

HJRHS, CHHS CLASH

BOYS HIGH SCHOOL FINAL

PG32

A group of seven boys' high school basketball players from HJRHS are posing for a photo. They are wearing blue jerseys with yellow accents and yellow shorts. The player in the foreground is wearing a jersey with the number 15. They are all smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a plain, light-colored wall.

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**“We Have
Your Back”**

POLICE EXECUTIVE TEAM RALLIES BEHIND BAILEY AMID ANONYMOUS ATTACKS AND ALLEGATIONS OF INTERNAL DISCORD

>>> STORY ON PG5



MSME Business Directory



**Discover and connect
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across Turks and Caicos Islands.**

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Windsong Bags Two Local Titles at World Travel Awards 2026

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Windsong Resort has claimed two honours among the Turks and Caicos winners of the 33rd annual World Travel Awards, securing the titles of Leading Boutique Hotel and Leading Hotel Suite for 2026. The winners were recognised at the World Travel Awards Caribbean & The Americas Gala Ceremony, held at Princess Grand Jamaica on October 11, 2026. The resort sits on Jamaica’s northwest coast between Montego Bay and Negril. The event brought together tourism businesses from several regions. The resort’s Four Bedroom Oceanfront Penthouse topped the suite category, which featured nominated accommodations at Alexandra Resort, The Palms Turks & Caicos,

The Ritz-Carlton, Turks & Caicos, and The Shore Club. The awards covered 10 categories across accommodation, car rentals, destination management and tour operations, recognising businesses serving visitors to the islands. The Palms Turks & Caicos was named Leading Hotel, ahead of fellow nominees Grace Bay Club and Point Grace. Seven Stars Resort & Spa secured the Leading Resort award. Alexandra Resort, Club Med Turquoise, The Shore Club and Wymara Resort + Villas were also nominated in that category. Amanyara took the Leading Luxury Resort title from a field that included COMO Parrot Cay, Grace Bay Club, Sailrock South Caicos, Salterra Resort & Spa, South Bank—Grace Bay Resorts and The Ritz-Carlton,



The Windsong Resort on Grace Bay, Providenciales
Photo: Windsong website

Turks & Caicos. Alexandra Resort won Leading Family Resort, with Beaches Turks & Caicos, Grace Bay Club and The Shore Club completing the nominees. Rock House, Turks and Caicos, earned the Leading Honeymoon Resort honour, ahead of COMO Parrot Cay, Grace Bay Club and Wymara Resort + Villas. Windsong Resort’s boutique hotel award came in a category that also featured Point Grace, Rock House and The Somerset on Grace Bay.

Outside the hotel sector, Grace Bay Car Rentals was named Leading Car Rental Company. Avis, Europcar and Hertz were the other nominees. Olympia Destination Management Company won Leading Destination Management Company, ahead of NILA Destinations, TCI Mall and Tropical Destination Management Company. Caicos Dream Tours secured the Leading Tour Operator title, with Grace Bay Adventures and Island Vibes Tours also nominated.

Cabinet Approves CDB Appraisal for Coastal Protection Project

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Cabinet has approved the appraisal process by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) for the proposed Coastal Protection Project, taking another step towards assessing investment in shoreline protection in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The decision was taken at the September 4 Cabinet meeting. The announcement did not specify the proposed project’s construction cost, financing arrangements, implementation timetable or final list of locations. The proposal comes against a background of earlier cooperation between the government and CDB on coastal protection. In May 2017, the bank approved a technical assistance programme with an estimated value of US\$780,250 to support feasibility studies, engineering designs and shoreline management planning. According to CDB’s project paper, that sum comprised a US\$441,000 loan, a US\$50,000 grant and US\$289,250 in government counterpart funding. The allocation covered preparatory activities and should be distinguished from any future budget for construction un-



Premier for the Turks and Caicos Islands Hon. Washington Misick

der the proposed Coastal Protection Project. The earlier programme focused on coastal protection designs for Grand Turk, Providenciales and Salt Cay, alongside a Shoreline Management Plan intended to strengthen the government’s capacity to monitor and manage beaches and related coastal assets. CDB identified coastal erosion and climate hazards as threats to settlements, infrastructure, tourism sites and livelihoods. Its announcement emphasised

that coastal and marine resources underpin the territory’s tourism industry, making their protection significant for economic and social development. Three locations were identified as priorities in the original technical assistance documentation: Front Street in Cockburn Town, Grand Turk; the ferry terminal area on Salt Cay’s west coast; and a section of South Dock Road on Providenciales. On Grand Turk, the project paper described frequent overtopping of the Front Street seawall, which affected access along the adjoining road and to nearby residential and commercial properties. Erosion also continued immediately beyond the wall. On Salt Cay, the identified concern was the failure of an older seawall near the ferry terminal. On Providenciales, high tides and storm surges inundated sections of South Dock Road, interrupting access to the commercial port and settlements. These locations formed part of the earlier study. The September 4 announcement does not establish whether the proposed project now awaiting appraisal will include all three sites or whether its scope has changed. The original programme also provided

for climate vulnerability, social and gender assessments to inform infrastructure designs and the arrangements for a subsequent investment project. Its intended outputs included detailed designs, shoreline management planning and training for government personnel. The distinction between preparation and construction is central to understanding the latest decision. The historical US\$780,250 package financed studies and planning; Cabinet’s September 4 approval concerns the appraisal of a proposed project. Neither figure nor decision, on the information available, establishes a construction contract or commencement date. Further details would clarify the extent of the proposed investment, including the shoreline sections to be protected, the engineering measures under consideration and the funding required to deliver them. For residents and businesses in vulnerable coastal areas, those details will determine what the project could mean in practical terms. The immediate development is Cabinet’s approval for CDB appraisal, with the proposal’s final scope, cost and delivery schedule still to be confirmed through further official information as the project progresses.

Stricter Work Permit Law Coming

TCI Proposes 10-Year Limit on Foreign Workers

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government is proposing sweeping immigration reforms, including a general 10-year limit on work permits, stricter recruitment requirements for employers and new pathways to residence for eligible long-term residents.

The Immigration Bill 2026, piloted by Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services, Hon. Jamell Robinson, was presented to Parliament on Thursday, October 15, and is expected to go before a parliamentary committee on Thursday, October 22, where it is expected to pass. Robinson told Parliament that the legislation aims to protect opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders while ensuring businesses can access the foreign labour and specialist skills needed to support economic growth. "The overall objective of this new law is clarity," Robinson said, explaining that residents should understand their immigration status and employers should have clear rules governing the recruitment of foreign workers.

Ten-year work permit limit proposed Under the proposed legislation, work permit holders would generally be subject to a 10-year limit. Those reaching the limit would ordinarily have to spend at least one year outside the Islands without a work permit before another could be issued. Certain essential professions and sectors would be exempt from the proposed restriction.

Employers recruiting overseas workers would also face stricter requirements, including job advertising, preference for Turks and Caicos Islanders and compliance with labour clearance procedures.

Businesses would have to substantiate the qualifications of prospective foreign employees and explain why local applicants were considered unsuitable for advertised positions.

Employers with 15 or more work permit holders, alongside other designated businesses, would be required to submit staffing plans outlining future recruitment needs, training commitments and opportunities to employ Islanders.

The proposals would also maintain controls on changes of employer and occupation, require health insurance and allow approved domestic workers and labourers to work for up to two employers.

Robinson acknowledged the impor-



Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services Hon. Jamell Robinson

tance of foreign labour but said the Government must balance business needs with opportunities for Islanders.

He warned that uncertainty in work permit decisions could affect productivity, government revenue and the funding available for public services.

New residence pathways

The Bill proposes a 10-year Residence and Employment Rights Certificate for eligible applicants, subject to annual declarations and prescribed fees. Qualifying holders could subsequently apply for permanent residence.

Eligibility would include certain long-term lawful residents and specified categories of young people and family members with established connections to the Islands.

Applicants would be assessed on criteria including good character, financial independence, knowledge of the Turks and Caicos Islands and, where applicable, English proficiency. Public interest and economic considerations would also be taken into account.

A separate renewable 25-year Long Term Residence Permit would be introduced for qualifying investors. Holders would be excluded from eligibility for the proposed Residence and Employment Rights Certificate and permanent residence through

that route.

Existing permanent residence certificates would be protected under transitional provisions.

Robinson stressed that these arrangements would not automatically confer Turks and Caicos Islander status.

Stronger immigration enforcement

The proposed legislation would repeal and replace the existing Immigration Act, establishing a new framework for entry, residence and employment.

Measures include electronic travel authorisation, digitally generated entry permissions, automated border processing through eGates and biometric identity verification. Advance passenger information would support screening before arrival, alongside cooperation with CARICOM security institutions.

The Bill would also clarify the responsibilities of the Border Force, Work Permit Boards and Immigration Appeal Tribunal.

Additional provisions would address fraudulent applications, marriages arranged to obtain immigration advantages, unlawful employment and other immigration offences.

Authorities would receive strengthened powers relating to immigration examinations, detention, removal and

deportation. The legislation would also introduce offences for facilitating unlawful entry or harbouring people who are unlawfully present.

An aggravated offence would apply where assistance with unlawful entry causes death or serious harm, or endangers life.

Protecting Islanders' economic opportunities

In presenting the case for reform, Robinson raised concerns about population growth, housing affordability and the ability of Turks and Caicos Islanders to benefit from economic development.

He argued that property values and the cost of goods and services could outpace local wages, making it increasingly difficult for Islanders to afford housing and other necessities. The minister also highlighted concerns about informal employment and workers operating outside labour law protections, arguing that such practices could disadvantage businesses complying with employment requirements.

He acknowledged that immigration policy alone could not resolve challenges involving access to financing, investment and local business development, but said it must form part of a broader strategy for shared prosperity.

The proposals would also introduce lower qualifying investment thresholds for specified investments in Grand Turk, Salt Cay, South Caicos, Middle Caicos and North Caicos, with the stated aim of encouraging economic activity across the Islands.

Bill expected to advance October 22 The proposed legislation is expected to return to the parliamentary committee on Thursday, October 22, where it is expected to pass.

If approved, the Bill would mark a significant step towards a more structured immigration system, with implications for foreign workers, employers, investors and long-term residents.

The Government says its objective is to protect employment opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders while providing businesses with greater certainty when recruiting overseas labour.

The final provisions, including any amendments, exemptions and commencement arrangements, will determine how the proposed measures affect existing work permit holders and those seeking to live and work in the Islands.

Turks and Caicos named Caribbean’s Leading Beach Destination at World Travel Awards

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands has been named the Caribbean’s Leading Beach Destination at the World Travel Awards’ Caribbean & The Americas Gala Ceremony 2026 in Jamaica.

The award was announced during a red-carpet ceremony at Princess Grand Jamaica, where tourism and hospitality leaders gathered to recognise outstanding destinations and travel brands from across the Caribbean and the Americas.

The ceremony was the flagship event of World Travel Week Jamaica, bringing together industry representatives from the Caribbean, Central America, North America and South America.

Other Caribbean winners included Jamaica, which claimed the titles of Caribbean’s Leading Destination and Caribbean’s Leading Cruise Destination. The Jamaica Tourist Board was named Caribbean’s Leading Tourist Board.

Anguilla received awards for Caribbean’s Leading Culinary Destination and Caribbean’s Leading Luxury Island Destination, while Saint Lucia won Caribbean’s Leading Honeymoon Destination and Caribbean’s Leading Adventure Tourism Destination.

World Travel Awards founder and president Graham Cooke congratulated the winners for their commitment to excellence and their contribution to raising tourism stan-

dards across the region.

“Our winners represent the very best of our industry,” Cooke said.

Jamaica’s Tourism Minister, Edmund Bartlett, described the awards as a significant benchmark of excellence in global tourism. He said the winners’ achievements reflected the industry’s strength, innovation and resilience, while hosting the ceremony gave tourism leaders an opportunity to experience Jamaica’s hospitality and attractions.

In the hospitality categories, host property Princess Grand Jamaica won Caribbean’s Leading Resort and Caribbean’s Leading Conference Hotel. Princess Senses The Mangrove was named Caribbean’s Leading Adult-Only All-Inclusive Resort.

Hotel 1829 in the US Virgin Islands received the Caribbean’s Leading New Hotel award, while Secrets St. Lucia Resort & Spa won Caribbean’s Leading New Resort.

Elsewhere in the Americas, Miami Beach was named North America’s Leading Beach Destination, and SUMMIT One Vanderbilt won North America’s Leading Tourist Attraction.

Cancún, Mexico, secured three awards: Mexico & Central America’s Leading Beach Destination, Leading City Destination, and Leading Meetings & Conference Destination.

Quito, Ecuador, was named South America’s Leading City Destination, while Chile won South America’s Leading Adventure



The world-famous Grace Bay Beach in Providenciales

Tourism Destination. Chile’s SERNATUR received the award for South America’s Leading Tourist Board, and Greater Medellín Convention & Visitors Bureau was named South America’s Leading City Tourist Board.

World Travel Week Jamaica continues with the World MICE Awards, World Travel Tech Awards and World Cruise Awards on October 12. The World Social Media Awards

and 10 Best follow on October 13, with the World Culinary Awards concluding the programme on October 14.

The Jamaica ceremony also marked the fourth leg of the World Travel Awards Grand Tour 2026. Following events in Zanzibar, Dubai, the Maldives and Jamaica, the tour moves to Montenegro before concluding with the Grand Final in Tanzania.

Digicel

A Dynamic Mobile Service provider seeks to recruit for the following post:

Job Title: Two (2) FTTX Service Delivery Technician
Reports to: FTTX Manager
Job Purpose: To carry out general laboring duties.

Key Responsibilities:

FTTX Service Delivery Technician responsibilities include:

- Survey, Install, Maintain, troubleshoot and repair entire Premises Fiber Optic network from the FAT to the Customer’s Premises Equipment (CPE).
- Install and maintain all FTTB / FTTH customers
- Create and maintain proper documentation of Customer install and service calls
- Troubleshoot and repair complex residential and commercial business customer services from the FAT to the connection of the CPE for single, multi-family, multi-dwellings, and/or commercial dwellings including, but not limited to, all necessary wiring both interior and exterior associated equipment in the forward and return signal path of the customer premise network (CPN).
- Perform all work as necessary to conform to Digicel Group quality and SOP, following all SHEQ (Safety Health Environment and Quality) security and safety control guidelines.
- Integrate various company services (video, internet) with customer’s equipment.
- Ensure and record proper levels and signal quality within required specifications on active outlets.
- Diagnose and resolve customer escalations. Consult Supervisor and Manager on unresolved customer issues.
- Clean the premises of all debris and materials after the repair is complete.
- Educate customer on proper use of services and equipment, including channel lineup and EPG.
- Maintain accurate records including time worked, daily logs, gas sheets, as required; properly record all required information on data devices and/or work orders.
- Operate communications device in accordance with company policies.
- Operate Company vehicle in a safe and responsible manner. Clean, maintain, stock, and secure assigned vehicle and equipment, in accordance with company policies.
- Demonstrate proficiency with tasks, tools, test equipment and information that will enhance business results.

Academic qualifications and experience required for job:

- Education
- High School Diploma
- Five CXC subjects at the level of grade 1 (distinction) or 2 (credit) or an equivalent qualification
- Service Delivery Certification

Compensation : USD\$38,400 per annum.

