approve an abortion. The order only applies to Cox and her attorneys afterward spoke cautiously about any wider impacts, calling it unfeasible that scores of other women seeking abortions would also now turn to courts.

"This can't be the new normal," said Marc Hearron, an attorney for the Center for Reproductive Rights. "I don't think you can expect to see now hundreds of cases being filed on behalf of patients. It's just not realistic."

State District Judge Maya Guerra Gamble, an elected Democrat, granted a temporary restraining order allowing Cox to have an abortion under what are narrow exceptions to Texas' ban. Her attorneys said they would not disclose what Cox was planning to do next, citing safety concerns.

A year after fall of *Roe*, 25 million women live in states with abortion bans or tighter restrictions.

Where abortion laws stand in every state a year after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe*. Where abortion laws stand in every state a year after the Supreme Court overturned *Roe*.

Republican Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton, whose office argued that Cox does not meet the criteria for a medical exception, issued a statement that did not say whether the state would appeal. But in a letter to three Houston hospitals, Paxton warned that legal consequences were still possible if Cox's physician provided the abortion.

Cox, who is 20 weeks pregnant, attended the hearing via Zoom along with her husband but did not address the court. Doctors have told Cox that if the baby's heartbeat were to stop, inducing labor would carry a risk of a uterine rupture because of her prior cesarean sections, and that another C-section at full term would endanger her ability to carry another child.

"The idea that Ms. Cox wants so desperately to be a parent and this law may have her lose that ability is shocking and would be a genuine miscarriage of justice," Gamble said.

The Center for Reproductive Rights, which is representing Cox, has said this lawsuit is believed to be the first of its kind since *Roe v. Wade* was overturned. Since that landmark ruling, Texas and 12 other states rushed to ban abortion at nearly all stages of pregnancy. Opponents have sought to weaken those bans, including an ongoing Texas challenge over whether the state's law is too restrictive for women with pregnancy complications. "I do not want to continue the pain and suffering that has plagued this pregnancy or continue to put my body or my mental health through the risks of continuing this pregnancy," Cox wrote in an editorial published in The Dallas Morning News. "I do not want my baby to arrive in this world only to watch her suffer."

The temporary restraining order stops Texas from enforcing the state's ban on Cox and lasts for 14 days. Under the restrictions in Texas, doctors who provide abortions could face criminal charges that carry a punishment of up to life in prison. They could also be fined. Pregnant women cannot be criminally charged for having an abortion in Texas. Paxton told the Houston hospitals the order "will not insulate you" from civil and criminal liabilities, arguing that private citizens could still bring law-

suits and local prosecutors could still bring charges. Seth Chandler, a law professor at the University of Houston, said he would have concerns as a physician based on both legal issues and Paxton's "apparent zeal" to enforce the state's abortion ban.

"If I were one of the doctors involved here, I would not sleep easy performing that abortion," he said. Although Texas allows exceptions under the ban, doctors and women have argued that the requirements are so vaguely worded that physicians still won't risk providing abortions, lest they end up facing criminal charges or lawsuits.

State officials had asked Gamble to deny the request, arguing that Cox has not shown her life is in imminent danger and that she is therefore unable to qualify for an exception to the ban.

The decision was handed down just two days after Cox filed the lawsuit.

Cox learned she was pregnant for a third time in August and was told weeks later that her baby was at a high risk for a condition known as trisomy 18, which has a very high likelihood of miscarriage or stillbirth and low survival rates, according to the lawsuit.

The termination of pregnancies because of fetal anomalies or other often-fatal medical problems is seldom discussed in national debates over abortion. There are no recent statistics on the frequency of terminations for fetal anomalies in the U.S. but experts say it's a small percentage of total procedures.

The lawsuit was filed a week after the Texas Supreme Court heard arguments about whether the ban is too restrictive for women with pregnancy complications. That case is among the biggest ongoing challenges to abortion bans in the U.S., although a ruling from the all-Republican court may not come for months.

