

**Young Swimmers
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NEWSLINE
Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage



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**BILLIONS\$ IN
WAITING**

**PROPOSED \$700M PROVO TO NORTH CAUSEWAY COULD
UNLOCK \$2.2B IN LAND VALUE**

**PRIVATE STUDY SHOWS CAUSEWAY COULD TRANSFORM
NORTH CAICOS**

>>> STORY ON PG5

CIBC Caribbean Turks and Caicos Announces Andy Missick as Unsung Hero 2026 for Outstanding Community Service

Andy Missick has emerged as the CIBC Unsung Hero for 2026, for his outstanding commitment to youth empowerment, community service and creating opportunities for vulnerable individuals. The CIBC Caribbean Unsung Heroes initiative celebrates individuals whose actions have made a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

Nominations were reviewed by an independent panel of judges - Sonia Fulford, Drewell Seymour, Angela Musgrove and Judith L. Garland, Legal and Compliance Officer Invest TCI who stepped in during the absence of a judge, using a set of criteria designed to recognize both the depth and breadth of community service. Judges considered community impact, level of personal sacrifice, length of involvement, public or media profile, and evidence of extraordinary acts of kindness or service.

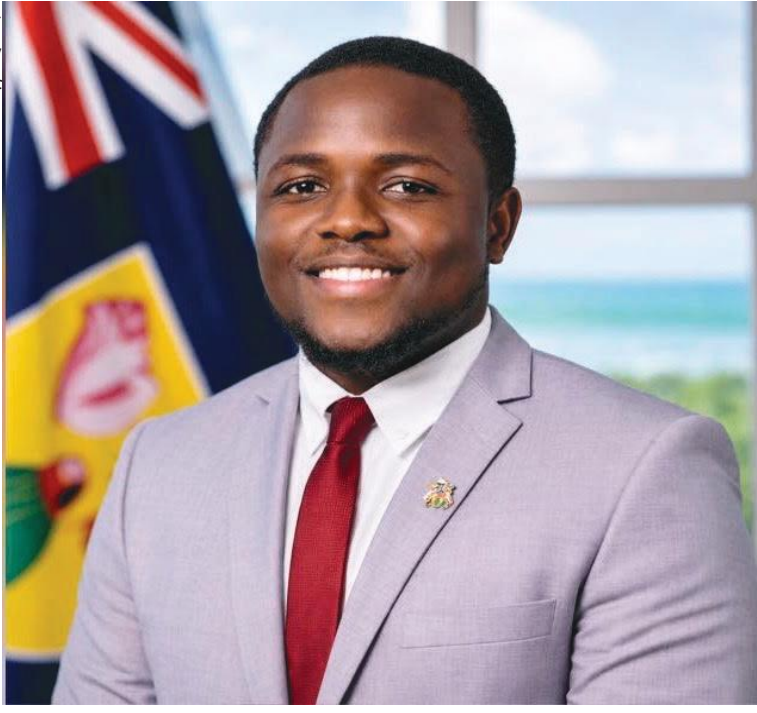
A son of the Turks and Caicos Islands, CIBC, in a news release, noted that Missick has dedicated his life to uplifting vulnerable individuals and inspiring the next generation of leaders. His professional, and volunteer contributions, according to the financial institution, span a diverse range of community roles including Male CARICOM Youth Ambassador, Juvenile Manager, Social Worker, National Youth Advocate, and Probation Officer.

Additionally, meeting community needs, which include mentorship, vulnerable and at-risk youth support, food assistance, and family assistance. The judges noted that this combination demonstrated both immediate assistance to individuals in need and a longer-term commitment to helping young people develop and succeed.

More specifically, his contributions are reflected in the development and implementation of Bright Horizon Framework, an innovative early-intervention model supporting vulnerable youth through mentorship, family engagement, education and pre-



Myriame Chery - First Runner Up



Andy Missick - Winner of Unsung Hero

vention. The panel also acknowledged his significant involvement with Rotaract Club Providenciales and Rotary District 7020, serving various leadership positions where he consistently demonstrated his commitment to ‘Service Above Self’ and familiarized himself with financial challenges faced by many families. As a result, he coordinated food drives, community assistance programs and charitable outreach efforts to ensure vulnerable individuals received assistance. Missick also serves as a radio host on an impactful radio show ‘WASSUP!’ that has provided a platform for reaching and supporting a broad cross-section of the community. The show focuses on topics such as youth empowerment, careers, community issues, personal development, culture and national development giving guests a platform to share their insights and experiences to inspire others. Andy’s passion in youth empowerment, advocacy and national issues has further led him to co-found The Youth Tribunal. A platform where youth have a voice in debating key challenges and propose solutions for their country’s future. Of particular significance to the judges was the length and consis-

ten- c y o f
Missick’s service over the years. Work involving vulnerable and at-risk young people carries considerable responsibility, and the nomination demonstrated a strong record of continued involvement in areas representing substantial community needs. “There is significant evidence of kindness and direct assistance to people experiencing hardship,” the judges noted in their assessment. They also recognized the considerable reach of Missick’s work and the ability to use a high public and media profile to positively influence and support others. The judges also gave special recognition to Myriame Chery as first runner-up, whose nomination presented a clearly documented and extraordinary individual act of kindness. For more than a decade of quiet service and personal sacrifice. Her contributions include mentoring disadvantaged youth, personally assisting with a student’s school tuition, tutoring, mental health, volunteering and charitable fundraising, alongside earning a master’s degree in Criminology and Criminal Psychology.

CIBC Caribbean said it is also pleased to commend Onilia Richards, Antwon H.F. Walkin, Leonardo “Leo” Lightbourne, Zaira Ingham, Arielle Neely and Leslyn

Nelson all of whom were nominated by members of the community. Each nomination represents an important message: someone noticed their contribution, valued what they did and believed it deserved to be recognized. Together, these nominees demonstrate that being an Unsung Hero is not about recognition or a title, it is about choosing to make a positive difference in the lives of others. Through its Unsung Hero initiative, CIBC Caribbean sought to shine a light on individuals who dedicate their time, energy and talents to strengthening their communities, quietly behind the scenes.

Georgetta Smith-Davis

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DEADLINE: Positions open to all qualified Turks and Caicos nationals. Interested applicants can forward their resumes to hrtic@digicelgroup.com The closing date for applications is August 28th , 2026

Unlicensed E-Scooter Riders Face Legal Consequences, Authorities Warn

Anyone caught riding an e-scooter on a public road without the required driving credentials could face legal consequences, according to the authorities.

The Department of Motor Vehicles and the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force issued the warning after observing an increase in children, other underage riders and unlicensed individuals using e-scooters on main roads.

Under Turks and Caicos Islands law, electric scooters are classified as motor vehicles. Riders must therefore hold a valid driver's licence of the appropriate class to operate them on public roads.

Authorities warned that allowing minors to operate e-scooters on public streets is both illegal and dangerous. Unlike enclosed vehicles, e-scooters offer riders little structural protection. Younger riders may also lack the traffic awareness and reaction time needed to navigate busy roads safely, increasing their risk of serious injury. Parents and guardians may be held accountable if they unlawfully allow underage children to operate the vehicles.

The DMV and police are urging parents to consider the risks carefully and calling on the wider community to follow traffic laws and help keep the territory's roads safe.



Parents and guardians may be held accountable if they unlawfully allow underage children to operate the vehicles

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\$700-Million Causeway Could Unlock \$2.2 Billion in Caicos Land Value – Private Study

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

A privately prepared study has estimated that a \$700 million causeway linking Providenciales and North Caicos could unlock approximately \$2.2 billion in new land value across North and Middle Caicos.

The TCI Insider study, prepared for Drew Scrymgeour, examines the potential cost, economic impact and funding options for a fixed, car-accessible connection between the islands. It is not a government-commissioned study, an approved infrastructure proposal or a formal engineering assessment.

The illustrative model proposes an approximately 14-kilometre, two-lane route from the eastern end of Providenciales to Sandy Point, North Caicos. It would cross open water without landing on privately owned cays or protected territory.

According to the study, the route would consist mainly of rock-filled embankments over the shallow Caicos Banks, with bridge sections across the deeper Leeward channel and openings required to maintain tidal flow.

The estimated construction cost ranges from \$575 million to \$800 million, with \$700 million used as the base case and a worst-case figure approaching \$900 million.

The base estimate includes approximately \$260 million for 11 kilometres of rock-filled embankment, \$215 million for three kilometres of bridge spans, \$38 million for design and project management and \$187 million in contingency allowances.

It does not include the separate cost of extending water and electricity infrastructure to North Caicos. The study identifies that as an important omission that would have to be addressed in any formal feasibility assessment.

Its cost assumptions draw on the BCQS Caribbean and Latin America Construction Market Trend Report for 2025, including Turks and Caicos construction costs, import duties, contractor margins and



annual cost escalation.

The model also compares the proposed crossing with international projects, including the 25-kilometre King Fahd Causeway between Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, Canada's Confederation Bridge and bridge projects in the Maldives.

At approximately \$50 million per kilometre, the proposed Caicos crossing is placed below those international examples. The study attributes the difference to the shallow water and the proposed use of embankments rather than a continuous high-level bridge.

The report says the economic case rests primarily on land values rather than toll revenue.

It estimates that North and Middle Caicos contain approximately 21,482 acres of developable land after wetlands and protected areas are excluded. That land is assigned a current value of about \$1.66 billion, using price benchmarks from the Land Atlas and North and Middle Caicos sales and listings recorded through the Turks and Caicos Real Estate Association MLS between 2023 and 2026.

North Caicos beachfront land is valued at approximately \$25 per square foot, while Middle Caicos beachfront is placed at about \$16.60 per square foot. Providenciales has a blended land average of approximately \$34 per square foot, with beachfront sites commanding considerably higher prices.

The model assumes that removing the ferry-only access constraint would cause North Caicos land values to rise to 2.5 times their present level. Middle Caicos, which would become accessible by road through the existing North–Middle Caicos causeway, is assigned a smaller multiple of 1.8. On that basis, the study calculates an uplift of approximately \$1.84 billion for North Caicos and \$346 million for Middle Caicos. The combined \$2.2 billion increase would be roughly 3.1 times the estimated construction cost.

The report cautions that this is a gross increase rather than a guaranteed cash return. Some investment moving to North and Middle Caicos might otherwise have gone to Providenciales, potentially reducing Provo's scarcity premium. The size of that offset was not calculated.

The study concludes that tolls could cover maintenance but would not repay construction costs.

At 600 vehicles per day and a \$10 toll, annual revenue would be about \$2.2 million at opening. It could rise to \$8 million with 2,000 vehicles per day and approximately \$15.3 million once traffic reached 3,500 vehicles daily.

Annual maintenance and hurricane reserves are estimated at about \$9 million. The model recommends keeping tolls low, particularly for residents, to avoid discouraging the regular travel

needed to support economic activity.

Construction would instead be financed partly through land-value capture. A levy collecting one-quarter of the increase in privately owned land values could raise approximately \$328 million, while phased Crown land sales could contribute another \$306 million.

Together, those measures could produce about \$633 million, equivalent to roughly 90 per cent of the modelled construction cost, over 10 to 15 years.

However, when future revenue is discounted, the study estimates a public recovery of approximately \$404 million against a discounted construction cost of \$620 million. A higher levy, advance commitments involving Crown land or a private development partner could therefore be needed.

North and Middle Caicos are already linked by a 1.6-kilometre causeway built in 2007 with European Union funding. That road suffered extensive hurricane damage in 2008, highlighting the resilience requirements for any longer marine connection.