Deadline:

Positions open to all qualified Turks and Caicos Nationals. Interested applicants can forward their resumes to hrtci@digicelgroup.com

The closing date for applications is **November 02, 2026.**

'We Have Your Back'

Police executive team rallies behind Bailey amid anonymous attacks and allegations of internal discord

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey received a public show of support from members of the senior executive team of the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force on October 15, as he faced a barrage of anonymous social media attacks and allegations of divisions within the organisation. One by one, senior officers publicly demonstrated their support for Bailey during a press conference at Police Headquarters on Airport Road, presenting a united front amid claims circulating online that the Commissioner's leadership style had alienated members of his executive team and rank-and-file officers. In a particularly pointed response to



Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey (left) and his executive team, during the news conference

the controversy, some members of the executive team who had allegedly been involved in a heated confrontation

with Bailey during a purported meeting said they were not even in the country when the alleged incident was said to have occurred.

Their statements directly challenged the account circulating online and added a new dimension to the dispute, which has raised questions about the credibility of claims being made anonymously about the police leadership.

The allegations of internal discord have not been independently verified.

Executive members reject alleged confrontation

Fielding questions from the media, Bailey rejected allegations directed at his executive team and questioned the motives of individuals circulating claims behind pseudonyms and anonymous social media accounts.

Asked whether those making the allegations could be acting as proxies for criminal elements seeking to undermine the force, Bailey said he could not establish the identities or motives of the individuals involved.

He nevertheless firmly rejected the claims concerning his executive team. "This is the entire executive that is here. And the allegation was about all of us, that there were issues and all sorts of foolishness," Bailey said.

"What I will say, nothing like that happened. All of us can attest to that. Nothing, absolutely nothing."

The statements by executive members who said they were outside the country at the time of the purported confrontation provided a direct rebuttal to allegations that they had participated in the alleged incident.

Bailey described the wider claims as fabrications and criticised those who made serious allegations without pub-

licly identifying themselves.

He also warned that misinformation and disinformation could be used to manufacture controversy, distract officers and undermine public confidence in the police.

"When they cannot defeat the police on the streets, they will try to defeat us by other means," he said.

The Commissioner insisted that the force would remain focused on its crime-fighting responsibilities rather than be distracted by the controversy.

Governor backs police reforms

The press conference came amid heightened scrutiny of Bailey's leadership and followed a public statement by Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam reaffirming her support for the Commissioner and the force's reform programme.

The controversy has also drawn attention to questions about leadership opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders, career progression and the development of local officers for senior positions.

Bailey addressed those concerns, saying training and succession planning were priorities under his leadership.

He said training opportunities were being provided to local officers, British Overseas Territories citizens and contracted personnel to identify talent and prepare officers for greater responsibilities.

The Commissioner said the force employed approximately 130 local officers and about 83 Jamaicans who had joined as full-time employees.

He defended the selection process for overseas training opportunities, explaining that candidates were assessed against programme requirements and that local officers had been considered for specialised training.

Bailey acknowledged that some overseas officers might eventually return to their home countries, making the development of local leadership essential to the force's long-term stability.

"You have to ensure that you have the resilience, the local resilience, and so that's why we have embarked on this training," he said.

He added that an accelerated promotion programme proposed shortly after he joined the force remained a work in progress as the organisation developed the necessary policy.

PROJECTS DIRECTOR

This position is currently held by Work Permit Holder.

Qualified applicants are invited to apply for the position of Projects Director with an established property development company. Projects will be new builds, additions, and renovations within an operating resort. A work Permit Holder holds this position.

REQUIREMENTS:

The position requires over 25 years of relevant experience in luxury resort development and infrastructure work. Experience in liaison and scheduling resort Brands is essential. Extensive knowledge of specialized construction materials and high-end finishes is required. The ability to assess BOQ, liaise with architects, engineers, and designers at a senior level is required, in addition to an in-depth knowledge of construction drawings and technical specifications. The candidate must have a proven track record demonstrating the ability to work under pressure to tight deadlines and in limited circumstances, and excellent communication skills are vital. Experience in directing multiple projects simultaneously is required. Must have strong managerial skills, with the ability to supervise a team of employees.

TECHNICAL SKILLS:

Must be proficient in Microsoft Project, Procore, PlanSwift software, and also be proficient with AIA and FIDIC suite of contracts and Autocad.

REMUNERATION:

Remuneration from \$150K commensurate with experience.

APPLICATION DETAILS:

**Closing date for applications is
October 26, 2025**

Applications must be submitted to:

Marsha Blanche, Misick & Stanbrook,
Leeward Highway, Providenciales
By e-mail marsha@misickstanbrook.tc,
or fax (649) 946 4734 ref Caicos Resorts,
with a copy to the Labor Board.

Only candidates selected for interview will be contacted.

The People’s Housing Fund: How a Cooperative Credit Union Can Build What Government Has Not

An Op-Ed By Paladin

Turks and Caicos is living through a quiet emergency. The towers rise. The rents rise. The cost of land rises. But the People — the teachers, nurses, hospitality staff, construction crews, civil servants, and young families — remain locked out of the very housing market they sustain. We have reached a point where the average Islander cannot reasonably expect to own a home without leaving the country or inheriting one. This is not a market failure. It is a structural failure. And structural failures require structural solutions.

UTOPIA Ltd. proved something important: Islanders can be shareholders in real estate. Their fractional ownership model is **a good idea** — but one designed for luxury condos. The brilliance of the concept is not the condo; it is the **financial architecture** behind it.

Reimagined correctly, that architecture can be used to build **affordable housing, worker housing, and community housing** — not just high end units for tourists.

What UTOPIA showed is that Islanders can invest. What Turks and Caicos needs now is **a financial structure capable of managing entire housing projects** — not one condo at a time.

And the most powerful, most democratic, most locally controlled structure available is the **Cooperative Credit Union (CCU)**.

This is how the People stop waiting for government intervention. This is how the People lift themselves from an impossible situation. This is how the People build the future with their own hands.

Why a Cooperative Credit Union Is the Missing Piece

A CCU already has what UTOPIA had to build from scratch:

- Member owned governance
- Local regulatory oversight
- Ability to issue shares
- Ability to hold real estate
- Ability to distribute dividends
- Deep trust within the community

Where UTOPIA proved that Islanders can be shareholders in real estate, a CCU proves something even more powerful: **Islanders can be shareholders in their own housing system.**

A CCU is not a bank. It is a cooperative. It exists to serve its members, not external shareholders. This makes it the perfect vehicle for

a national housing solution.

The Problem: Islanders Cannot Access Traditional Housing Finance

The barriers are well known:

- Land prices beyond reach
- Construction costs beyond reach
- Mortgage requirements beyond reach
- Down payments beyond reach
- Rental prices consuming entire salaries

The result is a population trapped in perpetual renting — unable to build equity, unable to build stability, unable to build generational wealth. This is not sustainable. This is not dignified. This is not the future Turks and Caicos deserves.

The Solution: A CCU Based Housing Cooperative Fund

Imagine a Cooperative Credit Union launching a **Housing Cooperative SPV** — a special purpose vehicle owned by the CCU and its members. Members invest small amounts:

- \$500
- \$1,000
- \$1,400
- Or whatever the CCU sets

These funds are pooled to finance:

- Land acquisition
- Construction
- Infrastructure
- Housing blocks
- Mixed income developments

The CCU provides:

- Blanket mortgages
- Construction financing
- Member share loans

Members receive:

- Dividends
- Occupancy rights
- Equity appreciation
- Cooperative governance

This is not charity. This is not subsidy. This is **self determination through cooperative finance.**

How the People Lift Themselves

The model is simple:

- 1. The People invest small amounts.**
- 2. The CCU builds housing blocks.**
- 3. Members acquire units through share loans.**
- 4. Rent or carrying charges fund dividends.**
- 5. The CCU earns interest and profit sharing.**
- 6. The People own the housing system.**

No foreign developer. No speculative pricing. No government dependency. No waiting for policies that may never come.

This is the People building the People’s future.

A Working Example: CCU & The Do It Centre Housing Block (using the

land just East of the building on Leeward Highway)

Let’s apply the model to a real scenario — the three five story buildings proposed east of Do It Centre.

Project Cost: \$20 million

Shares Issued: 40,000 at \$500

Member Investment: \$500 minimum

Units: 200

- 120 one bedrooms at \$800/month
- 80 two bedrooms at \$1,400/month

Gross Income: \$2,496,000/year

Net Income (after 40% costs): \$1,497,600/year

Dividend per Share: \$37.44 (7.5% yield)

If sold instead of rented:

Sales Revenue: \$38 million

Profit: \$18 million

Per Share Gain: \$450

This is not theoretical. This is arithmetic. This is what happens when the People pool capital and build for themselves.

Why This Works Better Than Government Housing

Government housing is slow. Government housing is political. Government housing is vulnerable to budget cycles, elections, and bureaucracy.

A CCU based housing cooperative is:

- Faster
- Cheaper
- Locally controlled
- Democratically governed
- Financially sustainable
- Scalable across islands

It does not require Cabinet approval. It does not require new legislation. It does not require foreign investment. It does not require waiting. It requires only one thing: **the People deciding to act.**

Caribbean Precedents

Across the region, cooperative and credit union housing models have succeeded:

- Trinidad’s HDC
- Barbados’ NHC
- Guyana’s land allocation schemes
- Puerto Rico’s PPP worker housing

But Turks and Caicos can go further — by making the People the investors, not just the beneficiaries.

This is the next step in Caribbean housing evolution.

The CCU Advantage: Wealth Stays Home

When a CCU builds housing:

- Dividends stay local
- Interest stays local
- Equity stays local
- Ownership stays local
- Wealth stays local

This is how nations build resilience.

This is how communities build stability. This is how families build futures.

The People’s Housing Fund: A New National Architecture

The most powerful version of this model is a **National Housing Cooperative Fund**, owned by:

- All CCUs
- All members
- All participating communities

Financed by:

- Member share purchases
- CCU capital
- Community investment
- Optional private partners

Used to build:

- Affordable housing
- Worker housing
- Mixed income housing
- Community infrastructure

This is not a program. This is not a project. **This is a national architecture of shared prosperity.**

The People Can Build What Government Has Not

Turks and Caicos does not lack land. It does not lack labor. It does not lack vision. It lacks **a mechanism for collective action.**

A Cooperative Credit Union is that mechanism.

It allows the People to:

- Invest in their own housing
- Build their own communities
- Generate their own dividends
- Create their own equity
- Lift themselves from an impossible situation

This is the future: **Housing built by the People, owned by the People, financed by the People.**

This is how Turks and Caicos becomes a nation where every family can stand on solid ground — not because government intervened, but because the People chose to build the foundation themselves.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

High Blood Pressure, Children's Vision Problems Flagged at Free Health Clinic

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Nearly eight in 10 people who had their blood pressure checked during a free health mission in Providenciales recorded higher-than-normal readings, while 420 school-children, about one in five screened, showed signs of vision problems, according to the Ministry of Health and Human Services.

About one in seven people checked had dangerously high blood pressure readings, and roughly one in three tested had elevated blood sugar. The findings emerged during the iCARE mission, which served 4,815 people from September 21 to 25.

In an October 9 update, the ministry said the five-day initiative provided free eye care and health checks valued at an estimated US\$1.24 million. Those with concerning blood pressure or blood sugar results received advice and referrals to their local healthcare providers.

The results came from 1,010 blood pressure checks and 940 blood sugar checks. They describe people screened during the mission and should not be interpreted as prevalence estimates for the wider Turks and Caicos population.

The World Health Organization says untreated hypertension can lead to heart disease, stroke and kidney disease. Diagnosis generally requires elevated measurements on two different days, making follow-up assessment important after an abnormal screening result.

The mission was delivered by Great Shape! Inc.'s iCARE programme, working with the Sandals Foundation and Beaches Turks & Caicos. It followed a memorandum of understanding involving the health and education ministries and the Health Regulations and Health



Professions Authorities.

A team of 52 volunteer eye doctors, opticians, nurses and support staff from the United States and Canada provided services. The ministry described it as the largest iCARE clinic ever held and said nobody seeking care was turned away.

More than 2,400 people received full eye examinations at the Five Cays Church of God of Prophecy. Another team screened 2,186 children at 16 primary and private schools, while an evening clinic catered to Beaches staff.

The 420 children identified with possible vision problems were referred for full examinations. Screening flags children who

need further assessment; the ministry's report did not specify which conditions were suspected or how many children subsequently completed their referrals.

For background, the US National Eye Institute identifies uncorrected refractive errors, including nearsightedness, farsightedness and astigmatism, as the most common causes of vision impairment in children. These focusing problems can often be corrected with prescription glasses.

Among people examined during the mission, glaucoma, cataracts and pterygium, a growth on the eye's surface linked to sun exposure, were the most

common serious eye conditions reported.

Glaucoma damages the optic nerve and often develops without early symptoms, according to the National Eye Institute. Although there is no cure, early treatment can help prevent further damage and protect vision, underscoring the importance of examinations before noticeable sight loss.

Patients with glaucoma received eye drops and, where necessary, laser treatment. In total, 136 patients received laser treatment to protect their sight. Most patients with cataracts were referred for surgery at TCI Hospital, and 284 people received referrals to local doctors for follow-up care.

The mission provided 868 pairs of prescription glasses, including 159 distributed immediately. The remaining 709 pairs are being custom-made and will be returned for in-person fitting in January 2027.

Volunteers also distributed 1,418 pairs of reading glasses and 2,554 pairs of sunglasses. Free medication worth more than US\$400,000 was supplied to patients, the ministry said.

"This clinic has made a real difference for thousands of families across Providenciales," Health and Human Services Minister Kyle Knowles said.

He said the blood pressure and blood sugar findings reinforced the need for residents to take charge of their health.

The ministry urged patients to follow up on referrals, parents to arrange examinations for children flagged during screenings, and residents awaiting custom glasses to watch for January fitting details when announced. It also encouraged regular eye examinations, particularly for people over 40, those with diabetes or high blood pressure, and anyone with a family history of glaucoma.

Fitz Bailey: 'I Make no Apology for Confronting These Monsters'

Police Commissioner says murders fell by 43.8 per cent in 2025 as he vows to continue crackdown on criminal elements

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey has declared that he makes no apology for confronting violent criminals, vowing that the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force will use every lawful means at its disposal to protect the Turks and Caicos Islands. Speaking at a news conference at Police Headquarters on Airport Road, Providenciales, on Thursday, October 15, Bailey defended his approach to policing, pointing to significant reductions in murders and major crimes while outlining plans to transform the Force through stronger leadership, improved operational capabilities and greater accountability.

"I make no apology for confronting these monsters," Bailey declared, referring to the gangs, gunmen and organised criminal networks threatening public safety across the Islands.

He stressed, however, that the fight against crime must remain firmly within the law, warning that the police cannot abandon the principles they are sworn to uphold.

"Operate within the framework of the law," he said, reiterating that the Force's authority depends on its legitimacy and respect for the rule of law.

"The moment we abandon the law to fight the lawless, we become indistinguishable from them."

Murders down 43.8 per cent
Bailey reported that murders fell from 48 in 2024 to 27 in 2025, representing a reduction of 43.8 per cent. He also said the Islands had recorded three murders so far in 2026, an 88 per cent reduction compared with the same period last year.