Caribbean players set to benefit from new Super Netball salary deal



MELBOURNE, Australia (CMC) — Netballers from the Caribbean may all be breathing a huge sigh of relief over their immediate professional playing future in the Super Netball League (SNL), after the bitter pay dispute that shook the sport in Australia finally ended this past weekend.

The netballers, led by Jamaica defender Shamera Sterling, the SNL Player of the Year, were among players in the league who were not paid since the previous collective player agreement between Netball Australia (NA) and Australian Netball Players Association (ANPA) expired on September 30.

Media reports indicate that NA and ANPA

agreed on a new collective player agreement that will run until September 2026.

The new deal was finalised this past Saturday at a meeting that featured an appearance from federal government minister and former unions boss Bill Shorten, and a reiteration of the 21 unanimous resolutions presented by the players to NA this past Thursday.

The dispute erupted after ANPA rejected from NA and the eight SNL clubs an offer which put forward a "profit-sharing partnership model", while the players were demanding a "revenue-sharing partnership model" for sponsorship money exceeding projections.

The new deal is a revenue-sharing agreement

based on the players' terms and is not reliant on the SNL breaking even, which was one of the concerns put forward by NA and the clubs. The parties in the dispute also agreed that the significant debt of NA must be repaid first and that the contracting period for SNL clubs can now start.

The players came away from the negotiations with an 11 per cent increase on base salaries over three years, as well as three per cent annually on private health insurance contributions, and retroactive pay from October 1 — the date when all the players in the league became uncontracted and unpaid.

Additionally, there will be an immediate 10 per cent boost in the honorarium for training partners next year, followed by a three per cent increase each subsequent year.

The maximum total base salary payment, currently about US\$430,000, will rise to about \$450,000 next year and will see further increases to a little more than \$480,000 by 2026, with the minimum payments up from almost \$390,000 to a little more than \$400,000 and eventually a little above \$430,000.

Each SNL club now has the option to nominate an 11th player from its broader squad who will be eligible for selection under a six-month minimum salary contract of a little more than \$14,000, subject to age, matches played, Australian representation, and potential exemptions.

Netball Australia also agreed to the players' terms over a new commercial model that features concessions regarding the use of the players' intellectual property in promotional material.

Marketing-related deals will double immediately to a cap of about \$26,000 a player and \$105,000 a team.

Other notable initiatives include the establishment of a professional netball committee with formal ANPA representation, aiming to collaboratively explore new opportunities for athlete progress and league amplification.

A new funding and governance model for ANPA is also in the works.

Sterling was named SNL Player of the Year during the NA awards two Saturdays ago, after a stellar campaign with first-time SNL champions Adelaide Thunderbirds during which she led the way with 118 deflections and made 46 interceptions.

Fellow Jamaican defenders Latanya Wilson (Sterling's T-birds teammate), and Jodi-Ann Ward earned selection to the SNL Team of the Year.

Four other Jamaicans — Jhanelle Fowler, Romelda Aiken-George, Shimona Nelson, and Kadian Dehaney — and ace Trinidad & Tobago goal shooter Samantha Wallace all played in the league this past season, which ended on July 8.

We Could Have Beaten Bonaire – Coach Lawrence

By Vivian Tyson
Newsline Editor-in-Chief



TCI Striker Syniah Forbes (right) attempts to get by Bonaire defender Lygaira Pieters during their Concacaf W Road to Gold Cup competition at the TCI Field on Monday, December 4.

Aaron Lawrence, Head Coach of the Turks and Caicos Islands Female National Senior Team said his aggregation could have bowed out of the Concacaf W Road to the Gold Cup Competition with a win against Bonaire, but lack of experience caused them not to find the back of the net.

Lawrence, who was giving his post-game assessment after his team went down 0-2 to the Dutch-speaking side, pointed out several positives to take away from the game, telling the media that his predominantly young side showed tremendous signs of improvements, grit, and determination.

He said had the ladies been more clinical, the TCI could have registered their first victory in the competition.