The private study concludes that a Provo–North Caicos causeway may generate more economic value than it costs, but says detailed engineering, environmental, geotechnical and property assessments would be required before its assumptions could be confirmed.

The Future of Blue Hills: A Promise Faded in the Sun

An Op-Ed By Paladin

The first thing you see when you drive along the lower beach road toward the Conch Shack is a large, sun bleached billboard declaring “Future of Blue Hills.” The Minister’s face is still on it, though the colours have long surrendered to the elements. The sign has stood there for years—literally weathering, fading, and peeling—an accidental metaphor for the very future it claims to announce. Because immediately after that sign, what greets you is not progress. It is neglect.

A Project That Started With Energy—and Then Stopped Cold

When the sign first went up, there was a burst of activity. Land was cleared. Foundations were set. Five gazebo type structures were framed out. Markers were placed along the water’s edge for some still undefined feature. It looked like the beginning of something meaningful. That was during the first term of this administration.

Now we are well into the second term, budgets have been debated and passed, and yet the project sits in a half finished state. Out of the five gazebos, three are structurally complete, but only one has a roof. Another has upright poles with no framing. The last is nothing more than posts in the ground. Residents are left to wonder: Was someone paid for this? If so, where is the completed work?

This is not speculation—this is the lived reality of Blue Hills.

The Clinic: A Symbol of Delay

The Blue Hills Clinic and its grounds tell a similar story. The bathroom has finally been repaired, and the jetty has been addressed. But the surrounding grounds remain unkempt, the fencing deteriorated, and the ruins of an old structure—likely part of the clinic’s history—still sit untouched.

Meanwhile, the Government has announced that a new clinic is coming. According to the Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development, the design phase is complete, funding is expected from Government, and construction is projected to begin this summer. A contract has already been issued for demolition of the existing building. (SUN) This is welcome news—but it does not erase the years of stagnation that residents have endured.

Budget Announcements vs. On the Ground Reality

During the 2026 Budget Debate, the MP for Blue Hills highlighted several investments:

- **\$150,000 for new signage** along Millennium Highway and Bay Road
 - **\$650,000 for upgrades to Fuller and Clementina Walkin Park**
 - **Preparatory works and fencing improvements at the Blue Hills Clinic site**
 - **Part of \$6.3 million in road and secondary infrastructure works** across the islands (Magnetic Media)
- These are not insignificant sums. And yet, residents still drive on deteriorated roads, still navigate uneven sidewalks, still wait



for long-promised improvements. Even the Minister of Infrastructure has acknowledged widespread frustration and has promised quarterly updates and accelerated repairs. (newsline.tci.com) But Blue Hills has heard promises before. **Is This the “Future” the Sign Promised?** When a community sees a sign proclaiming its future, then sees years of half finished work, broken fencing, abandoned structures, and unfulfilled commitments, the message becomes painfully clear: **Blue Hills is not a priority.**

Not for 60 years, some residents say. And the evidence on the ground does little to contradict them.

If the Government focused on just two constituencies per year, every major community issue across the country could have been addressed by now. Instead, we have a patchwork of incomplete projects, delayed tenders, and unexplained gaps

between budget allocations and visible results.

How Do We Fix This? A Common Sense Blueprint

The solution is not complicated. It requires discipline, transparency, and a results driven approach to public spending.

1. Implement a Deliverables Based Budgeting System

Every capital project should have:

- A defined scope
 - A timeline with milestones
 - A public reporting schedule
 - A penalty clause for non performance
- This is standard practice in well run jurisdictions.

2. Publish Quarterly Progress Reports

The Minister has already committed to this for roadworks. Extend it to all constituency projects. Residents deserve to know:

- What stage the project is in

- How much has been spent
- Who the contractor is
- Whether deadlines are being met

3. Enforce Contractor Accountability

If a contractor is paid for five gazebos, the public should see five gazebos—completed, roofed, and usable.

No completion, no payment.

If work stalls, reassign the contract.

4. Create a Constituency Infrastructure Dashboard

A simple online portal showing:

- Active projects
- Budget allocations
- Percent completion
- Photos of progress
- Expected completion dates

This eliminates guesswork and excuses.

5. Prioritize Blue Hills in the Next Budget Cycle

Given the backlog, Blue Hills should be designated a priority constituency for 2026–2027, with a dedicated line item ensuring completion of:

- The gazebos and waterfront project
- Clinic demolition and new construction
- Road and sidewalk upgrades
- Park improvements
- Fencing and grounds restoration

6. Engage the Community in Oversight

A small advisory group of residents can meet monthly with the Ministry to review progress and flag issues early.

Blue Hills Deserves Better

The people of Blue Hills are not asking for miracles. They are asking for the basics:

- Completed projects
- Respect for public funds
- A community that reflects their pride and history
- A future that matches the promise on that fading sign

The Government has the budget. It has the plans. It has the authority.

What it needs now is the will.

A popular slogan here is “**I come fer dis work, sign Me Up**” Well **NO WORK** is being done in Blue Hills!

The future of Blue Hills should not be a slogan on a decaying billboard. It should be a lived reality—visible, tangible, and long overdue.

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WATERLOO HOTEL MANAGEMENT LTD.
ANNOUNCES THE PROMOTION OF

ALEISA

Musgrove Walkin

— TO —

CLUSTER GENERAL MANAGER

— FOR THE —

TURKS AND CAICOS COLLECTION

In every successful organization, there are leaders whose rise is shaped by determination, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to excellence. For Aleisa Musgrove Walkin, that journey has culminated in one of the most defining leadership appointments in the Turks and Caicos Islands' hospitality industry.

Waterloo Hotel Management Ltd. (WHML) has announced the promotion of Mrs. Walkin to Cluster General Manager for the Turks and Caicos Collection, entrusting her with executive oversight of both Alexandra Resort and Blue Haven Resort. The appointment marks a historic milestone, positioning her among the first Turks and Caicos Islanders to lead two premier luxury all-inclusive properties within a single portfolio.

For Mrs. Walkin, the role represents far more than a new title. It signifies the continuation of a career defined by perseverance, continuous professional development, and a deep passion for people, service, and the transformative power of hospitality.

Building a Legacy of Excellence

With more than 18 years of progressive experience, Mrs. Walkin has cultivated a reputation for operational mastery, strategic leadership, and the ability to elevate performance across diverse organizations. Her career spans senior roles in both the Caribbean and Canada, each contributing to her broad operational perspective and refined leadership approach.

Before her promotion, she served as General Manager of Alexandra Resort, where her disciplined leadership strengthened operational

alignment, enhanced service delivery, and reinforced a culture rooted in accountability, collaboration, and guest-centric excellence.

Her achievements are grounded in both experience and education. A proud Turks and Caicos Islander, Mrs. Walkin invested deeply in her academic development, earning an Associate Degree in Business Management, a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and Accounting, and a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Nova Southeastern University. Combined with hands-on experience in luxury hospitality, these credentials have equipped her with the strategic, financial, and operational expertise required to lead complex resort operations.

Her executive leadership journey also includes international experience as General Manager of an ultra-luxury resort in the Eastern Caribbean, where she implemented innovative strategies that strengthened guest satisfaction, operational efficiency, and brand positioning.

A Leader Who Lifts Others

Despite her many accomplishments, those who know Mrs. Walkin often point to her leadership style as her greatest strength. She believes that successful organizations are built through empowered people. Throughout her career, she has focused on developing talent, creating opportunities for growth, and helping team members realize their potential. Her commitment to mentorship and teamwork has earned the respect of colleagues and industry peers alike.

In 2017, she was honoured as Ho-

telier of the Year in the Turks and Caicos Islands—one of the nation's most prestigious hospitality recognitions. The accolade reflects her longstanding contributions to the industry and her reputation as a leader of exceptional integrity, professionalism, and vision.

Looking Ahead: A Vision for Growth and Impact

With this appointment, Mrs. Walkin assumes her fifth General Manager role—an achievement that underscores her depth of experience and her proven ability to lead teams through transformation, growth, and heightened performance expectations. As Cluster General Manager, she now oversees the strategic direction, operations, financial performance, and guest experience across two of the country's leading all-inclusive resorts.

Beyond her operational responsibilities, Mrs. Walkin remains deeply committed to community development and the advancement of the hospitality industry. She serves on several boards, including Community Kind as a board member—an affiliated WHML nonprofit organization dedicated to youth empowerment, community development, and social well-being. Her involvement reflects a genuine passion for creating meaningful opportunities for young people and strengthening community resilience.

She also serves as a Board Director for the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association, where she advocates for workforce development, industry innovation, and initiatives that strengthen the national hospitality sector.

Looking ahead, Mrs. Musgrove Walkin hopes her journey inspires future generations of Turks and Caicos Islanders to pursue leadership roles within hospitality and beyond. She remains committed to creating pathways for young professionals to grow, lead, and contribute to the continued evolution of the industry.

An Inspiration for the Next Generation

Aleisa Musgrove Walkin's story is more than a promotion announcement—it is a testament to what can be achieved when talent is nurtured, education is prioritized, and opportunities are met with determination. From an ambitious young professional to a leader entrusted with shaping the future of two luxury resorts, her journey reflects the power of perseverance, vision, and belief in one's potential. Her promotion underscores WHML's commitment to recognizing excellence, investing in local leadership, and fostering a culture where talent is empowered to thrive. As she steps into her new role, WHML celebrates not only her achievements, but also the bright future ahead for the Turks and Caicos Collection under her guidance.

As she begins this new chapter, Mrs. Walkin joins a distinguished group of local leaders who are shaping the future of hospitality in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Through her leadership of two exceptional resorts, she is helping to broaden opportunities, challenge perceptions, and inspire the next generation of hospitality professionals.

-ADVERTORIAL

PDM Calls for Lasting Solution to Salt Cay Water Crisis

Reliable and clean water is not a privilege but a basic service every government must provide, the People's Democratic Movement said following a visit to Salt Cay to investigate the island's ongoing water-supply crisis.

A PDM delegation spent Tuesday meeting with residents across the community, listening to their concerns and examining the challenges caused by the prolonged disruption to the island's water supply.

The group travelled throughout Salt Cay and visited nearly every household, according to the party. Residents were given an opportunity to speak openly about the water shortage and the wider difficulties associated with living in one of the country's smallest and most frequently overlooked communities.

The delegation included PDM Leader Hon. Douglas Parnell; Leader of the Opposition and Member of Parliament for Salt Cay, Hon. Edwin Astwood; PDM Secretary General Mark A. Fulford; former Minister of Works Hon. Goldray Ewing; former Speaker of the House of Assembly Hon. Dwayne Taylor; and Salt Cay resident Noel Hamilton.

Salt Cay's reverse-osmosis plant has reportedly been out of operation since a critical filter failed in June. Emergency shipments of water have since been used to replenish Government storage tanks and provide temporary relief to residents.

The PDM said those deliveries could not be presented as a permanent solution, as they did not mean the island's water-production system had been restored or that the underlying problem had been resolved.

"Access to clean, safe and reliable water is not a privilege, nor is it a political favour. It is one of the most basic services that any Government must provide," the party said.

"The question is not simply whether a barge eventually arrived. The real questions are why Salt Cay was allowed to reach this point and what is being done to ensure that it never happens again." Parnell said every island must receive fair and consistent treatment from the Government, regardless of the size of its population.