Major crimes overall, he added, were down by 42 per cent.

The Commissioner described the figures as evidence of progress following a period of heightened violence that had left residents fearful and raised concerns about the country's reputation as a safe destination for tourists and investors.

"These are not mere statistics. Behind every number is a life preserved, a family spared grief, a difficult decision and a community given back its peace," he said.

Bailey recalled arriving in the Turks and Caicos Islands on October 7, 2024, when he joined the Force as Deputy Commissioner. He described the country at the time as being "under siege", with armed criminals committing robberies and killings.

Six weeks after his arrival, on November 21, 2024, then-Commissioner Edwin Martin resigned, and Bailey was asked to lead the Force.

By the end of 2024, the country had recorded 48 murders, a situation Bailey said had left some communities living in fear and parts of the Islands effectively becoming no-go zones for residents, visitors and even police officers.

He argued that restoring security was essential to economic development, noting that crime undermines business confidence, discourages investment and diverts resources away from education, healthcare, infrastructure and job creation.

"Security is not a by-product of development. It is the precondition for it," he said.

Transformation of the Police Force

Beyond the reduction in crime, Bailey said his administration was pursuing a broader transformation of the Force, built on three pillars:



Police Commissioner for the Turks and Caicos Islands Fitz Bailey

leadership, capability and integrity. Under the leadership pillar, he outlined key appointments intended to strengthen the organisation's management structure. These include an Assistant Commissioner responsible for training and recruitment, a Chief Operating Officer overseeing procurement and financial management, and a Deputy Commissioner responsible for discipline and standards.

The appointments, he said, are intended to improve operational efficiency, financial accountability and the handling of complaints involving police officers.

On capability, Bailey said officers were undergoing management, investigative, tactical and marine training as part of a deliberate effort to strengthen the Force and prepare future leaders.

He emphasised that the transformation programme was not intended to discredit previous work or undermine serving officers, but to build on existing achievements and prepare the organisation for emerging security challenges.

"My mission is not to tear down what we have built, but to build upon it. Not to criticise our officers, but to empower them," he said.

He added that every officer should have the training and skills necessary to respond effectively when confronted by violent criminals.

Warns against misinformation and division

The Commissioner also cautioned that organised criminal groups could seek to undermine law enforcement through misinformation, disinformation and attempts to create division within the Force and between officers and the public.

He described organised crime as a profit-driven enterprise that would resist efforts to disrupt its activities, potentially using proxies to manufacture controversy and distract the police from their work.

Bailey urged residents to remain united in the fight against crime, arguing that community cooperation was essential to sustaining progress. Citing former Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Robert Peel's principle that the police and the public are fundamentally connected, he called on citizens to stand with law enforcement.

"The criminal's greatest ally is a divided community, and his greatest enemy is a united one," Bailey said. He maintained that while the reported reductions in crime represented important progress, the work was far from complete.

"In under two years, we have moved these Islands from crisis towards recovery," he said. "But recovery is not victory, and our work is not done."

Bailey ended his address with a pledge to maintain the crackdown on criminal activity, declaring: "We will not relent. We will not retreat. And we will not allow these Islands to be taken back."

Chief Justice Hails High Mediation Success Rate in Turks and Caicos Islands

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Chief Justice Yonnette Cummings-Edwards has highlighted the progress of the Turks and Caicos Islands' court-connected mediation programme, revealing that dozens of disputes have been referred for mediation in recent years, with a number successfully settled without the need for a full trial.

Speaking during Mediation Week 2026 celebrations held on Thursday, October 15, at Emily House, Leeward Highway, Providenciales, the Chief Justice presented statistics showing the programme's development since 2022, while encouraging attorneys and members of the public to make greater use of mediation as an alternative to traditional litigation.

The event was held under the theme, "Conversations That Heal, Resolutions That Last."

According to the statistics presented, 32 matters were referred to mediation in 2022, with 18 successfully settled, representing a settlement rate of approximately 56.3 percent for that year's referrals.

In 2023, the number of referrals increased to 36, followed by a further rise to 42 in 2024.

The figures also showed that 27 new matters were referred to mediation in 2025, with nine recorded as settled, while others remained at various stages of the process.

Additionally, 22 of the 28 matters carried forward from 2024 were concluded during 2025, representing approximately 78.6 percent of those carried-forward matters.

Overall, the figures indicate that 137 matters were referred to mediation between 2022 and 2025, although the Chief Justice did not provide a complete breakdown of settlements across all four years.

The statistics, which were shared with the Chief Justice by Mediation Committee Chairman Justice Chris Selochan, were presented as evidence of the progress being made in promoting alternative dispute resolution within the Judiciary.

"These figures represent more than statistical achievements," Chief Justice Cummings-Edwards said.

She emphasized that behind every mediation referral is a real dispute involving individuals, families or businesses seeking a resolution to their differences.

"Where mediation succeeds, its benefits are felt, not merely in the court records, but in the lives of the parties themselves," she said.

The Chief Justice explained that mediation allows parties to resolve disagreements with the assistance of a neutral and impartial mediator, rather than having a judge determine the outcome following a contested trial.

Unlike traditional litigation, where a court delivers a binding judgment, mediation gives the disputing parties



Chief Justice Yonnette Cummings-Edwards



The audience is obviously captivated by the real-life mock mediation session



The cast of characters is about to perform the mock mediation. From left: Ms. Sarika Samaroo - Registrar of the Magistrate and Coroner Court; Resident Magistrate, Ms. Patricia Arana; Dr. Alicia Swann (chair); Ms. Sasha Ferguson and Mr. David Cadman KC.

greater control over the terms of any agreement reached.

She identified several major advantages of mediation, including lower legal expenses, faster settlements, greater

flexibility, confidentiality and the preservation of personal and professional relationships.

Chief Justice Cummings-Edwards noted that these benefits are particularly

important in a small jurisdiction such as the Turks and Caicos Islands, where business, family and community relationships often continue long after a dispute has ended.

She also explained that successful mediation can reduce the number of matters requiring contested trials, allowing judicial officers to devote more time and resources to other cases.

"Every dispute successfully resolved is potentially one less matter requiring a contested trial and considerable judicial time and resources," she said.

However, the Chief Justice stressed that mediation should not be viewed merely as a tool for reducing court backlogs, but as a legitimate and effective means of delivering justice.

"A successful mediation, then, does not represent a failure to litigate. It represents a successful resolution of the dispute," she declared.

The Chief Justice pointed to the introduction of the Court-Connected Mediation Rules 2023 and provisions under Section 16 of the Supreme Court Act as important developments in strengthening the jurisdiction's alternative dispute resolution framework.

She said the Turks and Caicos Islands is keeping pace with other jurisdictions, including Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Singapore, where mediation has become an established part of the justice system.

During her address, she also paid tribute to the mediators who volunteer their time and professional expertise to help disputing parties reach agreements.

She acknowledged that many mediators undertake these responsibilities alongside demanding careers, family commitments and other personal obligations.

The Chief Justice also issued a direct appeal to attorneys who have not yet fully embraced mediation, urging them to recognize its value in serving their clients' best interests.

"Please come on board," she urged.

She reminded lawyers that their professional responsibilities extend beyond pursuing litigation and include advising clients on the most appropriate and effective means of resolving disputes.

Members of the public were similarly encouraged to consider mediation whenever appropriate, rather than viewing compromise as a sign of weakness or defeat.

The Chief Justice expressed hope that continued public education and the work of the Judiciary's Mediation Committee would help establish a stronger culture of dialogue, compromise and peaceful dispute resolution throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The figures presented demonstrate the Judiciary's continued efforts to expand mediation, while underscoring the potential for more disputes to be resolved without the expense, delays and adversarial nature of traditional courtroom proceedings.

Judiciary Concerned Too Few Cases Are Being Referred to Mediation

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Despite a high settlement rate for disputes referred to mediation, the Turks and Caicos Islands Judiciary is concerned that too few people are taking advantage of the process to resolve their legal matters outside the courtroom. Chairman of the Mediation Committee, Justice Chris Selochan, raised the concern during Mediation Week 2026 celebrations held on Thursday, October 15, at Emily House, Leeward Highway, Providenciales. The event was held under the theme, “Conversations That Heal, Resolutions That Last,” as the Judiciary continued its efforts to promote mediation as an effective alternative to traditional courtroom litigation. Justice Selochan said that while the majority of matters referred to mediation have been successfully settled, the number of people utilizing the service remains a concern. “I’m pleased to indicate that the majority of matters which have been sent for mediation have been settled,” he said. “However, whilst we acknowledge the high success rate for matters referred to mediation, we are concerned that an insufficient number of persons are utilizing the mediation process.”



The judge suggested that a lack of awareness and exposure to mediation, including among members of the legal profession, could be contributing to the low participation. He noted that many people may not fully appreciate the advantages of resolving disputes through mediation rather than pursuing lengthy and potentially expensive court proceedings. According to Justice Selochan, mediation can significantly reduce the time

and legal costs associated with disputes while, in some instances, helping to repair relationships between the parties involved. The Mediation Committee has also been following up with judicial officers to ensure that cases referred to mediation are progressing as intended, either resulting in settlements or being returned to the courts without unnecessary delays. In an effort to encourage greater participation, the Judiciary introduced a different approach to this year’s Mediation Day activities, organizing a mock mediation exercise to demonstrate how the process works. The exercise was designed to provide attorneys, members of the public, government representatives and other stakeholders with a practical understanding of how mediation can help resolve disagreements. Justice Selochan explained that the mock session would involve participants role-playing a dispute, with an experienced mediator guiding the proceedings. “The objective is to have all stakeholders involved,” he said. The Judiciary also arranged for the proceedings to be streamed on its YouTube channel and Facebook page, allowing people who could not attend in person to observe the exercise.

Justice Selochan said the initiative forms part of a wider effort to educate the public about the benefits of mediation and encourage more people to consider it before engaging in prolonged litigation. “We hope to spread the word as far as possible that mediation works, and that it can result in savings of time and legal costs,” he stated. He further emphasized that the Turks and Caicos Islands already has trained mediators and modern facilities available to support the process. The judge also acknowledged the continued support of Chief Justice Yonnette Cummings-Edwards in advancing alternative dispute resolution within the jurisdiction. His comments highlight a central challenge facing the Judiciary’s mediation programme: although cases referred to mediation are frequently resolved successfully, increasing the number of disputes entering the process remains a priority. The Judiciary is hoping that greater public education, increased involvement from attorneys and practical demonstrations of the mediation process will help more residents recognize it as an effective alternative to traditional courtroom litigation.

Let the Police Do Their Job

An Op-Ed by Audley Astwood

There comes a time when we must put politics aside and look at what matters to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. One of those things is our safety. People want to live in peace, raise their children, go to work and return home without fear. That should be our common goal, no matter which political party we support. There have been complaints about the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force and its current Commissioner. Some of these complaints may deserve answers, and no public official should be beyond question. But we must also be willing to look at the results. If crime is down overall, as the reported figures suggest, then we should recognise that progress while continuing to ask fair questions. We cannot demand better results from the police while making it hard-

er for them to do their job. Officers have enough to deal with on our streets. They must investigate crimes and help keep our communities safe. These are serious responsibilities. They need their time, attention and full effort. Imagine what our police force could achieve if more of its energy went towards fighting crime and less towards dealing with public disputes, internal complaints and political arguments. Every minute spent on unnecessary distractions is a minute that could be better spent serving the people. This does not mean that legitimate complaints should be ignored. If an officer has done wrong, deal with it. If the Commissioner has questions to answer, ask them through the proper channels. If changes are needed, make them. Holding people accountable is one thing. Creating so much noise that the real work suffers is another. A fall in crime does not mean that all



is well. It does, however, give us reason to examine what is working and how we can build on it. We should want the police to succeed because their success means safer homes, safer streets and safer communities for all of us. The Commissioner and every officer in the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force should be judged fairly on their work and their results. They should also be given the support and space needed to carry out their du-

ties. Our people deserve better than endless arguments while crime remains a concern. They deserve a police force that is focused. One that is supported and held to proper standards. Let us ask questions where questions are needed, correct problems where problems exist, and stop turning every issue into a political fight. Our safety must come first. Let the police focus on crime, and let us give them every fair chance to do their job.

Born Here, Raised Here, but Still Unable to Vote: Is this a Conundrum for TCI Electorate?

An Op-Ed by Ed Forbes

The Turks and Caicos Islands faces a growing demographic and democratic question that can no longer be ignored: What happens to young people born and raised here who reach adulthood without qualifying for Turks and Caicos Islander Status, and what does this mean for our country's future?

This is not simply an immigration issue. It concerns population growth, national identity, political representation and the future relationship between the people who call these Islands home and the system that determines who can participate in our democracy.

Consider a young person born in TCI, educated in our schools, raised in our communities and now working, paying taxes and contributing to the economy. At 18, that person may hold British Overseas Territories Citizenship (BOTC) but still lack Islander Status and, consequently, the eligibility required to register as an elector.

Section 55 of the Turks and Caicos Islands Constitution Order 2011 establishes the qualifications for voter registration, including the requirement to be a Turks and Caicos Islander. Being born here, growing up here or holding BOTC citizenship does not automatically satisfy that requirement.

Of course, birth in the Islands does not automatically confer Islander Status. The law provides different routes based on parental status, nationality, residence and other qualifying circumstances. We must respect those laws while asking whether they adequately address the realities of a population that has changed considerably over the past two decades.

The numbers make this discussion increasingly urgent.

According to Government population estimates, the TCI population grew from approximately 33,500 in 2011 to 47,674 in 2022. The Government's 2025 projection placed it at approximately 52,299. That represents projected growth of roughly 56 per cent between 2011 and 2025.

Published demographic information has also suggested that fewer than one in four residents holds Islander Status. A separate comparison of the 2022 population estimate and the 2023 registered-electors list placed registered electors at approximately 19 per cent of the population.

These figures measure different things and come from different years. They should not be confused with the percentage of eligible voters who actually cast ballots. Nevertheless, they raise an important question: How will our electorate evolve as the population continues to grow?

We should not assume that every non-Islander resident is eligible for status, or that everyone

without status was born here. Equally, we cannot ignore young people who may have spent their entire lives in these Islands yet remain outside the electorate because they cannot satisfy the existing requirements.

This situation did not begin yesterday. Children born here 15 or 20 years ago are now adults. Some may qualify under existing provisions but need assistance navigating the application process. Others may have no available route under current legislation. We need reliable figures to understand the scale of each group.

With the next general election roughly two and a half years away, the time to act is now.

The Government should not wait until an election is approaching to discover how many people may qualify to register, how many remain excluded and whether legislative changes are needed. Islander Status applications and potential legislative reforms can involve lengthy processes. Any necessary changes require legal examination, consultation and sufficient time for implementation.

I propose that the Government work with the Islander Status Commission, immigration authorities and the Elections Department to conduct a comprehensive review of TCI-born adults who do not hold Islander Status. The review should establish how many qualify under existing provisions, how many have been refused or cannot

apply, and the specific legal barriers involved.

Where a lawful pathway already exists, the Government should make it clear and accessible. Where genuine gaps remain, it should consult the public on whether a defined pathway should be established for qualifying individuals born, educated and lawfully raised here, with appropriate safeguards.