“It was a tremendous effort by the ladies. I think they had stuck to the game plan. They played well overall...all the players gave their all. They fought to the end. We could have won the game...we got chances where we could have gotten back in the game, but it was unfortunate that we did not score these chances,” he said, while proverbially patting the ladies on the back for their overall performance.

“But I must say, ‘job well done’ for us, and we have improved tremendously, especially on this last game. Even when we went down to 10 players, we fought to the end. We just have to build on this...it is the future. We must continue to work and con-



From left Syniah Forbes of the TCI Football Team; Aaron Lawrence, Head Coach for the National Senior Female Team; Terrence Da Costa Gomez, Head Coach for the Bonaire Team; and Bonaire Captain Hilda Looijs pose for the cameras after their post-game interview.

tinue to grow the team, and we will get result. We have been improving with each game that we played,” Lawrence, who was recently named Male Coach of the Year by the TCIFA, said.

He pointed out that despite the disappointing result, there were much more positives than negatives to take away from the game. As usual, the TCI custodian Eridania Medina was brilliant between the sticks.

“The strong point was everyone was giving their all. In midfield we were strong. We did not give them (Bonaire) anytime to play in midfield. Defensively, we were strong too. The goalkeeper kept us in the game as usual. Overall, we had done what we needed to do...it is just that we did not get the goals,” Lawrence outlined, reminding that his team comprised mostly of mid-teens.

“We are playing with young kids...most of them are 16 – 17 (years old). We had just a few senior ones. But with more games and more experience, we would do better next time. We just have to build on what we have done at this time and continue to work and, don’t stop. If we continue this programme, we will start to win games,” Lawrence noted.

TCI Captain, Jodee Harvey was giving

marching orders from referee Mirian Leon, for a second bookable offense late in the game. Young Harvey has recently become one the mainstays in the TCI defense unit. However, her departure hardly tolled the team’s performance.

Striker Syniah Forbes, who represented Harvey at post-game interview, had high praises for her team.

“Today was a very good game...we put up a good fight against the Bonaire Team. My team played very well in defending. We were not as good at attacking, so we dominated the defending. And I would say, going forward, my team will definitely progress,” Forbes vowed.

In the meantime, the Bonaire coach, Terrence Da Costa Gomez, commended the TCI team for putting up such a strong fight, pointing out also that the local ladies were nothing but hospitable on and off the field. “First, I want to thank the Turks and Caicos for their hospitality and their fair play, but of course, it is football, you have some tackles. But it was a nice game, no fighting, no brawl. There were yellow cards and a red card (that were shown to players on both sides), but that is part of the game,” Da Costa Gomez said.

Elite are Inter-Primary Football Champs

Elite Primary of Providenciales are champions of the Inter-Primary School Co-Ed Football competition after carving out a hard-fought 1-0 over Grand Turk's Ona Glinton in the final played on Saturday, December 2.

The scorer of the lone goal was Elite's number 14 player Destine Maniska, who netted the fourth minute. Elite's Mongerard Wenchelson walked away with the Leading Goal Scorer award, having scored 12 goals in the competition.

A female topped the Most Valuable Player category for the season. She is Asia Williams of Ona Glinton. She bagged four MVP votes for the season and scored seven goals in the competition. The Golden Glove (Best Goalkeeper) award went to Tyquant Williams of Ona Glinton, registering five clean sheets, conceding just one goal for the entire competition.

In the third-place playoff, won 2-1 on penalties to secure that spot after two teams played to a 2-2 draw with Community Christian. The scorers in regulation time for Iris Stubbs were Traquard Basden-in the third minute and Nehemiah Joseph in the 15th minute. Carry Exavier scored both goals for Community Christian in the 27th and 30th minute.





We Could Have Beaten Bonaire – Lawrence

A towering Celine Van Loe (right) of Bonaire and her diminutive counterpart, the wily TCI Striker Irener Moline (in blue) battle for the ball, with Van Loe's teammate Jaydi Susana providing back-up