"Whether a community has fifty residents or fifty thousand, every Turks and Caicos Islander is entitled to dignity, reliable infrastructure and the basic services necessary for everyday life," he said.

"We went to Salt Cay to listen and to understand the situation directly from the people living through it. The people of Salt Cay must know that they are seen, they are heard and they matter."

Astwood said residents deserved more than temporary responses whenever an essential system failed.

"The people of Salt Cay are resilient and deeply proud of their island, but their resilience must never be used as an excuse for inadequate public services," he said.



From left - former Speaker of the House of Assembly Hon. Dwayne Taylor; Leader of the Opposition and Member of Parliament for Salt Cay, Hon. Edwin Astwood; PDM Leader Hon. Douglas Parnell; PDM Secretary General Mark A. Fulford; Herbert Been, a member of the delegation; Salt Cay resident Noel Hamilton; and former Minister of Works Hon. Goldray Ewing.



PDM Executive Members examine a seemingly disrepair catchment tank on Salt Cay



Two Cay Residents carrying a container of water to potable water through a gate

of the delegation delivered drinking water to households as an immediate gesture of assistance.

The PDM stressed, however, that distributing drinking water was not a substitute for the Government's responsibility to maintain a properly functioning water-production system and a dependable supply.

The party thanked Hamilton and the residents of Salt Cay for welcoming the delegation into their homes and speaking candidly about their experiences.

Salt Cay is often affectionately called "the island that time forgot," reflecting its history, tranquillity and distinctive character. The PDM said that description must never define the standard of essential public services its residents receive.

"Salt Cay may be the island that time forgot, but it must never become the island that the Government forgot," the party said.



An out of commission tank, one of which has been earmarked to receive water from the RO Plant

cuse for inadequate public services," he said.

"Residents should not have to live from one emergency shipment to another while waiting for their water-production system to be repaired. We will continue pressing the Government until the plant is fully operational and a reliable, sustainable solution is in place."

The PDM is calling on the Government to disclose the present operational status of the reverse-osmosis plant and provide a clear timeline for restoring full and reliable water production.

The party also wants to know why adequate contingency arrangements were not activated before the island's reserves became critically low, whether the existing storage and distribution infrastructure is sufficient, and what permanent measures will be implemented to prevent another prolonged interruption.

At the conclusion of the visit, members

Chief Dental Surgeon Dr Janice Baron Inducted as Fellow of the International College of Dentists

The Ministry of Health and Human Services is congratulating Dr Janice Baron, Chief Dental Surgeon, on her induction as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists during the College's recent Convocation Ceremony in Kingston, Jamaica.

Fellowship in the International College of Dentists is one of the highest honours bestowed within the dental profession. Established in 1920, the College is one of the world's oldest and most prestigious honorary dental organisations. Fellowship is conferred upon dentists who have demonstrated exceptional professional achievement, leadership, humanitarian service and meaningful contributions to the advancement of dentistry and the communities they serve.

Dr Baron's induction recognises her longstanding commitment to excellence in oral healthcare and her dedicated service to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. In her capacity as Chief Dental Surgeon,

she has championed preventive oral health initiatives and played a significant role in strengthening the delivery of public dental services throughout the Islands.

Dr Baron also serves as a member of the Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Professions Council of the Turks and Caicos Islands, where she contributes to the continued development and regulation of the dental profession locally, regionally and internationally.

Minister of Health and Human Services, Hon. Kyle Knowles, commended Dr Baron on this distinguished achievement, stating:

"On behalf of the Government and people of the Turks and Caicos Islands, I extend sincere congratulations to Dr Janice Baron on her induction as a Fellow of the International College of Dentists. This prestigious recognition is a testament to her exemplary leadership, professional excellence and unwavering commitment to improving oral healthcare



Dr. Janice Baron

in our country. Dr Baron's achievement brings great distinction to the Turks and Caicos Islands and reflects the exceptional calibre of healthcare professionals serving our communities."

Chief Medical Officer, Dr Nadia Astwood, also congratulated Dr Baron, noting:

"Dr Baron's induction into the International College of Dentists is a well-deserved acknowledgement of her years of dedicated service, professional leadership and commitment to advancing oral health. Her contribution to preventive dentistry and the strengthening of public dental services has been invaluable. We are extremely proud of this achievement and look forward to her continued leadership and service to the

people of the Turks and Caicos Islands."

The Ministry recognises that Dr Baron's accomplishment exemplifies the high standard of healthcare professionals serving the Turks and Caicos Islands. It also reinforces the Ministry's commitment to strengthening the healthcare system through professional excellence, effective leadership and continuous professional development.

The Ministry of Health and Human Services once again congratulates Dr Janice Baron on this outstanding and well-deserved honour and wishes her continued success as she advances the dental profession and contributes to improving the oral health and well-being of the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Department of Maritime and Shipping Launches New 24/7 Digital Portal for Vessel Inspections and Licensing

The Department of Maritime and Shipping has launched a new digital portal designed to make essential maritime services faster, easier and more accessible.

Maritime stakeholders, commercial operators, private vessel owners and government entities can now access and schedule services 24 hours a day from any smartphone, tablet or computer.

The modernised portal simplifies administrative processes and helps vessel owners and operators remain inspection-ready, maintain regulatory compliance and minimise downtime.

Digital services available

The portal provides convenient access to the following services:

- Vessel inspections: Book initial, annual and renewal inspections for commercial and private vessels.
- Boat Master's Licence examinations: Schedule interviews, theory examinations and practical examinations in one place.
- Craft and jet ski inspections: Register and arrange safety inspections for personal watercraft, including jet skis, and non-motorised craft.

Platform features and benefits

- 24/7 access: Schedule services at any time, from anywhere.
- Instant confirmation: Receive an automated email containing appointment details and requirements immediately after booking.
- Proactive compliance: Use integrated reminders to track renewal

dates and maintain compliance with maritime safety regulations.

- Greater efficiency: Complete essential booking processes in a few simple steps, reducing delays and administrative burdens.

QR codes and access locations

Posters featuring direct-access QR codes and website links are available at key maritime hubs, marina offices, retail locations and government facilities in Providenciales and Grand Turk.

Government offices

- Department of Maritime and Shipping offices in Providenciales and Grand Turk
- Border Control offices at Port Authority locations
- Ports Authority offices in Providen-

ciales and Grand Turk

Marinas and marine hubs

- Walkin Marina
- Blue Haven Marina Office
- South Bank Marina Office and Sail Shades
- South Side Marina Office
- Turtle Cove Marina Office

Retail and cruise locations

- S. Walkin and Sons Retail Store
- Carnival Cruise Centre

The Department stated that its goal is to bring greater convenience, speed and transparency to maritime operations across the islands. By digitising these essential processes, vessel owners can complete inspections and certification requirements more efficiently and return to the water with minimal delay.

Minister Taylor Says Beaches Provides Hope for TCI's Young People

By Vivian Tyson EWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Hon. Rachel Taylor has praised Beaches Turks and Caicos for providing meaningful opportunities and renewed hope to young people across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

She delivered the remarks during the resort's 2026 Summer Internship Graduation Ceremony, held on Thursday, August 13, at the Caribbean Village Conference Room.

Approximately 120 students graduated from the programme after gaining practical experience across various departments at the resort.

Minister Taylor commended Beaches for its continued investment in youth development and for operating one of the country's largest private-sector internship programmes.

She said the initiative demonstrates the value of cooperation between the Government and the private sector.

"This opportunity that has been presented to you is a clear indication of a true partnership between you and Beaches Turks and Caicos," she told the interns. The Minister said participants were given an opportunity to explore possible careers in tourism, develop workplace skills and gain experience that would remain valuable long after the summer ended.

While some interns may have initially joined the programme to earn money during the school break, she said they were leaving with something even more important, a wealth of knowledge and practical experience.

Minister Taylor also thanked the resort's management, mentors and programme coordinators for supporting the interns and creating an environment in which they could learn and grow.

She recalled instances in which Beaches responded quickly when asked to assist vulnerable and unemployed young people. In one case, she said, a young



Minister Rachel Taylor addressing the Beaches 2026 Beaches Interns Graduation at the Caribbean Village on Thursday, August 13



Interns entertain the audience with a well-choreographed dance

man who had been out of school for three years and did not have a job was promptly offered a place in the programme.

The Minister said this level of collaboration was helping to "provide hope for the young people of the Turks and Caicos Islands."

She encouraged the graduates to take advantage of employment opportunities offered by Beaches and other businesses throughout the country. She also challenged them to become the change they wanted to see in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Minister Taylor paid particular attention to the country's young men, urging them not to allow

negative stereotypes or poor choices to determine their fu-



A section of the audience in the room

tures.

"You can be the best version of yourselves, but you have to make that decision," she said. "No one can make it for you."

She advised the interns to choose their friends wisely, remain focused and continue trying even when they encounter setbacks.

"The road ahead is not always paved with gold," the Minister said. "There will be trials and there will be tribulations."

However, she reminded the young people that the Turks and Caicos Islands had demonstrated its resilience during the COVID-19 pandemic and could continue to overcome challenges.

Beaches Turks and Caicos General Manager Deryck Meany also congratulated the graduates and encouraged them to consider careers in hospitality, which he described as critically important to the national economy.

Meany invited the graduates to return as interns or become permanent members of the resort's team.

Minister Taylor concluded by congratulating the interns, their parents and everyone who helped to make the programme possible.

She assured the young people that the Government would continue working with its partners to empower them and help them realise their potential.

Supporting the Decision to Invite Bahamas Brass Band to 50 Years of Ministerial Government

Contributed Article

On August 30th, the Turks and Caicos Islands will celebrate the introduction of its Constitutional Holiday, marking an important moment for the nation as its people reflect upon and celebrate the Constitution of these islands.

The significance and excitement surrounding this historic occasion inspired the organizing committee to embrace and celebrate all things Turks and Caicos. This included identifying foods, gifts, talents, traditions, accomplishments and institutions that were created, developed or influenced by persons from the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Recently, concerns were expressed on social media by a concerned citizen under the theme, "A Disrespect to Our Culture, Our Heritage and Our People."

The points raised are understood and respected. However, it is important that clarity be provided to the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands so that the intentions behind the celebrations, particularly the inclusion of the Bahama Brass Band, are not misunderstood or misrepresented.

Firstly, the Progressive National Party has not, intentionally or otherwise, sought to disrespect any well-intentioned and decent citizen of this beloved homeland. Every citizen, with his or her gifts, opinions, talents and resources, is viewed as a nation builder and part of the backbone of these islands.

While the Progressive National Party holds the responsibility of government, it remains fully aware that it was elected to serve the people and to act in the best interests of the continued growth and development of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Secondly, as part of these celebrations, the committee sought to encourage Turks and Caicos Islanders and their descendants living abroad to return home and participate in this celebration of who the people of these islands are and where they have come from. Among those invited was the Bahama Brass Band.

One may reasonably ask: Why the Bahama Brass Band? The answer is deeply rooted in Turks and Caicos history. The Bahama Brass Band GB had its humble beginnings in 1955 in Pine Ridge, Freeport, Grand Bahama.

The late Deacon Reuben Hall Sr., of Middle Caicos, was the first to learn the trumpet, followed by Jenkins Williams and Mervin Hendfield, of North Caicos.

In the village of Pine Ridge, the band's influence grew, and these men gathered others, including individuals referenced in the recent social media commentary, such as the late Bishop Hopelyn Parker and Deacon Percy Williams.