This is not a call to grant status indiscriminately or disregard immigration controls. It is a call to examine the consequences of our existing framework and determine whether it serves the long-term interests of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Let's face it, a growing migrant population, an ageing Islander community and successive generations of young people whose electoral eligibility may be restricted present questions that deserve serious, evidence-based consideration.

We cannot change the past, but we can decide whether to confront this issue today or leave it for another generation. I strongly believe, voting eligibility is more than a right; it is a pathway to inclusion and a stake in our country's future.

The question is no longer whether this deserves public discussion. It is whether we are prepared to begin in time to make informed decisions before the next election and beyond.

The clock is ticking. Let us establish the facts, examine the law and find a fair, lawful and sustainable way forward.



Warren Harriott from the Beaches Landscaping team uses a chain saw to cut back on some of the overgrown shrubs



Assistant Landscaping Manager Kemar Jones (right) helps to clear the debris from the area

Beaches Turks & Caicos gives Enid Capron Primary a pre-term facelift

Beaches Turks and Caicos has refreshed the grounds of Enid Capron Primary School in Five Cays, Providenciales, ahead of the new school year, with a landscaping team from the resort, pruning and cutting back overgrown branches to give the campus a cleaner, safer look.

The project focused on the school's exterior plantings, where tangled growth had begun to encroach on walkways and outdoor learning areas. The team spent time trimming hedges, thinning dense shrubs and removing deadwood to improve sightlines and airflow around the buildings.

Assistant Landscaping Manager, Kemar Jones said the work at Enid Capron is a regular priority for the department, which views community giving as a core part of its mandate. He noted that supporting local schools, particularly

through hands-on environmental work, has long been a focus area for his team.

Jones, said the effort reflects the group's wider commitment to the islands. "As a team, our goal is to give back to our communities and especially providing support for the environment and education," Jones noted. "The team is always ready to share our skills with making the school environment more comfortable for our students and teachers."

General Manager Deryk Meany framed the project as part of Beaches' broader approach to working alongside the community beyond the resort gates. "At Beaches Turks and Caicos, we operate as a team not only within the confines of the resort but also with our communities," Meany added. "Being able to share our varied skills is always our main focus. Providing

a comfortable learning environment allows for a greater relationship with our educational collaborators."

He added that the resort seeks opportunities to support range of school-based initiatives, from environmental and leadership clubs to creative programmes.

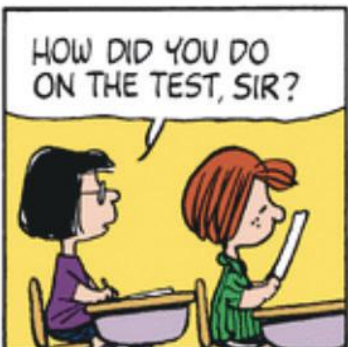
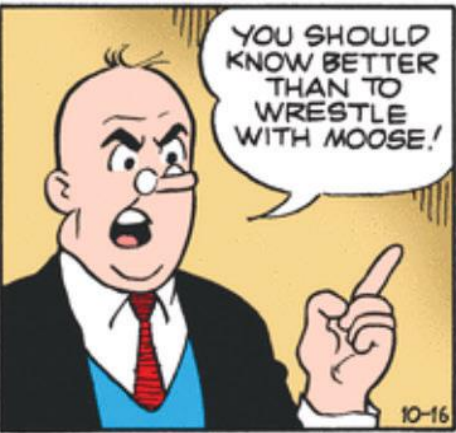
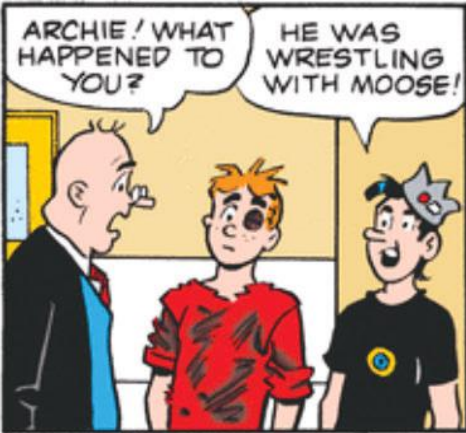
Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor described the landscaping mission as a continuation of a long-standing relationship between the Ministry and Beaches Turks and Caicos. "This mission from our major private sector supporter, Beaches Turks and Caicos is a long standing activity," Taylor said. "At Enid Capron Primary School, we are treated as family. Once we reach out to the resort, they have always responded in a positive way."

Hon. Taylor said the support is particularly valu-

able in the areas of education and community development, where consistent private-sector engagement can amplify government efforts.

Nelene Swann, vice principal at Enid Capron Primary welcomed the refreshed grounds as a boost to morale before classes resume. "This is what true collaboration looks like," she noted. "This is more than a facelift for the school. The team from Beaches Turks and Caicos has shown true commitment in adding to this learning environment for our students and teachers."

She said the improved landscaping contributes to a more comfortable and inviting campus for all stakeholders. "This is a good way to start the new school year. This facelift will certainly make the facilities here at the school more appealing to our students, teachers and parents."



NEWSLINE COMICS

Before we got **THIS OLD** do you remember being able to get up without making sound effects?



"I'm not paying good money for jeans that aren't ripped!"



"NOBODY'S PERFECT. THAT'S WHY THEY INVENTED ERASERS."

JOJO THE DOLPHIN

NEWSLINE

Heritage

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Photo: Destination Magazines. JoJo the Dolphin – a Living Treasure. <https://destination-magazines.com/jojo-the-dolphin/>



For more than four decades, a single dolphin has captured the hearts of residents and visitors across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Known affectionately as JoJo the Dolphin, the wild Atlantic bottlenose dolphin became famous for his unusual habit of approaching swimmers and boats along the shores of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

JoJo first began interacting with humans in the early 1980s after appearing in the waters around Providenciales. Unlike most dolphins, which typically remain within pods, JoJo appeared to live largely alone and frequently sought out human interaction, swimming alongside boats and guiding swimmers through the clear turquoise waters of the islands.

His friendly behaviour quickly made him a beloved figure within the community and an unexpected ambassador for the natural beauty of the Turks and Caicos. Visitors often travelled specifically in hopes of encountering the dolphin, whose presence became part of the islands’ folklore and tourism identity.

Recognising his cultural importance, the Turks and Caicos Government officially declared JoJo a National Treasure in 1989. Protective measures were introduced to ensure that the dolphin could live safely in local waters and to discourage harmful interference from boats or swimmers.

Over the years, JoJo’s story has attracted international attention through books and documentaries that highlight his remarkable relationship with humans. His decades-long presence in the waters of the Turks and Caicos remains rare, as dolphins typically live in social groups and seldom form such sustained interactions with people.

Today, JoJo continues to symbolise the deep connection between the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands and the marine environment that surrounds them. His story serves as a reminder that the islands’ natural world is not only an ecological treasure, but also an enduring part of their cultural heritage.



Karen Cox (centre) and team - Craft vendors



Local craft vendors make final touches to their space at the Beaches Caribbean Bloc Party on a Friday evening

Beaches Turks & Caicos Strengthens Year-Round Commitment with Local Craft Vendors and Transport Operators

Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort is deepening its long-standing collaboration with local craft vendors and transport operators, maintaining active support even during the off-peak season to sustain livelihoods and strengthen the islands' tourism ecosystem. Local entrepreneurs say the resort's commitment is felt throughout the year, with particular emphasis on keeping businesses vibrant when visitor numbers dip. Veteran craft vendor Cassandra Gardiner highlighted the consistency that has become a hallmark of the association. "We are satisfied with the consistency shown by the resort and the local entrepreneurs," Gardiner said. "During the slower season, they have taken the time to keep the entrepreneurial team active with customer service and marketing training workshops." The workshops, delivered in collaboration with the Sandals Foundation and the Sandals Corporate University, focus on practical skills such as product display, guest engagement and digital marketing-tools that help artisans convert resort traffic into steady



Customer Service Training for the Local vendors

sales even outside peak periods. The Cultural Marketplace, located adjacent to the property, continues to serve as a primary platform, while vendors are welcomed onto the resort grounds on scheduled days to reach a wider audience. For local taxi associations, the resort's backing translates into reliable business and sponsorship for community activities. Loftan Ellis, a veteran transport operator, described the support as "magical,"

noting that Beaches is often the first to confirm sponsorship for association events and planned activities. "The consistency in business from Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort is one of the main reasons for us to maintain our livelihood while helping to build our primary industry, tourism," Ellis added. This alignment between resort operations and local transport providers helps stabilize income during quieter months, ensuring

that drivers and small operators can remain active participants in the destination's tourism value chain. General Manager Deryk Meany framed this collaboration as central to the resort's corporate social responsibility and philanthropic mission. "We remain committed to providing support to our environment and the communities that we serve," Meany said. He emphasised that growth at the property is intended to create shared opportunity. "As we grow, we will create greater opportunities for the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands to grow alongside us," Meany said. By maintaining training, market access and sponsorship across the calendar, the resort is helping to build resilience in a sector vulnerable to seasonality. For craft vendors and transport operators alike, this local support offers more than intermittent income; it provides a structured pathway to professionalise services, expand customer reach and contribute to a more diversified and sustainable local tourism economy.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Church of God of Prophecy, Blue Hills

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



Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581 Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030 One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com. Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731 Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755 Anglican Church Rectory 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 Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.tc. Rock of Jesus Ministry, 15 Five Cays, Safe Haven. Tel: 649-3317628 of 649-2410087	Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240 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	Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624 Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349 Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349 Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565 Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181 St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499 Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596 <i>Editor’s Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at: contact@newslnetci.com</i>
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IN THE PINK: ANOTHER BLAST

The annual shopping extravaganza In the Pink, which was established 18 years ago, to raise funds for the National Cancer Society, appears to be another blow-out, as shoppers descended on the Palms Resort in Grace Bay, Providenciales on Saturday, October 10, to take advantage of the large variety of high quality apparels, jewellery and other items, the majority of which went at bargain prices. Patrons also heavily supported the pop-up bars and food courts on the grounds of facility. The following are photo highlights of the stellar event.







More Highlights of the National Cancer Society Breast Cancer Walk

On Saturday, October 3, the National Cancer Society staged its annual Breast Cancer Walk, which was held in Grace Bay, Providenciales. The event attracted hundreds of persons from across that island, who transformed Grace Bay in a sea of pink. NewslineTCI had made an earlier report on the event. Th following are an additional photo highlight of the event.



ROAD TO 1976 SERIES: GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY PROFILE

HON. CHARLES WILLIAM “LIAM” MAGUIRE

The Independent Who Helped Build Tourism And Form a Government

Charles William “Liam” Maguire, businessman, tourism pioneer, elected representative, and one of the first Ministers of the Turks and Caicos Islands. His decision to run as an Independent helped make the formation of the first Ministerial Government possible in 1976. Photograph courtesy of Joan Astwood’s collection. Charles William “Liam” Maguire was not born in the Turks and Caicos Islands. He came from London around the beginning of the 1960s, when the country was poor and searching for a future beyond salt, fishing and government employment. Many British workers completed their assignments in small colonial territories and returned home. Maguire took a different path. He stayed, built businesses, entered community life and eventually became an elected representative and one of the first Ministers of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Some historical records spell his surname “McGuire,” but the official parliamentary list records him as Charles William Maguire. This article therefore uses Maguire, while recognising that the alternative spelling appears in historical documents. Long before Ministerial Government arrived in 1976, he had already invested years of work, money and risk on the Islands, particularly in South Caicos.

The Country He Chose

The Turks and Caicos Islands Maguire encountered bore little resemblance to today’s internationally known destination. No Grace Bay resort corridor or modern tourism economy existed. Roads, electricity, water, communications, and air services were limited, while inter-island travel depended heavily on boats, small aircraft, and suitable weather.

The salt industry that had sustained Grand Turk, Salt Cay and South Caicos for generations was declining. Fishing remained essential, particularly in South Caicos, while government employment supported many households. Migration was also reshaping communities as Islanders travelled to The Bahamas, the United States and elsewhere in search of work and greater opportunities.

Maguire came as a surveyor and engineer, work that brought him into direct contact with the land, settlements and physical limitations of the Islands. South Caicos became the centre of much of his activity. With its natural harbour, maritime traditions and hardworking population, the island possessed considerable strengths, but the decline of salt created an urgent need for new employment and economic activity. No individual could solve those problems, but Maguire was among those willing to invest in new possibilities. The Admiral’s Arms and the Caicos Company One of the ventures most closely associated with him was the Admiral’s Arms Hotel. Historical accounts identify the former Kersteiner House as the building converted into the hotel during the 1960s. Surviving deeds and company papers are still needed to settle every detail of its early history, but the evidence clearly associates Maguire with establishing and operating the hotel. The Admiral’s Arms provided accommodation for pilots, businesspeople, officials and other travellers passing through South Caicos. Its walls and ceiling carried the registration numbers of aircraft whose pilots had stayed there, while its dining room, bar, saltwater pool and commanding view of the harbour made it one of the island’s best-known gathering places. At a time when tourism was still more possibility than industry, the hotel represented confidence that visitors could become part of a changing local economy.

Maguire also owned and operated the enterprise generally remembered as the Caicos Company. Historical sources use several versions of its name, including Caicos Company Ltd. and Caicos Company Holdings Ltd. Its activities extended beyond hotel operations into commercial services, aviation support and the early provision of electricity. Accounts describe hotel generators later contributing to a private electricity supply for parts of the community, bringing light, refrigeration, machinery and new opportunities to homes and businesses.

Norman B. Saunders, who would later become Chief Minister, worked for Maguire at the Caicos Company from 1964 to 1974, initially as accountant and later as his deputy in its local operations. The association brings together two men who would later occupy important positions in the country’s political life during an earlier period of commercial development in South Caicos.

Promoting an Island Before Mass Tourism

Maguire did not simply establish accommodation and wait for travellers to discover it. In 1963, he printed a promotional brochure for his business in South Caicos, advertising accommodation and services while presenting the island as a destination worth visiting. The brochure is important physical evidence of early tourism promotion. It appeared years before the Turks and Caicos Islands developed a major resort industry and decades before Grace Bay became internationally

known. Although produced for a private enterprise, it inevitably promoted the wider community by encouraging visitors to travel to South Caicos, stay there, and spend money.

Its significance does not depend upon proving that it was the country’s first tourism brochure. It records an early effort to bring visitors to South Caicos through a private business, at a time when the island needed new economic opportunities.

Aviation, Electricity and Employment

South Caicos occupied an important position in regional aviation during the 1960s and 1970s. Aircraft travelling between North America, South America and Caribbean destinations stopped for fuel, services and accommodation, and the Caicos Company participated in the commercial activity surrounding the airport and visiting aircraft.

Hotel operations, aviation services, and electricity provision also created jobs. The surviving record does not allow every job or project to be quantified precisely, but it shows a businessman participating directly in the island’s transition from an economy historically dominated by salt and fishing towards a more diversified future.

That practical experience would later become particularly relevant when Maguire entered politics. Tourism, infrastructure, aviation, investment and employment were not simply subjects he encountered after receiving a ministerial portfolio. He had already spent years confronting them on the ground.

Royalty, Donkeys and the Beginnings of a Tradition

Another side of his contribution appeared during the Royal Visit of 25 February 1966, when Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip visited the Turks and Caicos Islands. When the Royal Yacht Britannia reached South Caicos, the programme included official welcomes, exhibitions, boats and community presentations. It also included something far more local: a donkey race.

The Turks and Caicos National Museum credits Maguire with initiating the race. Nine jockeys rode decorated donkeys along the waterfront, passing the government jetty and Caicos Fisheries before returning towards the Royal Box. For a few minutes, the formality of a Royal Visit met the humour and personality of South Caicos. The sailing display associated with the visit also helped inspire what followed. In May 1967, South Caicos held its first annual Regatta, beginning a tradition that would become the oldest continuing festival of its kind in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Accounts of the early organising identify Maguire as a driving force behind the Caicos sloop race held during that first Regatta. Those sloops had not been built as recreational vessels. For generations they carried people, salt, fish, food, mail and supplies between islands and neighbouring countries. Placing them at the centre of a public race transformed an essential part of working island life into a celebration of maritime skill and identity.

His role should be recognised without overlooking the community effort behind the wider Regatta. Norman Saunders assisted with its organisation, the Caicos Company and other businesses contributed sponsorship and prizes, while boat owners, sailors and residents made the event succeed. What began through the work of early organisers was embraced by South Caicos and became part of its cultural inheritance.

A Regional Tourism Voice

By the early 1970s, Maguire’s tourism activities extended beyond his own businesses. A United Nations report published in 1974 identified him as a hotelier, a member of the Turks and Caicos Tourist Board and a Regional Director of the Caribbean Hotel Association. That documentary record places him within regional tourism discussions at a time when the local industry remained small and uncertain. Large resorts had not yet transformed Providenciales, and tourism had not become the dominant force in the national economy. His experience therefore belonged to an earlier stage, when basic questions still had to be answered about accommodation, transportation, promotion, investment and how the Islands could attract visitors at all. Tourism in the Turks and Caicos was not created by one person, company or government. Maguire’s significance lies instead in being among those who recognised its possibilities early and attempted to build some of the services required to support it.

From Business to the State Council

By 1972, his public role had expanded from business into elected politics. He offered himself to the voters of Middle Caicos and won a seat in the State Council.

For a London-born businessman without generations of family roots on the island, election by the people of Middle Caicos was significant. Contemporary reporting later stated that he had obtained Turks and Caicos status. The legal instrument should still be located, but the available evidence supports the conclusion that he held that status before contesting the 1976 election. Within a year of entering the State Council, he became

associated with one of the most unusual constitutional proposals in the country’s history: closer association with Canada.

On 14 March 1973, the State Council adopted a resolution supporting exploration of such a relationship. The timing was important. The Bahamas was approaching independence, Britain’s relationship with its Caribbean territories was changing, and the Turks and Caicos Islands was considering its own constitutional and economic future.

Maguire carried the idea beyond the Council chamber, travelling to Ottawa and gaining the attention of Canadian parliamentarians, including Heath Macquarrie. In August 1973, a delegation from the Canadian branch of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association visited the Turks and Caicos Islands. In January 1974, Canadian Member of Parliament Max Saltzman introduced a private member’s bill asking Canada to examine a possible association with the territory, with one version contemplating a relationship with Nova Scotia.

The proposal did not succeed. In April 1974, the Canadian Government decided not to pursue it. British officials had doubts, no referendum had demonstrated majority support and no final constitutional model had been agreed. Those limitations are important. Nevertheless, an idea debated in the Turks and Caicos State Council had reached Canada’s Parliament, and Maguire had played an important role in carrying it there.

The 1976 Election

The political structure of the Turks and Caicos Islands changed fundamentally in 1976. The new Constitution came into operation on 30 August, creating the office of Chief Minister and providing the framework for Ministerial Government. The general election followed on 29 September.

This time Maguire stood as an Independent in South Caicos South, rather than Middle Caicos, which he had represented in the 1972 State Council. The electorate chose him by 121 votes to 76, giving him a majority of 45.

Nationally, no political party won an outright majority. The People’s Democratic Movement won five seats, the Progressive National Organisation four, while two Independents were elected: Daniel Williams in Bottle Creek and Maguire in South Caicos South. Six elected members were required for a working majority, placing the two Independents in a pivotal position.

South Caicos Had Its Say

What happened after the votes were counted became part of the foundation story of Ministerial Government. Daniel Williams joined the PDM on 30 September, according to contemporary reporting, giving J. A. G. S. McCartney the six elected supporters needed for a working majority. Maguire also agreed to support the PDM-led administration, but contemporary reporting is important in understanding how his decision was presented at the time.

On 5 October 1976, the Cayman Compass reported that he had decided to vote with the PDM “because of the desires of his constituency,” while intending to remain an Independent. The wording matters because it places South Caicos South, rather than simply Maguire’s personal political preference, within the story of how the first government was formed.

He had not stood as a PDM candidate, and the available evidence does not establish that he formally joined the party immediately after the election. His position is better understood as an Independent agreeing to work with the PDM while retaining the mandate under which the people of South Caicos South had elected him.

Maguire subsequently accepted office as Minister of Tourism, Development of Industries and Resources. His involvement therefore extended far beyond supplying an additional vote. He joined the first ministerial team and accepted direct responsibility for areas that would become central to the country’s economic future.

A post-election interview reported by The Miami Herald provides another glimpse of his thinking. Maguire expressed confidence in the incoming administration, saying he believed the PDM wanted change and could move the country forward. Explaining his willingness to accept ministerial responsibility, he said he wanted to work for the Islands and believed he had something to contribute.

The arrangement created a working majority, although no formal written coalition agreement has been established. Williams supplied the sixth elected supporter; Maguire strengthened the administration and entered its ministerial team.

His portfolio was particularly appropriate. Years before receiving a ministerial title, he had run a hotel, worked in aviation and electricity services, promoted tourism, and helped establish a maritime event that became one of South Caicos’ enduring traditions. He entered government responsible for fields in which he already possessed practical experience.

A Painful Departure

Maguire did not contest the general election of 4 November 1980. After leaving political office, he returned to the island where he had spent so many years working and investing.

The final chapter of his life there appears to have been difficult. Community recollections maintain that political divisions and the actions of certain individuals made his position increasingly uncomfortable, and he eventually left the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Whatever the precise circumstances surrounding his departure, they do not erase what preceded them. By then he had spent years investing in South Caicos, employing people, promoting tourism, participating in public life and serving in the country’s first Ministerial Government.

Hon. Liam Maguire, Minister of Tourism and Development, with Patricia Jackson-Patino, Miss Cayman Islands 1977, during his 1978 visit to the Cayman Islands. Photograph courtesy of Joan Astwood’s collection.

The Man Who Came, Stayed and Belonged

No usual description fully captures Charles William Maguire. Describing him simply as a Londoner overlooks the fact that voters in both Middle Caicos and South Caicos elected him. Calling him a businessman leaves out his service on the State Council and in the first Ministerial Government. Remembering only the politician obscures the Admiral’s Arms, the Caicos Company, aviation, electricity, early tourism promotion and the Regatta. Even identifying him as one of the Independents who helped shape the government formed after the 1976 election tells only the final part of a much longer story.

His life crossed all of those worlds.

He was born elsewhere, but made the Turks and Caicos Islands his home, obtained Turks and Caicos status, invested in its development, and twice received the confidence of its voters. When the constitutional changes of 1976 finally placed greater responsibility for governing the territory into the hands of elected representatives, he accepted a place in that first ministerial administration.

His story therefore raises a question larger than one man’s career: what does it mean to belong to a country?

For Liam Maguire, belonging was demonstrated through years of participation. It could be seen in a hotel overlooking South Caicos harbour, in aircraft arriving at the airport, in early electricity services, in a 1963 brochure encouraging visitors to discover the island, in decorated donkeys racing before a Queen, in Caicos sloops competing before cheering crowds, in debates over the country’s constitutional future, and finally in the confidence placed in him by voters.

That is the fuller measure of his place in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Charles William “Liam” Maguire came from elsewhere, but he became part of the life of these Islands during an important period of transition. He contributed to South Caicos before tourism became the foundation of the national economy and entered government at the very moment when Ministerial Government began.

Fifty years later, he should not be remembered only for the parliamentary numbers of September 1976. The more complete story is the one that came before and surrounded that moment: the engineer, businessman, hotelier, tourism advocate, community organiser, elected representative and Minister whose life became closely intertwined with South Caicos and with a country searching for a new future.

He came, stayed and served. In doing so, Liam Maguire earned a lasting place in the Turks and Caicos story.

This Golden Anniversary Profile is dedicated to Charles William “Liam” Maguire and to the people of South Caicos whose work, skill and community spirit helped create the developments and traditions with which his name became associated.

About the Author

Joan Astwood-Sutton, LLB (Hons.), MA Publishing, and Certificate in Youth & Community Studies, is an author, publisher, historian, museum founder, storyteller and historical preservation advocate in the Turks and Caicos Islands. She is the Founder and Director of the Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood Research Library, Museum and Learning Facility, dedicated to preserving the political, cultural and historical legacy of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

She is the daughter of the late Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood, who served as the first Minister of Public Works, Utilities and Labour when Ministerial Government began in 1976, and the late Mildred Garland-Astwood, a craftswoman, designer, community adviser, political activist and contributor to the community life of the period. Through archival preservation, oral-history documentation and historical research, Joan works to recover the people and events that helped shape the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Young Spellers Shine at Inaugural Rotaract Spelling Bee in Providenciales

Words became a bridge to knowledge, confidence and community service as nine young students took centre stage at the inaugural Rotaract Spelling Bee, hosted by the Rotaract Club of Providenciales on Friday, October 9, 2026, at The Salvation Army.

Bringing together Grade 5 and 6 students from five primary schools across Providenciales, the event transformed an evening of friendly competition into a celebration of learning, perseverance and the promise of young minds. Inspired by Rotary International’s September area of focus, Basic Education and Literacy, the initiative was designed to do more than test students’ spelling abilities. It also introduced participants to Rotary, the Rotary Foundation and the importance of giving back to their communities.

Through carefully selected words reflecting Rotary’s values, humanitarian efforts and commitment to service, students were challenged to expand their vocabularies while discovering how education and community service can work hand in hand to create meaningful change.

Nine Students, One Stage and a Shared Love of Learning

Representing five primary schools, the nine participants brought their preparation, determination and enthusiasm to the competition.

They were Ahzaya Forbes and Keandre Maragh of Shining Stars Preparatory School; John Elimus and Emma Khan of Provo Christian Primary School; Jeremiah Innocent and Romeo Baranco of Mills Institute; Adonarim Pierre and Kiara Clarke of Ianthe Pratt Primary School; and Venroy Brown of Richmond Hill.

As the rounds progressed, each student faced increasingly challenging words, demonstrating confidence and composure under pressure. Their performances reflected the academic potential of young learners across Providenciales and reminded everyone in attendance of the importance of creating opportunities for children to grow, learn and excel.

The atmosphere was filled with anticipation and encouragement, as parents, teachers, supporters and community members cheered on the young spellers. Every round offered another opportunity for the students to challenge themselves, and every effort served as a reminder that success begins with the courage to participate.

Celebrating Excellence and Determination

After an impressive display of spelling ability, focus and perseverance, three students emerged as the competition’s top performers.

Taking first place was Venroy Brown of Richmond Hill, who earned a round-trip ticket to Miami, along with a trophy and medal.

phy and medal.

Keandre Maragh of Shining Stars Preparatory School secured second place, receiving a day pass to Beaches Turks and Caicos, a trophy and medal.

Rounding out the top three was Jeremiah Innocent of Mills Institute, who claimed third place and received a tablet, trophy and medal.

While the winners enjoyed well-deserved recognition for their achievements, the evening’s success extended beyond the final standings. All nine students demonstrated courage, preparation and a willingness to embrace a challenge, making each participant an important part of the event’s inaugural success.

More Than a Spelling Competition

For Rotaract Club of Providenciales President Nideka Misick, the event represented an opportunity to invest in young people while strengthening



Keandre Maragh of Shining Stars Preparatory School secured second place

the connection between education and service.

“The Rotaract Spelling Bee was about more than just spelling words correctly. We wanted to bring students together, challenge them academically and introduce them to the values of Rotary, the work of the Rotary Foundation and the importance of giving back. Seeing their excitement, confidence and enthusiasm for learning was truly rewarding. It was also wonderful to see our community come together for an evening centered on education,” Misick shared.

Emphasizing the lasting impact that literacy can have on a child’s future, she added, “Literacy opens doors to so many opportunities, and I hope this experience encourages our students to continue learning, believe in themselves and understand that even at a young age, they can make a difference.”



First place was Venroy Brown of Richmond Hill



Jeremiah Innocent of Mills Institute, who claimed third



Misick also highlighted the collective effort behind the event, expressing heartfelt appreciation to the Club’s Board of Directors, members, sponsors and everyone who contributed their time, resources and support.

“I also want to express my heartfelt appreciation to our Board of Directors, Club members, sponsors and everyone who helped make this event possible.

No contribution was too small, and every effort made a difference. We could not have done this without the people who gave their time, resources and support. I am truly grateful to everyone who helped turn this idea into a reality," she said.

A Community Effort Behind Every Word

The successful staging of the inaugural Spelling Bee was made possible through the generosity and dedication of individuals and organizations who shared the Club's vision for youth development and education.

The Rotaract Club of Providenciales extends special appreciation to competition judges Kadean Cunningham,



Claudine Ewing and Tanya Carter for sharing their time and expertise. The Club also recognizes Zoya Faessler, who served as Lead Judge and Pronouncer, helping to guide the competition, and Brandi Greene, whose role as Timekeeper supported the smooth progression of the event.

Sincere gratitude is extended to the initiative's sponsors and community partners: Provo Travel, Beaches Turks and Caicos, Youth Help Foundation, Open Thought Communication, Genesis Next Media, Taste Buds, Island

Printing, Business Solutions, CIBC and NW Hamilton Insurance.

The Club also thanks The Salvation Army for providing the venue and acknowledges the participating schools, teachers, parents and guardians whose encouragement helped make the experience possible for the students.

Their collective support demonstrated what can be achieved when a community comes together around a shared commitment to education and youth empowerment.

Building a Legacy of Literacy and Ser-

vice

As the inaugural Rotaract Spelling Bee draws to a close, its impact reaches beyond the words spelled and the prizes awarded. It leaves behind a powerful message about the importance of nurturing young talent, creating opportunities for academic growth and introducing children to the values of leadership, service and community responsibility.

The Rotaract Club of Providenciales congratulates all nine participants for their courage, preparation and determination, recognizing that every stu-

dent helped make this first competition a meaningful milestone.

Looking ahead, the Club hopes to establish the Spelling Bee as an annual tradition, continuing to promote literacy, encourage academic excellence and inspire young people to recognize their potential to make a positive difference in their communities.

Because when young people are given the opportunity to learn, the confidence to compete and the encouragement to serve, the possibilities for their future are as limitless as the words they have yet to discover.



Breast Cancer also Affects Men and the Risk Increases with Age

Male breast cancer is far less common than breast cancer in women, but it is usually discovered later: Men with breast cancer often receive the diagnosis after finding a breast lump on their own. Kathryn Ruddy, M.D., an oncologist at Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center, explains key things to know about male breast cancer.

Male breast cancer symptoms

A lump is the most common symptom of male breast cancer, but there also can be discharge from the nipple or pain in the breast area. A breast lump is usually firmer than the surrounding tissue and may have irregular edges; because men have less breast tissue, the lump is often close to the nipple, Dr. Ruddy explains. As in females, the most common breast cancer in males is ductal carcinoma.