The band grew to more than 50 men at that time, with Turks and Caicos Islanders forming the foundation of this remarkable institution. Some 70 years later, names such as Hamilton, Forbes, Stubbs, Hall, Morris, Williams and Basden, to name a few, remain connected to the tradition - persons either born in the Turks and Caicos Islands or descended from these islands.



A SACRED MOMENT IN THE HISTORY OF TWO NATIONS

The value and sacredness of this moment cannot be overlooked. It is important to reflect on men such as Bishop James Williams, Bishop Hopelyn Parker and Percy Williams, who, under the leadership of then band director, the late Bishop Cleophas Capron, together with Winston Capron, marched on July 10th, 1973, as part of The Bahamas' Independence celebrations.

In doing so, these Turks and Caicos men left a mark upon The Bahamas that is forever embedded in its history.

The institution they helped cultivate was built through the hands, blood, sweat and tears of men from Turks and Caicos soil. Their contribution became part of the cultural fabric of another nation while remaining firmly connected to the islands from which they came.

There is therefore something particularly meaningful about what is now taking place.

It is not simply a matter of the Turks and Caicos Islands going abroad to celebrate the Bahama Brass Band. Instead, it represents an opportunity for an institution profoundly influenced and built by Turks and Caicos men to return home to the beautiful Turks and Caicos Islands and pay tribute to those who laid the foundation for its existence.

Its return can be seen as an expression of gratitude: To honour. To respect. To remember. And to say thank you.

It is an opportunity to acknowledge the investment that these great men of the Turks and Caicos Islands made in The Bahamas and the legacy that has endured through successive generations.

This is heritage in one of its greatest forms and expressions. It is not a moment that should be missed. Rather, it is a historic opportunity that should be understood, embraced and celebrated.

THE INTENTION BEHIND THE INVITATION

Thirdly, the committee's intention was to highlight this extraordinary accomplish-

ment based upon three important principles:

1. To honour the historic value of the institutions to which Turks and Caicos Islanders have contributed in another country. There is tremendous significance in the fact that men from the Turks and Caicos Islands travelled to another country and helped establish an institution that has endured and influenced generations.

There is even greater significance in the shared heritage of the Turks and Caicos Brass Band and the Bahama Brass Band. These two institutions share common fathers and a deeply connected history. That connection gives the Turks and Caicos Islands every reason to proudly celebrate and proclaim the extraordinary regional influence of its people. The Bahama Brass Band does not diminish Turks and Caicos heritage. Its existence provides further evidence of the reach and influence of that heritage.

2. To showcase the lasting influence of the founders and framers of these brass band traditions over more than four generations. These men from the Turks and Caicos Islands established far more than a music school or simply a band.

Through discipline, mentorship, faith, service and leadership, they helped develop men who became nation builders.

From this tradition have emerged Members of Parliament in both countries, bishops and pastors, magistrates, government officials, law enforcement officers and community leaders, among many others. Their success cannot therefore be measured solely by music. Their greater legacy can be found in the generations of men they helped shape and the contribution those men subsequently made to their communities and countries.

3. Most importantly, to honour the very men whose contributions were referenced in the recent public commentary. At the heart of the committee's intention was a desire to recognize and honour these pioneers and others whose names form part of this extraordinary history. There was never an intention to disre-

spect or diminish their work, service, sacrifices or contributions.

Quite the contrary, the significance of the Constitutional Holiday provided an opportunity to place their accomplishments before the nation and allow another generation of Turks and Caicos Islanders to understand and appreciate the magnitude of what their forefathers accomplished.

THE TIES THAT BIND

If any descendants, family members, friends or others connected to these pioneers felt disrespected or overlooked by the manner in which the initiative was presented, a sincere apology is appropriately proffered for any unintended offence caused.

That feeling should be acknowledged and respected. However, one fundamental truth should never be lost:

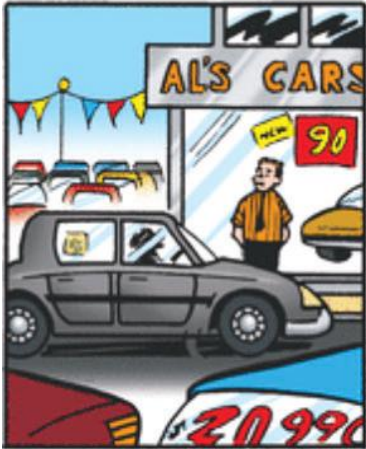
The Turks and Caicos Brass Band is Turks and Caicos heritage.

And because of its origins, its pioneers and the extraordinary contribution of Turks and Caicos Islanders to its development, the Bahama Brass Band also forms part of the wider story of Turks and Caicos heritage.

It belongs within that story because so much of what it became came from the people of these islands. The history of these two institutions should therefore not be used to divide. It should serve as a powerful reminder of the reach, resilience and influence of Turks and Caicos Islanders throughout the region.

On this historic Constitutional Holiday, there is an opportunity to celebrate that connection - to honour the pioneers, welcome their legacy home and allow present and future generations to understand the extraordinary contribution made by Turks and Caicos Islanders beyond these shores.

The Turks and Caicos Brass Band is part of the heritage of these islands. The Bahama Brass Band is connected to that heritage. The pioneers belong to Turks and Caicos history. And after generations and across borders, they remain the ties that bind.



AL'S CARS

90

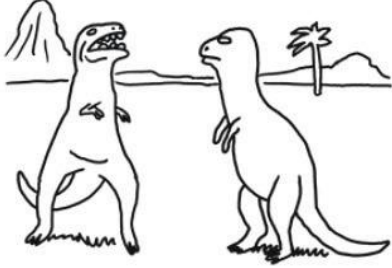
HOW WAS THE TEST DRIVE?

I HAD A BREAKDOWN AND HAD TO PULL OFF THE ROAD!

WHAT HAPPENED?

I STARTED TO CRY BECAUSE I CAN'T AFFORD IT!

NEWSLINE
COMICS



Eric Scott

WHAT'S WRONG, MOM? YOU LOOK UPSET.

OH, NELSON GOT HIS CHEWING GUM STUCK IN MY HAIR!

I HEARD THAT PEANUT BUTTER CAN GET IT OUT.

OPAL! WHY IS THERE CURLY WHITE HAIR IN THE PEANUT BUTTER?

"I went to open-mic night and killed. It was delicious."

I HAVE 3 SIDES

MY GOOD SIDE.

MY BAD SIDE.

AND MY BACKSIDE.

WHOA!!!

YOU OK, RUTHIE?

YES... I JUST ROCKED MY CHAIR A LITTLE TOO FAR BACK... WHEN!

I HAVEN'T FELT A RUSH LIKE THAT SINCE I RODE THE "FLYING TURNS" COASTER AT EUCLID BEACH!

I CAN'T PLAY TODAY, CHUCKIE. I GOT RESPONSIBOOBLETIES!

I GOTTA WATCH DIL!

WATCH DIL WHAT?

I DON'T KNOW. HE DOESN'T DO MUCH.

MAYBE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO KEEP IT THAT WAY.



"YOU'D THINK FORTUNE COOKIES WOULD HAVE MONEY IN THEM."

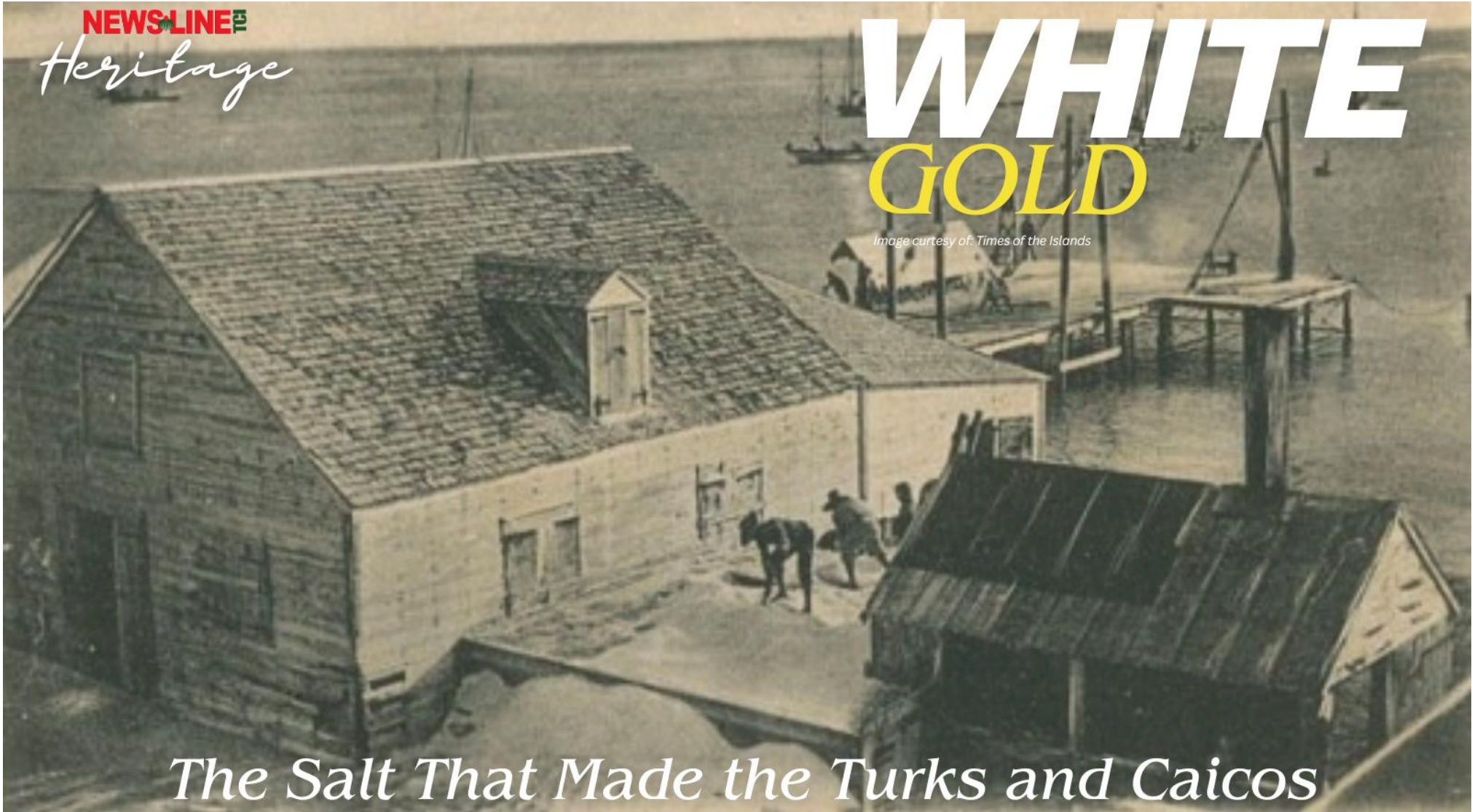
WHAT WOULD THE WORLD BE WITHOUT ME?

SEVERAL POUNDS LIGHTER

I HEARD THAT!

We built it to industry standards: 90 percent mortar with a brick or two every so often.

CARTOON MASONRY



WHITE GOLD

Image courtesy of: Times of the Islands

The Salt That Made the Turks and Caicos

For nearly three centuries, the flat salinas of Grand Turk, Salt Cay, and South Caicos forged the foundation of what would become the modern Turks and Caicos Islands.

The salt trade was born more than 300 years ago, when Bermudian mariners recognized the potential of the islands' natural salt ponds and began the arduous work of harvesting what was then known as "white gold".