“Since breast cancer screenings, such as mammograms and breast exams, aren’t typically recommended for men, they usually find a lump on their own,” Dr. Ruddy says. “If men notice an unusual lump, experience nipple discharge, or chest or breast discomfort, they should seek medical attention promptly to determine the cause.”

“The risk for breast cancer in males increases with age and is more common in those who have

a family history of breast cancer, especially male breast cancer,” Dr. Ruddy adds. Some genetic mutations such as BRCA1 and BRCA2 also are known risk factors. Those with Klinefelter syndrome, a rare condition that occurs when men have an extra X chromosome, also are at higher risk.

Some medical treatments also can put men at greater risk, such as chest wall radiation, sometimes given to treat lymphoma. Some testicular and liver abnormalities that affect hormone levels also increase the risk for male breast cancer.

Staging male breast cancer

For men experiencing symptoms, the first step is breast imaging, usually a mammogram and an ultrasound, sometimes a breast MRI. If the findings of the exam and imaging are concerning, a biopsy – removing a sample of breast cells for testing – will be ordered.

“Breast cancer in men is staged the same as in women — from 0 to 4. If detected at stage 0 before the cancer becomes invasive, nearly all patients will be cured,” Dr. Ruddy explains. “However, if cancer is detected at stage 4, that means it has spread to other parts of the body, and it usually can be treated but not completely eliminated.”

Female breast cancers are more often detected at stage 0 and 1, while a higher proportion of male breast cancers are found at stages 2, 3 and 4, she says.

“When detected at the same stage, the prognosis for breast cancer in a male is no worse than that of breast cancer in a female,” Dr. Ruddy says. “However, male breast cancers are more often diagnosed after they have already grown quite large in the breast, spread to lymph nodes under the arm or elsewhere in the body.”

Male breast cancer treatment

If men are diagnosed with stage 0 to 3 cancer, surgery will be part of the treatment plan, while at stage 4, treatments will primarily use medications to fight the cancer throughout the body. For men requiring surgery, a mastectomy, or the entire removal of the breast tissue, is a common choice. But some men choose lumpectomy — removal of only part of the breast — instead.

Chemotherapy, endocrine therapy and radiation decisions for men are largely based on evidence from women with breast cancer. However, the Translational Breast Cancer Research Consortium is enrolling men in the ETHAN trial, designed specifically for men. In the ETHAN trial, men who

were recently diagnosed with stage 1-3 breast cancer are assigned to take different types of anti-estrogen and targeted therapy medications to find out how best to shrink male breast cancer before surgery. The results of this trial will advance treatment for male breast cancer patients in the future.

“Because breast cancer is less common in men, some patients with male breast cancer can feel isolated or even ashamed of having a cancer typically associated with women,” Dr. Ruddy says. “That’s why it’s important for men to talk with their healthcare team about how they’re feeling and, if possible, connect with other male breast cancer survivors in person or through online support groups.”

To diagnose more men before their cancers grow large and spread, it’s important that they seek medical attention for changes in their chest wall, nipple, underarms or neck, Dr. Ruddy says.

“In addition, men who are diagnosed with breast cancer are encouraged to participate in clinical trials, when available, to help improve male breast cancer treatment,” she adds. “Detecting cancer early and optimizing evidence-based treatments will lead to more cures.”

Inflammatory breast cancer can progress rapidly and often develops without a lump as a warning sign

You probably know that a lump in the breast may be a symptom of breast cancer. But what about breast cancer that develops without that warning sign? Inflammatory breast cancer is a fast-moving cancer that doesn’t usually form a lump; instead, the skin on one breast changes rapidly, explains Tina Hieken, M.D., a surgical oncologist at Mayo Clinic Comprehensive Cancer Center.

Inflammatory breast cancer often comes with symptoms that mimic inflammation of the breast, such as a change in skin color to a pink, red, purple or bruised appearance, unusual warmth in the affected breast, and orange peel-like skin, a symptom known as peau d’orange.

As a result, inflammatory breast cancers may be misdiagnosed as cellulitis, mastitis, Paget’s disease of the breast, or other more benign conditions.

Inflammatory breast cancer accounts for roughly 1% to 5% of breast cancer diagnoses but 10% of breast cancer deaths, statistics show.

“When there are changes in the skin of the breast, particularly in women who aren’t nursing and do not have breastfeeding-associated redness, that can be a warning sign of cancer and should be evaluated by a medical professional,” Dr. Hieken says.

“In inflammatory breast cancer, symptoms can develop within a few months,” she notes. “That’s different from someone noting a lump in the breast over a period of time, and then secondarily, skin changes in the breast over a year or longer.”

In inflammatory breast cancer, abnormal cells go through the lymphatic channels in skin and soft tissue, accounting for the skin changes in the breast, Dr. Hieken explains.

Inflammatory breast cancer is treated first with systemic therapy: a treatment that goes through

the whole body, she says. That therapy is based on the cancer’s biological features, or subtype, such as whether it expresses the estrogen receptor or overexpresses the HER2 protein.

The systemic therapy is usually delivered intravenously and could be:

- Chemotherapy directed at rapidly dividing cells.
- Targeted therapy aimed at cells that overexpress the HER2 protein.

Immunotherapy to help the body fight cancer that doesn’t express the estrogen receptor or the HER2 protein; this is the least common type, Dr. Hieken says.

Then, surgery may include removal of the breast and nearby lymph nodes, typically followed by radiation that includes the chest, armpit and shoulder. This three-mode approach of whole-body therapy, surgery and radiation is critical to disease control for cancer that has a high risk of spreading to other parts of the body or recurring in the breast and surrounding area, Dr. Hieken says. More common forms of breast cancer may not require all types of available treatments.

Treatment advances

There have been several innovations in the treatment of inflammatory breast cancer.

“Very similar to non-inflammatory breast cancer, giving treatment at the beginning that is designed for one of those three or four subtypes of breast cancer is probably the biggest innovation,” Dr. Hieken says. “I think in parallel, the other big innovation is better cross-sectional imaging so that, at the outset, we know whether patients have disease that has spread beyond the breast and the regional lymph nodes.”

Among the breast cancer subtypes, progress has particularly been made in HER2-positive inflammatory breast cancer, with the addition of two different drugs that work in a complementary

way to block the effects of the HER2 protein overexpression, she adds.

“It’s been a huge advantage and has really improved outcomes for women,” Dr. Hieken says. “Then, for those women who have less than a complete response to that systemic treatment, there are new targeted therapies that can be given after surgery.”

Another improvement is intensity modulated radiotherapy, or IMRT, that is delivered using CT integrated planning, she says. This allows the care team to look at a patient in three dimensions and determine how to personalize radiation therapy to minimize the effects through such techniques as having the patient practice breath-holding or

lie on her stomach during radiation therapy.

“We’re learning a lot,” Dr. Hieken adds.

A team approach

At Mayo Clinic, physicians from across treatment disciplines work alongside researchers seeking new care options for patients with this aggressive form of cancer.

Specialists from medical oncology, radiation oncology, surgical oncology and radiology work together. They collaborate with additional healthcare professionals such as genetic counselors, pathologists, social workers, occupational and physical therapists, psychotherapists, and integrative medicine experts, to offer comprehensive support to patients.



Reading Road Trip brings music and creativity to BEST Institute

Students at the BEST Institute experienced a blend of storytelling, music and creative expression when Beaches Turks and Caicos and the Sandals Foundation hosted a Reading Road Trip featuring the international KIDZ BOP Kids.

The visit brought the young vocalists and dancers into classrooms, where they encouraged students to embrace confidence, celebrate creativity and use their talents to make a positive impact. Their message also challenged students to be bold in expressing themselves and exploring their abilities.

Celebrating 25 years of existence, KIDZ BOP records family-friendly, child-appropriate versions of pop music. Its focus on engaging young audiences provided a connection between the visiting performers and the students, bringing an entertainment element to the literacy experience.

Creative imagination formed a key topic of focus as students were encouraged to bring fictional stories to life. The activities allowed them to explore colourful, imaginative approaches to storytelling and express how they see and feel about learning. Beyond reading, the visit offered opportunities for conversations about creativity, confidence and the role young people can play through their individual talents. The performers visited every class and delivered a live performance for the school.

Deryk Meany, general manager of Beaches Turks and Caicos, said the Sandals Foundation's Reading Road Trip continues to create meaningful connections between visiting guests and children.

"The Reading Road Trip is an incredible literacy-focused programme for students throughout the Caribbean. Here in the Turks and Caicos Islands, our kindergarten students get the chance to engage with our guests through reading and comprehension activities. The experience with the Kidz Bop team added a magical



flavour of creative expression – a vital component in a holistic learning environment."

Acting principal Nadeine Crossman welcomed the combination of literacy activities and entertainment, describing the experience as a valuable opportunity for students to connect with learning.

"Our students had a beautiful experience with Beaches Turks and Caicos, the Sandals Foundation and the Kidz Bop team with this Reading Road Trip. Our children were able to have the front row to a full entertainment package from the group. Reading is fundamental. Our students were engaged in learning about creative literacy and the team made it easier for them to learn."

For Grade 6 student Kyle Williams, the classroom interactions and encouraging discussions were among the most memorable aspects of the visit.

"This day is one that as students, we will be talking about for a long time. The Kidz Bop team was engaging. They visited all the classes and had positive youth rap sessions with us. We are grateful to be selected for this Reading Road Trip as we continue to grow with literacy and creativity."

Partners Unite for 2026 Great Shape! 1000 Smiles Programme in Turks and Caicos

Beaches Turks and Caicos resort, the Sandals Foundation, Great Shape! Inc., and the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands will celebrate Oral Health Month with the 2026 Great Shape! 1000 Smiles programme, building on an initiative that provided more than 6,000 services last year.

Scheduled for October 19–30, the two-week programme will welcome more than 140 dental volunteers from the United States and Canada. Activities will take place at the Church of God of Prophecy in Five Cays and the staff clinic at Beaches Turks and Caicos resort.

Oral health education will also reach more than 12 schools throughout Providenciales, connecting classroom engagement with the programme's community and employee dental services. Last year's programme delivered more than 6,000 services, including cleanings, fillings, extractions, root canal treatments, and oral health education. That total represents services provided, rather than a count of individual patients, and reflects the range of assistance offered through the initiative.

"Through this initiative, we are bringing together support to the wider community and our team members," said Deryk Meany, General Manager at Beaches Turks and Caicos. "Hosting part of the Great Shape! 1000 Smiles programme at our staff clinic, while supporting outreach in Five Cays and schools across Providenciales, reflects our commitment to being an active community collaboration. We look forward to welcoming the dental volunteers and working alongside the Sandals Foundation, Great Shape! Inc., and the government to make this year's programme a meaningful one."

"Oral Health Month provides an opportunity to place dental care and education at the forefront of our community outreach," shared Hon. Kyle Knowles, Minister of Health and Human Services with the Government of the Turks and Caicos Islands. "The planned activities in Five Cays and in more than 12 schools will bring this initiative



to residents, workers, and young people across Providenciales. We welcome the collaboration with our partners and appreciate the more than 140 volunteers from the United States and Canada who will contribute their time and expertise."

Oral health education will form a key component this year's programme with targeted lessons provided to students at a number of schools, including the four government primary schools, other non-government primary, Holy Family School, Maranatha Academy, and the Ashley Learning Centre.

Great Shape! programme director Shantelle Senior Clarke highlighted the importance of oral health education for children and families throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"The impact of the oral health education is very important for the children and the family of the TCI as this information will prevent them from having dental issues



later on," Senior Clarke said.

"Along with the support from the Ministry of Health Dental Services Unit, we are able to share pertinent information that will spread throughout the community," she added.

Her comments underscore the educational component of the 2026 Great Shape! 1000 Smiles programme, which will reach more than 12 schools throughout Providenciales.

Across the Caribbean, the Sandals Foundation has facilitated access to the primary care service of the Great Shape! Inc. team, providing more than 366,000 people with free dental and eyecare services. The Sandals Foundation coordinates logistics and covers costs for transportation, food, and beverages for the dental clinic and its teams, while Beaches Resorts provides accommodation free of charge.

TCICC Earns International Recognition at Ignition Community Conference 2026

The Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) has earned international recognition after receiving the 2026 Educational Engagement Firebrand Award at the Ignition Community Conference (ICC) 2026.

The College was represented by Dr. P. Vijay Daniel, Lecturer in the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics, who presented TCICC's Island Smart Utility Platform project before an international audience of industry professionals, system integrators, educators, researchers and technology experts.

Organised by Inductive Automation, ICC is an international conference focused on industrial automation, technology, system integration and innovative applications developed using the Ignition platform.

TCICC's award-winning project integrates Ignition with affordable ESP32 microcontrollers to support sustainable agriculture while providing students with hands-on experience in Internet of Things (IoT), Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) and automation.

The project was also featured in the conference's Discover Gallery, providing TCICC with an opportunity to showcase its work to approximately 1,900 attendees from across the international industrial automation and technology sectors.

Speaking to the significance of the achievement for education and innovation in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the Honourable

Rachel Marshall Taylor, Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, remarked: "I congratulate Dr. P. Vijay Daniel and the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College on this outstanding achievement. Recognition on an international platform demonstrates the talent, innovation and potential that exist within our education system. Initiatives such as the Island Smart Utility Platform show how education, technology and practical learning can work together to prepare our students for the opportunities of the future."

The recognition also reflects TCICC's continued commitment to strengthening applied, innovative and technology-driven education while preparing students for an increasingly digital workforce.

Sharing his experience of representing the College on the international stage, Dr. Daniel said:

"Representing the Turks and Caicos Islands Community College at ICC 2026 was a proud and meaningful experience. Presenting our project in the Discover Gallery and receiving the Firebrand Award for Educational Engagement was especially rewarding because it recognised the work we have been doing with our students. To see TCICC and the Turks and Caicos Islands represented on such a major international platform was truly special."

Reflecting on what the achievement represents for the College and its students, Dr. Candice Williams, President/CEO of the



Dr. P. Vijay Daniel (right), Lecturer in the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics accepts the award at the Ignition Community Conference

Turks and Caicos Islands Community College, stated:

"This recognition is a significant achievement for TCICC and reflects our commitment to providing students with meaningful opportunities to apply what they learn in the classroom. We are extremely proud of Dr. Daniel and the work being undertaken within the Faculty of Computing, Engineering and Mathematics.

"This award demonstrates that innovation taking place at TCICC can achieve international recognition and contribute to the continued development of the Turks and Caicos Islands."

For Dr. Daniel, the conference provided an important opportunity to share TCICC's work internationally while engaging with professionals and experts from around the world.

Dr. Daniel also expressed appreciation to the Management of TCICC for its continued support and for providing him with the opportunity to represent the College internationally.



Youth Tribunal 2026 Amplifies Young Voices on Culture, Leadership and the Future of the Turks and Caicos Islands

The Second Edition of the Youth Tribunal 2026 brought together young people, community leaders, public officials, private-sector representatives and members of the wider public for an evening of thoughtful, solutions-focused dialogue centered on the question:

"How Can TCI Preserve Its Culture and History While Preparing Young People to Lead the Future?"

Held on Wednesday, 23 September 2026 at The Salvation Army Hall in Providenciales, the second edition of Youth Tribunal created a professional, non-partisan platform for young people to share their perspectives on national identity, education, leadership, opportunity and the future development of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Twenty young speakers took part in the Tribunal, offering personal reflections, practical ideas and recommendations on how the TCI can preserve its cultural heritage while creating stronger opportunities for future generations.

The discussion explored recurring themes including the importance of teaching and preserving TCI history, strengthening support for students studying overseas, creating clearer pathways for young people returning home, expanding opportunities for youth participation in national development, and ensuring that young voices are meaningfully included in conversa-

tions that shape the country's future.

Youth Tribunal Co-Founder and Lead Organizer Christanae Lewis said the success of the event reinforced the importance of creating intentional spaces for young people to contribute.

"Young people should not simply inherit the story of the Turks and Caicos Islands — they should have the opportunity to help write its next chapter. The Youth Tribunal is about creating a space where young people can enter the room where it happens, speak with confidence, propose solutions and contribute meaningfully to the decisions and conversations shaping their country." The event also saw youth performers and volunteers help to create an atmosphere that reflected the energy and purpose of National Youth Week 2026.

The 2026 Tribunal II built on the inaugural edition held in May 2026, which examined the relationship between the rising cost of living and rapid economic growth. Organizers say the long-term vision is for The Youth Tribunal to continue developing as a youth civic-engagement and policy platform, with future initiatives extending beyond the annual event into workshops, mentorship, research, youth recommendations and other opportunities for meaningful participation.

Following the Tribunal, key themes and rec-

ommendations raised by speakers will be reviewed and compiled for engagement with relevant stakeholders. The aim is to ensure that the conversation does not end when the event concludes, but continues through practical follow-up and continued youth engagement.

Youth Tribunal TCI also recognizes the individuals and organisations whose support helped establish and sustain the platform from its earliest stages. Caicos Isles, represented by Tueton Williams, Kyle Smith and Laurwanda Rigby are recognized as Inaugural Partners for their support of the first Youth Tribunal and their early belief in the vision before the platform had an established track record.

That support has continued in meaningful ways. Caicos Isles returned as a supporter of the 2026 2nd edition, while Laurwanda Rigby again contributed practical event support and volunteered during the Tribunal, reinforcing the community spirit that has helped the initiative grow from its inaugural year into a continuing civic platform.

The Executive Committee further extends its sincere appreciation to the sponsors and partners who supported the 2026 2nd edition: Streaming Partners: Grant Thornton TCI and Turks and Caicos Banking Company, Platinum Partners: Fleuridor Architects, Concrete Insight, Provo Water Company and Marlin Ltd, Gold Partners: Gaia En-

vironmental and GH Hair and Beauty and Bronze Partners: RWL Agency and Basic Essentials.

Their support and investment helped create a professional space where young people could engage meaningfully in conversations about the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Youth Tribunal Executive Committee also expressed its appreciation to all speakers, attendees, volunteers, performers, invited guests, media houses and community stakeholders who contributed to the success of the evening.

"We are incredibly grateful to everyone who believed in the vision and helped make this 2nd Youth Tribunal possible. The strength of the evening came from the young people who were willing to stand up, share their perspectives and challenge all of us to think more deeply about the future we are building together."

The Youth Tribunal Executive Committee remains committed to providing a non-partisan, solutions-focused platform where young people can engage constructively in conversations on issues affecting their communities and the wider Turks and Caicos Islands.

Your Voice. Your Choice. Our Future.

Media Contact

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Privy Council hearing on Jamaica’s Slavery Petition provisionally set for March 2027

A hearing on Jamaica’s petition seeking a determination on the legality of the enslavement of Africans and Britain’s potential obligation to provide reparations has been provisionally scheduled for the week of March 8, 2027. Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport Olivia Grange disclosed the development on Thursday, saying the information had been provided by the Registrar of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council.

Grange also said the respondent, representing the United Kingdom Government, has been given until November 20, 2026, to file its case. Jamaica filed the petition on September 7, 2026, asking King Charles III to refer key questions concerning enslavement in Jamaica to the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council for determination. The petition seeks a determination on whether the capture, transportation



Olivia Grange, Minister of Culture, Gender, Entertainment and Sport

and enslavement of Africans in Jamaica were lawful under English law, whether these acts breached international law, and whether the United Kingdom owes the Jamaican people a reparatory remedy.

The process is intended to establish answers to the legal questions rather than seek a specific monetary award at this stage.



The China-North Korea Yalu River Bridge is seen from Dandong, China, at the border between the two countries.

A new bridge linking China and North Korea opened on Thursday after more than a decade of delay, signaling deeper ties between the two countries. Officials from the two countries attended a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the launch of the New Yalu River Bridge, with trucks adorned with the national flags of China and North Korea waiting on the bridge. Both countries said they expected that the four-lane, 3-kilometer (1.8-mile) crossing, which connects the north-eastern Chinese city of Dandong to the North Korean city of Sinuiju, would further promote economic, trade and “people-to-people” exchanges. “The relations between China and North Korea have entered a new stage, embarking on a new chapter,” Chinese Premier Li Qiang said in a video address at the ceremony, according to China’s official Xinhua News Agency. Li said that the crossing would become a new landmark symbolizing the

two nations’ traditional friendship. He hoped both sides would seize the opportunity of the opening to continue to enhance connectivity and explore potential for cooperation in border areas, Xinhua said. North Korean Premier Pak Thae Song said in his video address that he was confident the bridge would “accelerate the advance for the prosperity of the two countries and the well-being of the peoples”, according to the North’s official Korean Central News Agency. The bridge initially was expected to enter use in 2014, when China had apparently completed construction on its side. But North Korea had not done corresponding work on its side at the time. The absence of substantial work in Sinuiju fueled speculation that Pyongyang was wary of becoming more economically dependent on China or displeased with Beijing voting for United Nations resolutions toughening international sanctions on the North over its nucle-

New China-North Korea bridge opens after more than a decade of delay

ar program. Some observers suggested North Korea and China also differed over the bridge’s location. The setback over the bridge prompted an unusually sharp report in the Global Times, a newspaper affiliated with the ruling Chinese Communist Party, which quoted Dandong residents expressing frustration over delays in what they had hoped would be an economic boon for their border city. Observers said the new bridge would likely boost bilateral trade and enhance logistical efficiency. It is expected to lessen the burden on an aging bridge on the Dandong-Sinuiju route, which handles more than 70 per cent of official trade between the two countries. That decades-old bridge carries a railway line as well as cars and trucks, but vehicle traffic can move only one way at a time. “The new bridge could facilitate trade that violates UN sanctions, but traffic across it could be more transparent and subject to customs than cross-border smuggling,” said Leif-Eric Easley, a professor at Ewha University in Seoul. The new bridge’s launch came about a month after North Korea and Russia opened a road bridge as part of their

efforts to cement relations. Experts say Chinese officials likely felt uneasy about that opening. China has long been North Korea’s biggest trading partner and economic pipeline. But in recent years North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has prioritized Moscow, sending thousands of troops and conventional weapons to support Russian President Vladimir Putin’s war in Ukraine, apparently in exchange for military and economic assistance. Kim has recently drawn closer to China with the apparent intent to improve his country’s economy and build a front against the United States. China, for its part, wants to restore its unique influence over North Korea. About 98 per cent of North Korea’s external trade was with China in 2025. The South Korean government said last year there were at least 17 active road and rail links across the porous North Korea-China border, which stretches more than 1,400 kilometers (870 miles). “China remains economically indispensable to North Korea in ways that Russia cannot replace, and the bridge may offer an inadvertent window into bilateral relations if flows are visibly interrupted in the future,” Easley said.

Duane 'Keffe D' Davis gets 40 years to life in prison for orchestrating the murder of Tupac Shakur

Duane 'Keffe D' Davis was sentenced Tuesday to 40 years to life in prison for orchestrating the murder of rap icon Tupac Shakur who was gunned down off the Las Vegas Strip over 30 years ago.

Davis, 63, was convicted in August of first-degree murder with the use of a deadly weapon.

He is the only person ever charged in the death of Shakur, whose popularity was peaking at age 25.

Prosecutor Marc DiGiacomo said Tuesday that whatever sentence the court imposes, Davis is "guaranteed to die" behind bars.

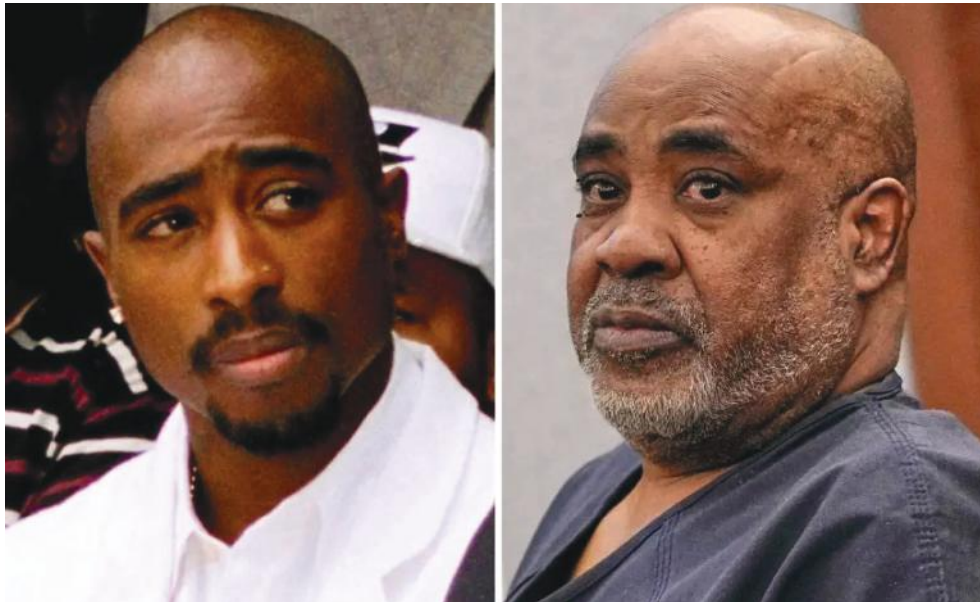
"It's not just about losing a family member," DiGiacomo said as Shakur's sister Sekyiwa "Set" Shakur nods her head in the audience.

The killing went unsolved for years until Davis, a former leader of the South Side Compton Crips, gave interviews and published his role in the shooting in his 2019 tell-all memoir.

DiGiacomo said Davis was trying to profit off a killing that he committed, and for that he does not deserve the minimum sentence.

"In my mind he deserves the maximum possible sentence," DiGiacomo said.

Davis spoke briefly in court, telling Judge Carli Kierny he wants items back that police took from his house, includ-



Rapper Tupac Shakur attends a voter registration event in South Central Los Angeles on August 15, 1996, left, and Duane 'Keffe D' Davis appears in District Court for his involvement in the 1996 killing of Shakur in Las Vegas on February 18, 2025.

ing his pictures. Asked if there was anything else he wanted to say, Davis said: "No I'm good."

Davis' lawyer, Michael Sanft said he plans to appeal the verdict. Sanft said prosecutors waited too long to bring the case.

On the night of September 7, 1996, Shakur was in the passenger seat of a

black BMW with music mogul Marion 'Suge' Knight when a white Cadillac pulled up at a red light, and shots erupted.

Shakur was shot multiple times and died six days later, while Knight survived.

Shakur is considered one of the most influential and versatile rappers of all time and had a burgeoning film career

as an actor at the time of his death. His legend has only grown since. His songs still resonate among fans with themes of hardship, love, and black struggles.

In his memoir, Davis explained how Shakur and his entourage beat up Davis' nephew hours before the shooting in Las Vegas.

He said he sought retaliation, and that he was in the passenger seat of the Cadillac and passed the gun to the back-seat, where shots were fired. Davis had spoken to detectives years before but avoided prosecution because of an agreement he made with law enforcement.

During the week-long trial, prosecutors relied on Davis' own statements he made to law enforcement and documentarians.

They argued Davis orchestrated the shooting and provided the gun used in Shakur's death, which was the result of a rivalry between the South Side Compton Crips and Mob Piru. Davis' defence attorney pointed to a lack of physical evidence that connected his client to the 30-year-old crime, and he portrayed Davis as a liar who was trying to make money.

After nine days of hearing testimony in August, the jury deliberated for three hours before turning over the guilty verdict.

Capleton, Tarrus Riley to headline Thanksgiving weekend concert in New Jersey

Jamaican reggae and dancehall heavyweights Capleton and Tarrus Riley are set to bring their musical talents to the New Jersey Performing Arts Center (NJPAC) in Newark, United States, for a special Thanksgiving weekend concert on Friday, November 27.

The highly anticipated event, part of the RoadBlock Radio Concert Series, will see the two celebrated entertainers share the stage for an evening of reggae and dancehall, bringing together their distinctive musical styles and extensive catalogues of hits.

Presented by RoadblockRadio.com, RoadBlock Radio 101.1FM HD3 and CCB INT'L, the concert is scheduled to begin at 8:00 pm, with doors opening at 7:00 pm.

Known to fans as "The Fireman", Capleton is expected to deliver his trademark high-energy performance, drawing on a career spanning several decades. The veteran entertainer, also known as King Shango and The Prophet, has established himself as one of dancehall's most recognisable voices, with music often centred on Rastafarian spirituality,



social consciousness and cultural upliftment.

His international breakthrough came through songs such as Tour, while his albums Prophecy and I-Testament, released through Def Jam, helped introduce his music to wider audiences through collaborations with hip-hop stars including Method Man and Q-Tip. Sharing the spotlight will be Tarrus Riley,

affectionately called "Mr Singy Singy", whose soulful vocals and catalogue of reggae favourites have earned him a loyal international following.

The son of late reggae singer Jimmy Riley, the Bronx-born, Jamaica-raised entertainer rose to international prominence with his critically acclaimed album Parables, which featured the timeless hit She's Royal.

Riley has since continued to build on that success with projects including Contagious, Love Situation and Healing, showcasing his versatility through songs exploring love, relationships, cultural identity and social issues.

The pairing of Capleton's fiery stage presence with Riley's smooth, melodic delivery is expected to offer reggae enthusiasts a memorable musical experience during one of the busiest holiday weekends in the United States.

Organisers are positioning the event as a celebration of Jamaican music and culture, bringing two established figures from different musical styles together on one stage in downtown Newark.

Tickets for the concert went on sale to the general public on October 9, following exclusive presale opportunities for RoadBlock Radio listeners, NJPAC members and NJPAC eClub subscribers.

Limited tickets are available starting at US\$65 through the NJPAC Box Office and Ticketmaster.

The concert will be held at the New Jersey Performing Arts Center, located at 1 Center Street in Newark, New Jersey.