Salt was not a simple seasoning in the early modern Atlantic world. Before refrigeration, it was essential in preserving fish, meat, and other foods for long sea voyages and distant markets. Colonial populations depended on these salted staples for survival.

But the story of salt in the Turks and Caicos isn't only one of economic importance, it is also a story of the people whose labour and lives were bound up in the salinas. In the islands' earliest years of commercial salt production, enslaved Africans were brought by Bermudians to work the ponds under brutal conditions, standing in brine for hours beneath the blazing sun and facing long-term health consequences from exposure to salt and heat.

Emancipation in 1833 ended the worst abuses of slavery, but it did not immediately transform working or living conditions for many salt workers.

The salt-making process itself was simple in concept but physically demanding in execution. Sea water entered a series of shallow ponds called salinas, where it was concentrated by sun and wind.

After about ninety days, salt crystals would form and workers would rake them into piles, shovel them into wheelbarrows, and carry them to storage. From there, forty-pound sacks were filled and transported by donkey cart or small boats called lighters to waiting ships anchored offshore.

At its height, salt production in the Turks and Caicos was a vital part of the Atlantic economy. So important, in fact, that during the 18th century Britain's North American colonies imported hundreds of thousands of bushels of salt annually from the islands.

Yet this wealth rarely stayed in the hands of the labourers who made it. Large-scale changes in global salt production, competition from mechanized producers elsewhere, and the absence of deep-water ports eventually made traditional salt harvesting difficult to sustain. By the mid-1960s, commercial salt production in the islands had nearly ended, and the last operations closed entirely in the 1970s.

Today, the relics of this era, abandoned salinas, crumbling canals, and windmills silhouetted against the horizon, stand as quiet witnesses to a complex past. Some may see only ruins, but for many Turks Islanders, these landscapes speak to endurance. From the forced labour of the past emerged tight-knit communities whose descendants helped build the islands' modern identity. In the bright white of the salt crust and the strength of the people who worked it, that legacy shines still.

References:

Turks and Caicos National Museum (n.d.) Salt Industry. Av
Sadler, N. (2012) Turks Island Salt, NQ, v.105, n.01. Turks and Caicos National Museum
Dash, M. (2012) White Gold: How Salt Made and Unmade the Turks and Caicos Islands, Smithsonian Magazine, 14 December.
Shaking It Out (2022) Times of the Islands, 24 June.

Grant's Wheeland Offers Cheapest Regular Gas and Diesel

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Grant's gas station in Wheeland offered the most affordable regular gasoline and diesel on Providenciales, according to the Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition's fuel report for August 4, 2026.

The station listed regular gasoline at \$6.83 and diesel at \$6.70, the lowest reported prices for both fuel types on the island.

Mervco had the second-lowest regular-gas price at \$6.95 and the cheapest premium gasoline at \$7.15. Express Center followed with regular gasoline at \$6.97.

Long Bay Express listed regular gasoline at \$7.27, premium at \$7.67 and diesel at \$7.55.

Across Providenciales, regular gasoline ranged from \$6.83 at Grant's Wheeland

to \$7.69 at SmithCo. Premium prices ranged from \$7.15 at Mervco to \$7.90 at SmithCo, while diesel ranged from \$6.70 at Grant's Wheeland to \$7.99 at SmithCo and Caicos Oil Ltd.

On Grand Turk, W. Williams Gas Station offered the cheapest regular gasoline at \$7.20. E. Dickenson Gas recorded the lowest available premium and diesel prices at \$7.25 and \$7.10, respectively. Core Resources had North Caicos' lowest regular-gas price at \$7.76 and listed diesel at \$8. In South Caicos, Seaview Marina and Fuel Market both posted regular gasoline at \$8.35 and diesel at \$8.50.

Salt Cay recorded the highest prices included in the report, with Dickenson Gas Station listing regular gasoline at \$9 and diesel at \$9.10.

The Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition, known as the DTIFC,

is responsible for implementing and enforcing the Consumer Protection Ordinance. The legislation establishes provisions to protect consumers' interests in relation to the supply of goods and services throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The department said its fuel report provides an overview of prices across the country and helps inform the public about changes in fuel costs and broader pricing trends.

By monitoring and publishing fuel prices, the DTIFC aims to provide consumers with accurate and timely information to help them better understand pricing in the local fuel market and make informed purchasing decisions.

The department also encouraged motorists to compare prices among stations and consider filling up during off-peak periods when prices fluctuate. A

comparison of previous and current fuel prices is available through the link accompanying the DTIFC report.

CANTON FAIR CHINA

Autumn FAM Trip
(October 15th - November 4th, 2026)

 **Meeting, August 29th, Mis Amigos @ 6:30 pm**

 **649-342-0178**

TCI Minister of Information attends Caribbean Broadcasting Union Assembly

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Turks and Caicos Islands Minister Erwin Jay Saunders attended the Caribbean Broadcasting Union's 57th Annual General Assembly in Guyana, joining regional media, government and business leaders for discussions on the future of broadcasting and communications across the Caribbean.

Minister Saunders, whose ministerial responsibilities include Innovation, Technology and Energy, participated in engagements aimed at strengthening regional cooperation at a time when the media industry is undergoing rapid technological change.

Among the activities held on the sidelines of the assembly was a bilateral meeting between Minister Saunders and Guyana's Minister within the Office of the Prime Minister, Kwame McCoy.

The two ministers discussed areas of mutual interest in the media and communications sectors. Their talks highlighted the importance of closer collaboration among Caribbean countries as broadcasters and media organisations adjust to a fast-changing industry.

The meeting also provided an opportunity for the officials to examine how regional partnerships could support the development of stronger, more adaptable media institutions. Cooperation and the sharing of expertise were identified as important tools for responding to changes affecting the production, distribution and consumption of information.



Minister responsible for Information Hon. E. Jay Saunders

The assembly was convened against the backdrop of a media landscape increasingly influenced by digital transformation, emerging technologies and changing audience behaviour. These developments are creating new opportunities for broadcasters while also presenting challenges that require coordinated responses.

Audiences now have access to information through a growing range of digital platforms, changing how traditional broadcasters operate and connect with the communities they serve. Media organisations must therefore continue to explore innovative approaches that allow them to remain relevant, competitive and responsive.

The Caribbean Broadcasting Union's annual gathering provides a platform for broad-

casters, government representatives and other industry stakeholders from across the region to exchange experiences and examine emerging issues. It also allows participants to explore opportunities for collaboration and develop strategies suited to the Caribbean's unique communications environment.

Discussions at the assembly underscored the value of regional knowledge-sharing as Caribbean countries work to build media and communications sectors capable of responding to technological and audience-driven changes.

By sharing expertise, experiences and innovative ideas, regional participants can help strengthen the resilience of Caribbean media institutions. Such cooperation can also encourage the development of new approaches to content creation and distribution, enabling broadcasters to serve audiences more effectively.

The assembly was not only a forum for formal discussions but also an important opportunity for regional leaders to establish and deepen professional relationships. These connections could support future cooperation across the Caribbean media and communications landscape.

Minister Saunders' engagement with Minister McCoy reflected the wider objectives of the assembly, particularly the drive to strengthen partnerships and promote greater coordination among Caribbean states.

The meeting also demonstrated the Turks and Caicos Islands' participation in regional conversations concerning the future of

media, technology and communications. As digital technology continues to reshape how Caribbean people access and consume information, stronger regional coordination is expected to remain essential. Cooperation among governments, broadcasters and other stakeholders can help ensure that the Caribbean media sector remains innovative, resilient and responsive to the needs of the people it serves.

The 57th Annual General Assembly therefore offered regional representatives an important space to consider shared challenges, identify areas of mutual interest and reinforce their commitment to cooperation as the industry continues to evolve.

Bishop Collen Delancy
Leeward Highway, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, is seeking a

DOMESTIC WORKER



 **WAGE:**
\$352.00 p/week

 **CONTACT NUMBER:**
443-3465

 **DUTIES:**
Cleaning, Laundry and ironing.

THIS IS A RENEWAL OF WORK PERMIT.
BELONGERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY TO THE LABOUR DEPARTMENT.

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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JAY-SHAR HOSTS BACK-TO-SCHOOL KIDS FUNDAY

Jayshar Production, operators of the Miss International Turks and Caicos, hosted a Funday for Children at Villa PM, Venetian Road, Providenciales on Saturday, August 15. Aside from beach, pool and bouncing castle activities, the children were treated to delectable foods such as hotdogs, burgers, fries and a variety of beverages. They were also gifted with school utensils such as backpacks, books and writing implements.





TCI-D9 Donates More Than \$1,500 in Diapers to Local Families

The spirit of service and unity was on full display last month as TCI-D9 (Turks and Caicos Divine Nine) came together to support families in need across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

On July 1, 2026, TCI-D9, led by President Kendrick Forbes, officially delivered more than \$1,500 worth of diapers to the Department of Family and Children Services. The donation was made possible entirely through contributions raised within the organization, demonstrating the collective power of its members when united behind a common purpose.

From fundraising and donating to loading the truck, transporting the supplies, and unloading the boxes, members of TCI-D9 played an active role throughout the initiative.

The effort represents more than the delivery of much-needed supplies. It reflects TCI-D9's commitment to community service and its desire to make a meaningful difference in the lives of families throughout the islands.

For an organization rooted in a long-standing tradition of leadership, scholarship, service, and community uplift, the initiative provided an opportunity to put those values into action locally.

TCI-D9 expressed appreciation to everyone who contributed financially, assisted with organizing and transporting the donation, and gave their time to help make the initiative a success.

The Turks and Caicos Divine Nine is comprised of members representing the nine historically Black Greek-letter organizations:

- * Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.
- * Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc.
- * Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.
- * Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
- * Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
- * Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.
- * Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Inc.
- * Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.
- * Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc.

Together, the organizations represent a powerful legacy of service and collective action. Through TCI-D9, that legacy continues to take root in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The July donation was an important first step in TCI-D9's ongoing community-service efforts. As the organization continues to grow, its members remain committed to identifying opportunities to serve, uplift families, and strengthen the wider community. More than \$1,500 in diapers. Nine organizations. One united mission—and a whole lot of heart.

For TCI-D9, the message is simple: service is not just something we talk about; it is something we do.



Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital Celebrates Successful Completion of 2026 Summer READY Programme

Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital is pleased to announce the successful completion of its Summer READY Programme, a two-week internship initiative designed to provide high school students in Forms 3-5 with hands-on exposure to the healthcare environment and an opportunity to explore careers within the sector.

The programme, organised and hosted by the Training and Education Department, welcomed students into various clinical departments, where they gained first-hand insight into the day-to-day operations of a healthcare facility and learned directly from healthcare professionals.

Throughout the two-week internship, students were exposed to different aspects of patient care and clinical operations while developing important workplace competencies, including communication, teamwork, professionalism, punctuality and responsibility. The experience was designed to complement classroom learning while helping students make more informed decisions about their future education and career pathways.

Vernessa Forbes, Training and Education Manager, said the Summer READY Programme reflects the hospital's commitment

ment to developing young people and creating meaningful opportunities for them to explore the healthcare profession.

"Summer READY is about giving our young people an opportunity to experience healthcare beyond what they may have seen or learned in the classroom. Over the two weeks, our students were able to interact with healthcare professionals, observe different clinical environments and gain a better understanding of the dedication and teamwork required to care for our patients. We were impressed by their enthusiasm, curiosity and willingness to learn, and we hope this experience has inspired them to consider the many rewarding careers available in healthcare."

By rotating through and gaining exposure to various clinical departments, students were also able to see that healthcare extends beyond the roles most commonly associated with a hospital. The programme introduced them to the range of skills, disciplines and professionals that work together to deliver safe, compassionate and high-quality patient care.

Dr. Denise Braithwaite-Tennant, Chief Executive Officer, said the hospital has an important role to play in building the human



Participating students from the 2026 Summer READY Programme show-off their certificates

capacity needed to support the future development and sustainability of healthcare in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"As a hospital, our responsibility extends beyond providing healthcare services today; we also have an important role in helping to develop the people who will deliver and lead healthcare tomorrow. Human capacity building is essential to the long-term sustainability of our health system, and programmes such as Summer READY allow us to introduce young people to healthcare careers early, nurture their interests and help them understand the educational and professional pathways available to them.

By opening our clinical environment to students and providing mentorship and practical exposure, we are helping to build a pipeline of future nurses, physicians, allied health professionals and other healthcare workers. We want our young people to see that there is a place for their talents within the health sector and, importantly, that they can build rewarding careers while contributing to the health and development of the Turks and Caicos Islands. We are proud to play our part in investing in the next generation and strengthening our

country's future healthcare workforce."

The programme concluded with the presentation of certificates of completion to the students, recognizing their successful participation and commitment throughout the two-week internship.

Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital congratulates all of the students who successfully completed the Summer Ready Programme and extends its appreciation to the clinical teams, supervisors and staff members who provided mentorship, guidance and practical learning opportunities throughout the programme.

Through the Summer READY Programme and its wider education, training, internship and professional development initiatives, Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital remains committed to supporting national human capacity development. By partnering with educational institutions, government agencies and other stakeholders, and by providing mentorship and practical learning opportunities within the healthcare environment, the Hospital aims to strengthen the pipeline of skilled healthcare professionals needed to meet the evolving health needs of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Price of Being One Step Behind the Energy Crisis

An Op-Ed By Ed Forbes

Three years ago, FortisTCI announced an \$8 million solar investment. Where are we today?

Another record electricity bill. Another warning that another expensive month is coming. And once again, we are reminded that Turks and Caicos remains heavily dependent on diesel-generated electricity.

We are continually told that renewable energy is the long-term answer.

I agree.

But here's the question: How long does the long term have to be?

In June 2023, FortisTCI announced an \$8 million investment in what was described as the country's first solar-plus-battery microgrid projects. The plan was ambitious: provide approximately 30 percent of the electricity for North and Middle Caicos and an extraordinary 91 percent for Salt Cay. The original target was to have both systems operational in 2024.

A groundbreaking ceremony followed in July 2023. Then, in September 2024, FortisTCI reported that construction was progressing, with the North and Middle Caicos solar installation expected to be completed that year, the battery system in early 2025 and the Salt Cay microgrid in 2025.

It is now August 2026. So where are we?

This isn't about attacking FortisTCI, or its

new incarnation as Pelican Energy TCI. It is about accountability and transparency.

If a project was announced, groundbreaking took place and millions of dollars were committed, residents deserve to know what happened.

Was it completed? If not, why? How much of the \$8 million has been spent? How much electricity are these systems actually producing? And when will residents see the promised benefits?

Those are reasonable questions.

There is no question that Pelican Energy is now supporting renewable-energy development. Its recently commissioned 414-kilowatt rooftop solar system at Salterra Resort in South Caicos is a good example.

These questions become even more relevant with the recent publication that Pelican Energy TCI Ltd. is seeking planning permission to build a 10-megawatt solar farm, battery storage system and microgrid on approximately 20 acres in Providenciales.

That is potentially significant and should be welcomed. But what about the projects first promised in 2023 for North and Middle Caicos and Salt Cay that would support the local communities?

Residents should not have to choose between welcoming new renewable-energy investment and asking for accountability on previous commitments. We should be able to do both.

New investment in renewable energy should be encouraged. Competition, private investment and innovation should all be welcomed. But new announcements should not cause us to forget about previous commitments.

Residents deserve a clear roadmap showing what has been completed, what is delayed, what is awaiting approval and how much renewable energy will actually replace diesel generation.

Publicly available credit information reported in 2024 indicated that FortisTCI generated approximately \$108 million in revenue in 2023 and \$118 million in 2024, a 9.3 percent increase.

That does not mean the company made that much in profit. But it does demonstrate that this was a substantial utility operation. So perhaps the bigger question isn't whether renewable energy is affordable, it's whether we have been moving fast enough. Minister for Innovation, Technology and Energy Hon. Jay Saunders is right that there is no overnight solution to our dependence on diesel. The transition requires planning, investment, infrastructure and regulatory changes.

But we have known this for years.

The Minister has also said government wants to encourage independent operators to enter the solar-generation business and potentially sell electricity back to the grid.

That's encouraging. But why not go further? Why shouldn't renewable-energy investments qualify for low-interest loans? Why not provide grants, rebates or tax incentives to homeowners and small businesses willing to install solar and battery systems?

Government doesn't have to finance the entire energy transition, it can help residents finance it.

Every home and business generating some of its own electricity potentially reduces our dependence on imported diesel. And with a fair, predictable system for selling excess electricity back to the grid, residents become more than consumers. They become energy producers.

That is the transformation we should be pursuing.

The Turks and Caicos Islands has abundant sunshine. We have the technology. We have residents willing to invest. We have businesses looking for opportunities.

And now we have another major solar project on the table. What we need is urgency. Three years ago, we were told solar projects would transform the energy supply of two island communities.

Now, another major project is being proposed in Providenciales. That is encouraging, but proposals are not power generation. We have spent years talking about renewable energy. It's time to stop talking about the future and start delivering it.



Justmable Family Shows Gratitude

On August 2, the Justmable Family, who is originally from Haiti, paid tribute to several people who assisted in one way or another as they settled in the Turks and Caicos. Among the recipients were Bishop Coleta Williams II, Founder and Pastor of the Abundant Life Ministries International; Superintendent of Police Deacon Randy Ellis; and Pastor Edvard Jean. The event was held at the Abundant Life Ministries International. The following are photo highlights of the event.





Is your heart racing or skipping beats?

Have you ever noticed your heart suddenly racing or feeling like it skips a beat? Divya Korpu, MBBS, with the Department of Cardiovascular Medicine at Mayo Clinic Health System in Eau Claire, Wisconsin, explains what causes these sensations and whether they can be treated.

What you’re experiencing may be an abnormal heart rhythm, also known as an arrhythmia. Arrhythmias fall into two categories: too fast or too slow. A racing heart or a skipped beat typically falls into the ‘too fast’ category. When an abnormal heartbeat interrupts the normal rhythm, you may feel palpitations – sensations that your heart is racing, fluttering, skipping a beat – or a sense of panic. Often, these symptoms are more noticeable at night or when lying down.

In younger people, typically those in their 20s to 50s, the heart may suddenly speed up from a normal rate to 180-200 beats per minute. This rapid heartbeat can cause lightheadedness, dizziness, anxiety or, in some cases, fainting.

Fast or skipped heartbeats can originate in either the upper or lower chambers of the heart. Those that begin in the top chamber are called premature atrial contractions (PACs), while those starting in the bottom chambers are premature ventricular contractions (PVCs). Although they can feel alarming, PACs and PVCs generally aren’t dangerous or life-threatening. They don’t cause heart attacks, strokes or increase the risk of death.

These irregular heartbeats may be caused by:

- . An abnormal electric circuit that people are born with.
- . Thyroid disorders.
- . Hormonal changes related to pregnancy or menopause.
- . Excessive caffeine or alcohol consumption.

If symptoms are infrequent and don’t interfere with daily activities, people often learn to live with them. However, if they become bothersome, medication may help suppress the extra heartbeats.

One way to slow a sudden racing heart is by performing a vagal manoeuvre, which can help



interrupt the abnormal rhythm. Vagal maneuvers include bearing down like you are having a bowel movement, blowing into a straw with one end closed, clearing your ears as you might on an airplane, dipping your face in ice-cold water or taking a cold shower.

Evaluation

However, these are temporary fixes. If symptoms persist, patients may be referred for further evaluation, such as an electrophysiology study and possible catheter ablation. During this procedure, catheters are threaded through veins in the groin and guided to the heart. Doctors use specialized wires to find where the arrhythmia is coming from. Then energy is delivered via the catheter to eliminate the abnormal circuit.

Ablation is usually done under twilight sedation and typically is a same-day procedure. Patients need someone with them for 24 hours, should avoid driving for 24 hours, and shouldn’t lift anything heavy for a week, to let the groin incisions heal. After that, they can resume their normal activities

PACs and PVCs are most common in younger people. For older adults, the most common fast rhythm is atrial fibrillation (AFib) or atrial flutter. These are different types of heart rhythms which become increasingly common with age.

AFib can cause irregular heartbeat, palpitations, chest discomfort, lightheadedness, dizziness, fatigue and sometimes passing out. Some people have no symptoms, and the condition is discov-

ered during routine care or procedures.

Common causes of AFib include untreated sleep apnea, excessive caffeine, binge drinking or overconsumption of alcohol, thyroid disorders, and hormonal changes. In a small group of patients, spicy foods may trigger AFib.

Treatment for AFib

Treatment options include:

- . Medication to control fast heart rate.
- . Medication to control heart rhythm.
- . Catheter ablation

Ablation for AFib is done under general anesthesia. It’s a minimally invasive procedure in which doctors access the heart through the groin and target areas on the left side of the heart responsible for triggering or sustaining the abnormal rhythm. Traditionally, two types of energy – radiofrequency (heat) and cryoablation (cold) – have been used for ablation.

Most recently, a new, non-thermal option – pulsed field ablation – has been introduced. This energy source selectively targets heart muscle cells. This reduces the risk of serious or life-threatening damage to the surrounding structures, such as the esophagus and the phrenic nerve, which controls the diaphragm and breathing.

Recovery after ablation is similar regardless of the energy source used, including about one week of limited activity.

During AFib, blood can pool in the heart, form clots and cause a stroke. Depending on individual risk factors, patients are often prescribed a blood thinner once they’re diagnosed with atrial fibrillation or atrial flutter, even after undergoing ablation. If they’re not able to tolerate blood thinners, a permanent device may be implanted in their heart to seal off the left atrial appendage, where most clots form, to reduce the risk of stroke.

If you’re experiencing a racing heart, noticing skipped beats or symptoms of an irregular heart rhythm, consult with your healthcare professional or a cardiologist to determine whether further evaluation or treatment is needed.

Female athletes are up to 8 times more likely to suffer an ACL injury

No one wants to hear the distinctive pop of an ACL tearing or rupturing, which typically means the player’s season is at an end.

The ACL, or anterior cruciate ligament, is located inside the knee and provides stability during movements such as cutting, turning, twisting and jumping.

Deanna Brinks, M.D., a physical medicine and rehabilitation and sports medicine physician at the Mayo Clinic Health System in Mankato, explains prevention and treatment.

Female athletes are up to roughly eight times more likely to experience ACL injuries, Dr. Brinks explains. While the causes are still being studied, several factors may contribute to the increased risk:

- More girls and women are participating in competitive sports.
- Women’s wider pelvises create a greater angle from the hip to the knee, which changes how force travels through the knee.
- The ACL in women is thinner than in men.
- The strength of women’s quadriceps — the muscles in the front of the thigh — is greater than the strength of their hamstrings — the muscles in the back of the thigh. The opposite is true in men.
- When women land from a jump, their quads can overpower their hamstrings, reducing the stability of their knees.