HJRHS, CHHS **CLASH** BOYS HIGH SCHOOL FINAL



SEE PG32

Sunshine Girlz near full strength for England

Sunshine Girls head coach Sasher-Gaye Henry-Wright says she is expecting to have a full-strength squad available for the upcoming Horizon Series against England, with selectors carefully weighing their options ahead of the four-match contest. Jamaica will face England's Vitality Roses in London on November 21 and 22 at the Copper Box Arena before hosting the return leg in Jamaica on December 5 and 6. The Horizon Series will also feature Jamaica's development team against England, while Jamaica's male netball team, the Jamaica Suns, will take on the England Thorns. It will be the third staging of the four-year international Horizon Series, which began in 2024. Jamaica won the inaugural Rhone Hornsby Trophy, while England claimed last year's title in a shortened series following the impact of Hurricane Melissa. Speaking at yesterday's launch at the S Hotel, Henry-Wright said Jamaica is expected to select the strongest team possible based on player availability. She noted that most of the overseas-based players are available and said the selection process is expected to be completed this week. "We're analysing and we're looking at what we have to prepare the best team for this competition," she said. "So, you will see our international players



Sunshine Girls Latanya Wilson (left) and Shanice Beckford celebrate victory over Australia in the semi-finals of the netball competition at the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow, Scotland, on August 1.

and we'll have a strong-seeded team entering into this series." **PREPARATIONS UNDERWAY** Henry-Wright explained that the players are well into their preparations, which have included six weeks of strength and conditioning training. She said the focus has now shifted to tactical

preparation and on-court strategies ahead of the opening matches in November. However, Henry-Wright acknowledged that the absence of some overseas-based players from training sessions has presented challenges. The Sunshine Girls coach also addressed the situation involving national player Shimona

Nelson, who was voluntarily absent from Jamaica's squad for the 2026 Commonwealth Games. Henry-Wright said the association respects Nelson's position regarding her international career and maintains an open-door policy for her return. "She expressed her own views in terms of playing and we have to respect that," she said. "She'll always remain a Jamaica player and we hope that in short order, anytime she's available, she'll let us know that," Henry-Wright said. **'NOT JUST A NETBALL MATCH'** Netball Jamaica president Karen Baugh said the home leg of the series on December 5 and 6 will offer supporters much more than international netball. She said the association and its sponsors are preparing entertainment and other activities for spectators. Baugh recalled that demand for the previous home series was so high that some patrons had to be turned away, and encouraged fans to secure their tickets early for the upcoming matches. "They are excited and raring to go with programmes and packages and halftime shows and entertainment for the fans," she said. "Because you know netball matches are not ever just netball matches. So when you come, expect a full package."

Infantino offers apology but 'no answers' at FIFA meeting over World Cup plan

FIFA President Gianni Infantino gave "no satisfactory answers" when grilled Thursday during a meeting to discuss his attempts to sell stakes in the World Cup to private investors, senior members of football's global governing body said, but he did offer an apology for the failed project. "We asked a great many critical questions, but there were no satisfactory answers from my point of view," said Bernd Neuendorf, the head of the German Football Association (DFB), who is also a member of the FIFA Council. Neuendorf was speaking after the Council met behind closed doors at the body's Zurich headquarters, where Infantino's FIFA Forward Enterprise (FFE) proposal was one of the main topics on the agenda. Infantino has been under severe pressure since his announcement in late July that he wanted to open FIFA's premium competitions such as the World Cup to private investors. That plan was ultimately abandoned in the face of widespread criticism, with a rebellion led by European governing body UEFA, the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) and CONCACAF, which runs the sport in North and Central America and the Caribbean. "I apologised for the mistakes that we made in relation to the communication and con-

sultation process related to the FIFA Forward Enterprise project," Infantino said in a video published by FIFA. "But what is important to remember is that it was a proposal, so in no way a done deal, just a proposal, that actually intended to enable FIFA to invest more in our member associations." However, the FIFA chief reaffirmed that the FFE initiative "has been permanently withdrawn and will not reappear in any form". Infantino has headed FIFA since 2016 and is running for re-election next March, despite calls for him to stand down in the wake of the FFE plan. For the moment, no heavyweight candidate has put themselves forward to run against him. Debbie Hewitt, the chair of the English Football Association who is also a FIFA vice-president, told reporters that Infantino is "not fit to be FIFA president" unless he releases all documents pertaining to the failed sell-off plan and answers key questions. Hewitt and Neuendorf are among the 36 members of the FIFA Council, along with Infantino. "We were asked to submit our questions" in relation to the plan which was not put to the FIFA Council before the July announcement, Hewitt said.



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

"One of the disappointing things was we didn't get answers. We didn't get answers to anything we had specifically requested, for example getting the papers from FFE, and so we asked the question why and why not." Many leading European national associations have withdrawn their support for Infantino in the upcoming election because of the uproar caused by FFE and other controversies, including his relationship with US president Donald Trump. Chief among those were Infantino's decision to create a FIFA Peace Prize and award it to Trump at last December's World Cup draw, and the decision to suspend a ban for United States striker Folarin Balogun following a red card during the World Cup after Trump intervened directly by phoning Infantino. "I speak for myself as a Council member — from my position nothing has shifted," Hewitt added. "I have no new information that makes me feel any differently to how I

felt when I went in, other than we do have a president of FIFA who is apologetic about what has happened, and secondly a promise again that we will get the information that we have requested." FIFA confirmed its intention to set up a US\$6.35-billion development fund for the next four years, a plan which is expected to be finalised by the Council at its next meeting in December. To finance the fund, which would allow money to be distributed to FIFA's 211 federations as well as to the regional confederations, it would draw in part on its financial reserves after a commercially successful 2026 World Cup. The plan would allow for the payment of US\$25 million to all 211 member federations. Infantino may hope the latest plan reinforces his position ahead of the election. The deadline for submitting candidacies is November 18.

Windies bowling hero Paul says execution was top-notch in 4th T20I

West Indies’ bowling hero in the crucial fourth Twenty20 International Keemo Paul has credited the team’s bowlers for their execution against India, which helped to set up a memorable 24-run win. Paul’s five-wicket haul led the way for the visitors, as India were bowled out for 223 in 19.3 overs after captain Shai Hope’s sensational, unbeaten century earlier carried the Windies to 247 for three in 20 overs at the Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium. While the West Indies’ bowlers were guilty of being erratic in the three previous T20Is, Paul said he was pleased with the way in which they stuck to their plans against India’s batters. The 28-year-old Paul claimed 5-41 in his four overs, becoming the first West Indian bowler to have multiple five-wicket hauls in T20Is,



Keemo Paul of West Indies delivers the ball during the fourth Twenty20 International cricket match versus India at Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium in Hyderabad, India, on October 14, 2026.

while Gudakesh Motie claimed 2-13 from two overs. “They got off to quite a rollicking start, you know the Powerplay has been tough for us, and we haven’t been able to contain them.

“Coming in we had our game plans — we had some pretty long bowling meetings — so I knew what I wanted to do, I knew what my field setting was and I think I executed pretty well tonight,” Paul

said. “This series has had some pretty big scores being chased, but I think the key factor is there is no dew. I think once there’s dew it’s quite hard to contain teams that are batting second, but the last game and this game there was no dew and I think we executed our plans perfectly. “From the batsmen perspective, after the first five overs the message we got was that it was a pretty good wicket. One or two balls were gripping but other than that it was pretty good. Bowling on the wicket the slower balls helped us here. Normally we weren’t getting any grip on the other grounds, but it actually worked here, so the game plan was just to stick to bowling into the wicket as much as possible and try to execute our yorkers,” he added.

Sports Commission Launches Athlete Pathway Information Series to Guide Student-Athletes

The Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission is promoting greater awareness of collegiate sports opportunities through its Athlete Pathway Information Series, an initiative designed to provide practical guidance to student-athletes, parents, coaches and teachers navigating the college recruitment process. The series will cover key areas of the collegiate athlete journey, including college recruitment, admissions, eligibility requirements, scholarships, athlete profiles and student-athlete success. It will also address student-athlete visas, including Student and Exchange Visitor Information System (SEVIS) requirements, as well as integration support for those pursuing educational and sporting opportunities abroad. The programme will feature three speakers with expertise



in different aspects of the student-athlete pathway: Heaven Bowman, who will focus on community and parent resources; Eric Stang, who will provide insight into recruiting strategy and athlete profiles; and Coach Frank Hyland, who will address SEVIS, visa and integration support.

Through these sessions, the Sports Commission aims to equip aspiring collegiate athletes and their support networks with information to better understand the requirements, opportunities and challenges associated with competing at the collegiate level. The initiative also highlights the

importance of parental involvement, effective recruitment strategies and proper preparation in helping student-athletes make informed decisions about their academic and sporting futures. Parents, coaches and teachers are encouraged to participate alongside student-athletes to gain a clearer understanding of the steps involved in pursuing college sports opportunities. Interested persons can register by scanning the QR code featured on the promotional flyer or by visiting www.gov.tc/sports for more information. The Athlete Pathway Information Series provides an opportunity for the local sporting community to access practical guidance and better prepare young athletes for success beyond the Turks and Caicos Islands.



The Bahamas was crowned overall winners

Bahamas Claims Caribbean Four-Ball Crown Golf Champs in Turks & Caicos

Three days of competitive golf, coastal breezes and Caribbean camaraderie ended with Bahamas lifting the coveted Ambrose Gouthro Cup at the 2026 Caribbean Golf Association Four-Ball Championship.

Hosted at the Royal Turks & Caicos Golf Club during the October 6–10 championship gathering, the tournament brought 78 players to Providenciales. Jamaica finished second in the overall country standings, followed by Trinidad & Tobago in third and host nation Turks & Caicos Islands in fourth.

For the hosts, there was also a divisional victory to celebrate: Turks & Caicos Islands captured the Dessie Henry Trophy in the women's 45-and-over division, ahead of Jamaica.

Supported by Guardian General Insurance Limited and Dickenson Insurance Services TCI Limited, the annual championship paired golfers in two-person teams across four men's divisions and two women's divisions. Finishing positions in each division earned points toward the overall country championship.

The week began with a practice round and a relaxed opening ceremony at the clubhouse on Wednesday, October 7. TCI Golf Association President Fraser Dods welcomed visiting teams from Bahamas, Barbados, Cayman Islands, Jamaica, Puerto Rico, St Lucia, and Trinidad & Tobago. Caribbean Golf Association President Syndey Wolf, of Puerto Rico, also delivered remarks before competition began.



Jamaica ended the tournament in second place

Once play got underway, the course demanded careful decisions. Narrow fairways, challenging pin placements and the prevailing trade winds tested players' accuracy and course management throughout the three competition days.

Course superintendent Tim Mack and his greenkeeping crew prepared the course in the weeks leading up to the event and maintained it throughout the championship. Caribbean Golf Association tournament director Trenton Weekes, of Barbados, oversaw course marking, tournament reporting and officiating.

Bahamas secured two divisional titles, winning the Ramon Baez Romano

Trophy in the Mid-Am division ahead of Cayman Islands and the Asraph Ali Cup in the Legends division for players aged 70 and over, with Trinidad & Tobago finishing second.

Jamaica also claimed two titles. Its teams won the Francis & Steele-Perkins Trophy in the Senior division ahead of Puerto Rico and the Higgs & Higgs Trophy in the Super Senior division ahead of Bahamas.

In the women's 25-and-over division, Trinidad & Tobago captured the Maria Nunes Trophy, with Bahamas taking second place. The hosts' victory in the women's 45-and-over division completed the six divisional results. Beyond the fairways, the club's staff

helped keep the championship running smoothly. Director of Golf Sean Wilson and the pro shop team coordinated daily golf services as players arrived in their national team uniforms. At #19 Bar & Restaurant, manager Patrice Campbell and the food and beverage team provided hospitality throughout the week, including lunch on practice-round day.

The championship concluded with a closing banquet and awards ceremony at Club Med Turquoise, where Bahamas celebrated its overall victory. For Turks & Caicos Islands, the week combined a divisional triumph with the opportunity to welcome the region's golfers to its home course.

HJ Robinson, Clement Howell Set for Boys' High School Football Final

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

HJ Robinson High School and Clement Howell High School will meet in the final of the Elite Boys Inter-High Football Competition after recording convincing victories in their respective semi-final matches.

HJ Robinson High School and Clement Howell High School have booked their places in the final of the Elite Boys Inter-High Football Competition after producing impressive performances in the semi-finals, setting the stage for a showdown between two of the competition's leading school teams.

The final is scheduled to kick off at 12 noon, with both schools now focused on claiming the championship and ending their campaigns on a high note.

HJ Robinson secured its place in the decider with a commanding 4–0 victory over TCIPS in Semi-final No. 2, while Clement Howell advanced after defeating Elite 3–1 in the opening semi-final.

HJ Robinson cruise into the final

HJ Robinson delivered a clinical display against TCIPS, scoring three times in the first half before adding a fourth goal after the break to seal a comprehensive victory.

Milenski Monfils led the scoring with a brace, finding the net in the 12th minute and again in first-half stoppage time. Brandon Williams added a goal in the 15th minute, while Isaac Derelice struck in the 24th minute to give HJ Robinson a commanding 3–0 advantage at half-time.

Monfils completed the scoring in the second half, putting the result beyond doubt and confirming HJ Robinson's place in the final.

HJ Robinson's disciplined performance was reflected in the disciplinary statistics, with the team recording no cautions. TCIPS, meanwhile, received yellow cards for Jean Dierand in the fifth minute and Sebastian Chamber in the 40th.

The four-goal performance will



HJ Robinson Team

give HJ Robinson confidence heading into the championship match, particularly after demonstrating its ability to score through multiple players while keeping a clean sheet.

Clement Howell overcome Elite

Clement Howell also produced a strong performance, defeating Elite 3–1 after taking a 2–0 lead into the half-time interval.

Idelin Gardiner was the standout performer for Clement Howell, scoring in the opening minute and adding another in the 38th minute to complete his brace. Waldens Derisse also found the net in the eighth minute as Clement Howell established control of the contest.

Elite attempted to mount a late response when Robert Wildens

converted a penalty in the first minute of stoppage time, but Clement Howell held firm to secure the 3–1 victory and advance to the final.

The match also saw disciplinary action, with Clement Howell's Julio Duran receiving a yellow card in the 18th minute. Gardiner was listed for a caution in the 38th minute, while Elite coach Kenlove Desronvil was cautioned in the 13th minute.

Clement Howell's attacking efficiency, particularly its ability to score early, proved decisive against an Elite side that struggled to recover from the first-half deficit.

A final steeped in school football rivalry

The championship match brings

together two established participants in Turks and Caicos Islands school sports.

The Turks and Caicos Islands School Sports (TCISS) programme provides a platform for secondary-school athletes to compete in organised football and other sporting disciplines. HJ Robinson and Clement Howell have featured in previous editions of the inter-high football competition, with both schools having demonstrated their ability to compete for honours.

Clement Howell has enjoyed championship success in previous school football campaigns. In 2022, the school was identified as the defending boys' champion in the inter-secondary football competition. HJ Robinson also has a history of challenging for honours, finishing third in the 2023/24 boys' inter-high football season.

Those past performances add further interest to the upcoming final, as the two schools look to turn their semi-final momentum into championship glory.

All eyes on the final

With HJ Robinson scoring four goals without conceding against TCIPS and Clement Howell recording a three-goal victory over Elite, both finalists enter the decisive encounter with reasons for confidence.

HJ Robinson will look to carry its attacking form into the final, with Monfils, Williams and Derelice all demonstrating their scoring ability. Clement Howell, meanwhile, will depend on Gardiner's finishing and the team's ability to establish an early advantage.

The stage is now set for a competitive showdown when the two schools meet at 12 noon to determine the champions of the Elite Boys Inter-High Football Competition.

For the players, coaches and supporters, the objective is clear: finish the campaign on top and secure bragging rights in one of the highlights of the school football calendar.