Recent research is exploring the effect of hormones on the ACL during the menstrual cycle. One hormone, relaxin, does just that — relaxes women’s ligaments before giving birth. It’s also at higher levels in their bodies leading up to their

period, which may relax the ACL and make it more prone to injury.

“Awareness of the factors behind increases in injuries can lead to improved training for women that addresses proper technique, muscle strength, balance and biomechanics,” Dr. Brinks says.

One resource for helping prevent ACL injuries is the FIFA 11+ Warm-up Program. It was developed by an international group of experts and is available online for free.

Divided into three segments, each segment has its own set of exercises with progression levels to add difficulty and variation. The exercises pay special attention to knee strength and position. Although this 20-minute warmup was developed for soccer players, it can be translated to any sport, from basketball to pickleball.

“Whether you follow this program or something similar, players should commit to strength, balance and knee-position work for at least 10 minutes, three or more times a week,” Dr. Brinks says. “There’s a push to incorporate this kind of training into youth, high school and college programs.”

No one is completely protected from ACL injuries, which range from sprains to partial tears to ruptures, she adds. With a partial tear, segments of the ligament remain connected. A rupture rips the ligament in two.

If you experience an injury, you may seek treatment first from a sports medicine or orthopedics clinician. They’ll ask questions about how the



injury happened and if contact was involved. About 70% of injuries are noncontact and may have been caused while pivoting or landing from a jump. Typically, patients undergo an MRI to clarify the extent of the injury.

If it’s a sprain, treatment may involve wearing a knee brace while the ligament heals, which can take weeks to months. Intensive physical therapy to strengthen the knee and alleviate biomechanical imbalances is a mainstay of treatment. Once the ACL heals, the athlete may return to their sport.

If the ACL is torn, the severity of the tear will determine if surgery is needed. A rupture requires surgery to reconstruct the ACL using a graft from the patient’s patellar, quadriceps or hamstring tendon. No matter the type of graft, athletes can expect at least nine months of recovery and rehabilitation before returning to play.

“For any ACL injury, part of recovery is regaining confidence in the injured knee,” Dr. Brinks says.

“Physical therapy can help restore and reinforce confidence.”

While the recovery period may be up to a year or more, return-to-play rates are excellent — around 80%. However, once athletes return to play, there’s a risk of reinjury, especially for those in their teens and early 20s. About 1 in 4 athletes will experience a second ACL injury.

Studies show that reinjury to the reconstructed knee is similar for men and women. However, some studies report women have a greater risk of ACL injury in the opposite knee. So prevention through strength and biomechanics training is key.

“Before an injury happens, youth and student athletes should consider a biomechanical assessment by their team’s athletic trainer, a sports medicine specialist or a physical therapist,” Dr. Brinks says. “While this approach will lessen injuries, it won’t completely prevent them”, she adds.

Lauryn Hill, Wyclef Jean for Global Citizen Festival

Singer Lauryn Hill performs during the draw for the 2026 soccer World Cup at the Kennedy Center in Washington, December 5, 2025.

Ms Lauryn Hill and her Fugees’ bandmate Wyclef Jean will bring their pointed and political music to Global Citizen Festival this fall.

The headliners, announced Thursday, are a fitting choice. The annual gathering in New York’s Central Park rallies attendees to pressure world leaders to fund a range of anti-poverty initiatives at the end of the United Nations General Assembly’s yearly high-level meetings. Joining them on September 26 are rocker Lenny Kravitz, R&B-pop singer John Legend, country music star Lainey Wilson, chart-topping Grammy winner Shaboozey, and K-pop group TOMORROW X TOGETHER.

The two Fugees are fresh off several performances marking the 30th anniversary of their landmark album, The Score. They were in London, where Hill also brought her music festival celebrating the sounds of the African diaspora, and Rio de Janeiro, where they closed out Global Citizen’s weeklong climate programming.

It’s also the first festival since Global Citizen produced the World Cup’s first half-time show. That collaboration helped

raise more than US\$60 million for the education fund launched with FIFA. Global Citizen co-founder Hugh Evans hopes to leverage next month’s gathering to shore up some outstanding commitments.

Festivalgoers gain entry by taking actions such as petitioning countries to dip into their international development budgets. This year’s priorities include mobilising US\$100 million to provide 2 million children with access to education, nutritious food and healthcare; gathering US\$100 million to improve food security for 1.5 million smallholder farmers; and moving US\$1.5 billion to expand clean energy in the Indo-Pacific region.

The countries facing asks this year include Spain, Norway, Ireland, Kenya, Japan, Denmark and Australia. Evans specifically called on France to support the FIFA Global Citizen Education Fund, Gavi, Education Cannot Wait, or any of their other education partners.

“Macron will often talk a lot about their leadership on issues of education,” Evans said of the French president. “But, I think, when the rubber hits the road, are they actually stepping up?”

One country that isn’t on the list? The United States. Once the world’s single largest aid donor, the US now provides for Evans “an example of a country that

should be a leader on the global stage that is such an incredible laggard at this point”. The US wasn’t worth targeting, according to Evans, given that the administration “butchered its entire foreign aid budget” and “dismantled the entire apparatus” of the US Agency for International Development.

Still, while acknowledging a “world of shrinking foreign aid”, Evans expressed optimism that the pendulum will shift.

“I believe that the future belongs to political leaders who are willing to understand the nuance of how power works,” Evans said. “Power doesn’t have to be a negative thing. It can be a very positive thing if you’re wielding it for good. As Spider-Man taught us: with great power comes great responsibility.”

This year’s festival offers a new way for people to gain admission. Fans can still enter the free ticket lottery by completing calls to action on the Global Citizen app. But they can also get automatic entry by making a US\$25 charitable donation. The funds raised will go toward New York’s City Parks Foundation and organisations that serve those experiencing homelessness.

Evans hopes that artistes such as Wilson and Shaboozey, both country music acts,



Lauryn Hill

can bring a new audience to his movement. He noted that Wilson, who expressed interest in the festival’s support of the International Fund for Agricultural Development, comes from a family of farmers.

“It’s been quite some time, I’d say, since we had this level of a country presence in our line-up,” Evans said. “So, I’m super excited about that. I’m hoping that the fans are, too.”

Netflix wants judge to toss Tyra Banks’ lawsuit

Netflix has sought to have Tyra Banks’ lawsuit against it thrown out.

The 52-year-old model filed a defamation lawsuit against the streaming service in June, alleging she has suffered “significant mental anguish” over the way she is portrayed in their docuseries Reality Check: Inside America’s Next Top Model, accusing producers of using just 16 minutes of a three-and-a-half-hour interview with her, which was shown as clips that were “stripped of context and reassembled to support a false and defamatory narrative unrelated to what she actually expressed”.

And, on Friday, Netflix submitted documents to the court, asking them to dismiss her claims.

A spokesperson told Us Weekly: “Directors Daniel Sivan and Mor Loushy are respected documentarians who thoroughly interviewed the people behind America’s Next Top Model.

“Tyra Banks was given the opportunity to speak openly about her experience, and the creators fairly presented her perspective alongside those of every other participant shown in this documentary.

“We stand behind Reality Check: Inside America’s Next Top Model and will continue to vigorously defend it.”

Following the court submission, Banks called on Netflix to release the unedited version of her interview, having accused



Tyra Banks

them of distorting the truth.

Her attorneys, Tom Locke and Clare Locke, said in a statement: “Tyra’s lawsuit raises a simple question: can viewers trust that a documentary presented as fact fairly represents what happened and what people actually said? Netflix’s response only underscores the issue.

“It points to the editing of reality television to defend the editing of this documentary. No one disputes that documentaries are edited. The question is whether those edits materially distorted the truth. This is not about Tyra being ‘dissatisfied’



with an edit, nor is it about wanting creative control. It is about whether viewers were given an accurate representation of her words and the facts.

“Netflix has Tyra’s complete, unedited interview. If Netflix stands behind the accuracy of its documentary, it should release that interview in full and let viewers judge for themselves. Let the public compare what Tyra actually said with what Netflix chose to show. The facts are the facts and, here, the facts are recorded and being hidden by Netflix.”

In her lawsuit, Banks argued the docuseries featured “manufactured drama” and “constructed narratives”.

Court documents obtained by People magazine stated: “The Netflix series Reality Check: Inside America’s Next Top Model (the ‘Netflix Series’) was sold to viewers as a ‘documentary series’.

“Netflix called it ‘the definitive, must-watch chronicle of America’s Next Top Model.’ The genre matters. Viewers of a documentary do not expect manufactured drama or constructed narratives. They expect facts. Because they were promised a

documentary, that is exactly how viewers interacted with the Netflix Series.”

Banks, who wants a jury to determine the “appropriate” amount she should receive in damages, claimed the accountability she took for some of America’s Next Top Model’s most controversial moments were edited out.

The lawsuit added: “Worse, the false narrative the producers constructed – through selective editing, deliberate omission, and surgical manipulation of continuous footage - included that Ms Banks knowingly allowed a contestant to be sexually assaulted on her show, exploited that contestant’s trauma for ratings, and then could not even remember it when asked.

“That narrative about Ms Banks is a complete fabrication – one that Netflix streamed to a global audience of millions.”

Because of what Banks feels was a “false and defamatory” portrayal of her in the docuseries, she is suing for “damages, including loss of future business opportunities, loss of business income, other compounding losses as will be shown at trial”.

Salary expectations - \$75,000- \$85,000 per annum



Antwon Walkin (right) being sworn in along with other elected members



Antwon Walkin delivering his address

ANTWON WALKIN INAUGURATED AS CHAIRMAN OF THE 15TH ADMINISTRATION OF THE HOWARD UNIVERSITY STUDENT ASSOCIATION SENATE

Historic inauguration marks the beginning of a new chapter of service, responsibility, and student-centered leadership at Howard University. Antwon H.F. Walkin was officially inaugurated as Chairman of the Senate of the 15th Administration of the Howard University Student Association (HUSA), assuming the responsibility of leading the legislative branch of Howard University's student government. The inauguration brought together students, student leaders, alumni, family, friends, and members of the Howard community to witness the formal transition of Senate leadership and the beginning of the Fifteenth Administration.

The occasion also marked a historic milestone, with Walkin becoming the first son of the Turks and Caicos Islands and first of the Caribbean Region's citizens to serve as Chairman of the HUSA Senate.

Following his inauguration, Chairman Walkin delivered a powerful address that spoke to the hearts of students and alumni alike, offering a candid reflection on the realities of leadership, the sacrifices demanded by service, and the responsibility leaders carry to ensure that no member of their community is forgotten.

"Leadership demands that, from time to time, we surrender the privilege of placing ourselves first. It asks us to give

away our time, our comfort, our convenience, and often our recognition. But leadership should never require us to surrender our character."

Walkin placed his inauguration within the broader history of the HUSA Senate, noting that the institution traces its current legislative structure to the March 1, 2011 student referendum that amended the HUSA Constitution. Fourteen administrations later, he challenged the Fifteenth Administration to understand that inheriting leadership also means inheriting an obligation to leave Howard stronger than they found it.

"This inauguration is more than the passing of a gavel," Walkin declared. "It is the passing of a responsibility entrusted to every generation of Howard students: to leave this institution stronger than we found it."

At the center of the Chairman's address was a simple but consequential question: "What about us?"

Walkin reflected on the experiences of students who may feel unseen within the University—from first-generation and international students to those facing financial hardship or circumstances that threaten their ability to complete their Howard education. He argued that the true measure of institutional excellence cannot simply be the achievements Howard celebrates, but must also include those whom the

University refuses to leave behind.

"Excellence is not measured solely by the achievements we celebrate. Excellence is measured by the people we refuse to leave behind."

He further challenged traditional understandings of representation, declaring that holding office alone is insufficient if students do not feel recognized, accepted, and served.

"Representation without recognition is symbolism. Representation without acceptance is performative."

Looking toward the work of the Fifteenth Administration, Walkin called upon senators to measure their success not simply by legislative output, but by tangible impact on the lives of Howard students.

"What if this Administration was measured not by the resolutions we passed, but by the students we reached—not by our applause, but by our impact?" he asked.

While acknowledging the historic significance of his own election, Walkin emphasized that being first must never become the final objective.

"Representation opened the door. Responsibility called us through it. Legacy will be determined by what we build together once we have entered."

His address ultimately issued a broader call to service—not only to those taking the oath of office, but to every member of the Howard community. Draw-

ing upon the biblical principle of looking beyond one's own interests toward the interests of others, Walkin argued that leadership is ultimately defined by what individuals are prepared to give for the benefit of their community.

Addressing the newly inaugurated senators directly, he reminded them that the true test of their commitment would come not during moments of recognition, but when service becomes difficult.

"There will come a day when serving becomes inconvenient. There will come a day when criticism outweighs applause. There will come a day when nobody thanks you. On that day... remember why you ran. For Every Bison." Chairman Walkin concluded his inaugural address by looking beyond titles, legislation, and individual recognition toward the legacy the Fifteenth Administration hopes to leave behind.

"History may remember who held this office. Howard will remember what we did with it," Walkin said. "So let us move... FOR EVERY BISON. Into responsibility. Into service. Into legacy."

With the inauguration complete, Chairman Walkin and the Senate of the Fifteenth Administration now begin their term with a charge centered on service, accountability, inclusion, and ensuring that the voices and experiences of Howard students remain at the heart of the legislative process.

ROCKHOUSE

TURKS & CAICOS
GRACE BAY RESORTS

OPEN JOB POSITION Restaurant Manager

We are seeking a proficient and enthusiastic Restaurant Manager to join our team!

JOB OVERVIEW:

We are seeking candidates who are passionate about delivering exceptional guest experiences, possess strong operational and analytical skills, and have a proven track record of leadership. The Restaurant Manager oversees daily restaurant operations, ensuring the highest standards of service, quality, and food safety. This role leads team development initiatives, coordinates staff training programs, and drives the successful execution of special projects across the operation. The successful candidate will be responsible for developing, implementing, and facilitating programs that enhance employee performance, operational efficiency, and guest satisfaction.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Lead the daily operation of the restaurant (Breakfast, Lunch and Dinner) ensuring exceptional service standards are maintained at all times.
- Supervise and motivate assist restaurant Managers, supervisors, servers, hosts, and support staff.
- Ensure compliance with LQA, Grace Bay Resorts, and departmental service standards.
- Monitor service quality, cleanliness, food presentation, and guest satisfaction throughout each service period.
- Coordinate with the Executive Chef to ensure seamless food and beverage service.
- Conduct daily briefings, pre-shift meetings, and operational follow-ups.
- Handle VIP arrivals and ensure personalized guest experiences.
- Resolve guest complaints professionally while maximizing guest satisfaction.
- Maintain labour productivity, scheduling, and staffing levels according to business demands.
- Ensure compliance with health, hygiene, sanitation, and food safety regulations.
- Maintain a non managing the OpenTable page for VITA, including controlling reservations, covers, and seating flow in line with business levels and operational requirements.
- Monitoring and responding to Tripadvisor and Google reviews, and proactively connecting with guests when service recovery is required.
- Regularly reviewing and updating VITA menus in close coordination with the Culinary Team.
- Working closely with the Bar Manager to ensure the service bar is appropriately set up, stocked, and prepared to support smooth and efficient service operations.

REQUIREMENTS AND QUALIFICATIONS:

- Wine & Beverage Program
- Team Leadership and Training
- Financial and Administrative Responsibilities
- Guest Experiences

EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS:

- Minimum 3–5 years of management experience in luxury restaurants or five-star resorts.
- Previous experience as a Restaurant Manager or Assistant Restaurant Manager.
- Luxury hotel or LQA experience is highly desirable.

EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:

- Diploma or Degree in Hospitality Management, Hotel Management, Business Administration, or a related field preferred.
- WSET Level 2 minimum required.
- WSET Level 3 or Certified Sommelier preferred.
- Strong knowledge of Old World and New World wines.
- Knowledge of Champagne, sparkling wines, fortified wines, and premium spirits.
- Ability to conduct professional wine tastings and pairing experiences.

SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES REQUIRED:

- Business Acumen.
- Great organization & planning skills.
- Effective Communication & Confidentiality Consultation
- Strong Connection & Collaboration skills
- Critical Evaluation
- Ethical Practice
- Values Diversity
- Global & Cultural Awareness
- Learning & Development Expertise
- Leadership & Navigation
- Relationship Management

SALARY: \$48,000.00 - \$52,800.00 per annum
BONUS + SERVICE CHARGE

Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board, Zone 2

Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes to our Human Resources Department via Email: **humanresources@rockhouseressort.com** or hand deliver applications at our office on #1 International Drive, Providenciales. Positions marked with an * are currently being held by a work permit holder.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2026

Gov't Sued Over Detention Amid Demolition of Trelawny Homes

JAMAICA- Nine men from Cooper's Pen, Trelawny, who claim that they were rounded up by the police and kept in custody for hours during last week's controversial demolition exercise in the community, have filed a lawsuit against the Government for breaches of their constitutional rights.

The lawsuit, which was filed in the Supreme Court on Monday, June 17, by the law firm Donovan Collins & Company, seeks damages for false imprisonment and assault.

It claimed that about 3 a.m. on August 11, cops assigned to the Falmouth Police Station, armed with high-powered weapons and wearing masks, "burst into" the men's homes "without reasonable and/or probable cause".

The lawsuit claims that the men

were "wrongfully arrested" and detained for approximately 13 hours without being given any reason for their arrest and detention.

The men charged that they were arrested in circumstances where the same police officers "knew of and/or oversaw the demolition of their homes and personal properties".

The men claim they were released without any criminal charges after the exercise to demolish their homes was completed "without them being present to assist their families or to try and save any of their personal property".

"The claimants were released without any question-and-answer or identification parade ... or any other investigative procedure normally used by the police when they have



Tents erected amid the rubble of demolished houses in Cooper's Pen, Trelawny, last week.

reasonable suspicion that a suspect has committed an offence. They were never given any lawful reason for their arrest and detention," it contends.

"By these reasons, the claimants suffered unlawful deprivation of their liberty, losses and damage and incurred expenses," claimed

the lawsuit, a copy of which was obtained by The Gleaner.

The attorneys argue that the conduct by cops from the Falmouth Police Station were "arbitrary, oppressive and unconstitutional", entitling the men to aggravated and/or exemplary damages for false imprisonment.

CDB and World Bank Agree on Joint Actions to Accelerate Development Programme in Grenada

The Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) and the World Bank Group (WBG) have concluded a joint Portfolio Review Mission in Grenada, agreeing to a set of follow-up actions to strengthen implementation across the country's active development portfolio.

The recent mission brought together senior officials from both institutions with counterparts from the Ministry of Economic Development, Planning, and Cooperatives, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Mobilisation, Implementation and Transformation, key line ministries and other implementing agencies, culminating in a meeting with Cabinet Ministers.

The review process examined 11 active capital and technical assistance projects within CDB's portfolio, spanning coastal protection, water supply, health, education, agriculture, renewable energy, and monitoring and evaluation.

Mr. L. O'Reilly Lewis, Director, Projects Department, CDB, underscored the significance of the review and its outcomes, and said, "There was

strong engagement from the project teams and line ministries in Grenada during the portfolio review. Together with the World Bank, we believe this will translate into tangible development results and stronger resilience for all Grenadians."

Among the projects discussed were the Geothermal Drilling Project, advancing Grenada's transition to renewable energy; the Southern St. George Water Supply Expansion Project, improving access to reliable water services; the Grenada Education Enhancement Project Phase 2, upgrading school infrastructure nationwide; the Climate Smart Agriculture Phase 2 project, strengthening resilient farming practices; and the Health Sector Strengthening Project, modernising healthcare delivery.

Discussions also covered cross-cutting issues including procurement, environmental and social safeguards, monitoring, and risk management, alongside a parallel World Bank Country Portfolio Performance Review.

Ms. Gail Richardson, World Bank

Operations Manager for the Caribbean, noted, "The World Bank has worked closely with the CDB through this joint review in order to expedite program implementation and the achievement of development results that advance Grenada's resilience and growth agenda, while expanding opportunities for jobs and livelihoods."

As part of the mission, the team undertook site visits to four priority projects. At Concord, the delegation joined Government of Grenada representatives to mark progress on the Southern St. Georges Water Supply Expansion Project, which is strengthening resilience against persistent water shortages in the south of mainland Grenada. The team also visited the Climate Smart Agriculture Phase 2 project, which is building on earlier gains in climate-resilient farming practices to support rural livelihoods and food security.

Mr. Mike Sylvester, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Finance, welcomed the outcomes of the mission, and said, "The Government of Grenada values this comprehensive

review and its partnership with CDB and the World Bank. The mission has reinforced our shared commitment to delivering meaningful development outcomes and strengthening the implementation of projects that are critical to Grenada's sustainable growth and resilience."

The mission agreed on the following: (i) key follow-up actions to improve implementation rates and disbursement across the portfolio; (ii) areas for deeper collaboration and harmonisation between CDB and WBG; and (iii) an updated pipeline of forthcoming CDB-financed projects for Grenada. A joint management letter summarising the findings and agreed actions will be shared with the Government of Grenada in the coming weeks.

The Portfolio Review Mission forms part of both Banks' ongoing country engagement with Grenada. It also aligns with CDB's Strategic Plan 2026-2035, which seeks to strengthen institutions and deepen partnerships, and ensure that investments deliver lasting resilience and opportunity across the Region

YOUNG SWIMMERS

IMPRESS AT GOODWILL CHAMPS



SEE PG36

Bayern midfielder Musiala reveals 'neurological' issue after collapse during game for second time

Bayern Munich midfielder Jamal Musiala said he's dealing with a neurological issue but doing well despite collapsing during a pre-season game on Tuesday at Heidenheim, three days after a similar incident against Leipzig.

The 23-year-old Germany international went down shortly after entering Tuesday's friendly as a substitute in the second half. Players from both teams made a circle around Musiala as he received medical treatment. He was then helped as he walked off the pitch. Musiala had collapsed on Saturday during a friendly against Leipzig. German news agency DPA reported he had left the field on his own but still appeared dazed.

After Tuesday's game, Musiala posted a message on his Instagram account, explaining that he had been diagnosed with temporary "but easily treatable absence seizures" caused by a neurological problem.



Munich's Jamal Musiala (center) leaves the pitch due to an injury during a pre-season soccer match between FC Bayern Munich and RB Leipzig in Munich, Germany, on Saturday. - AP

"These can lead to the moments that happened recently, such as

against Leipzig or even now in Heidenheim," Musiala wrote.

Bayern, in its report on Tuesday's game, only said of the incident: "There was a setback when Jamal Musiala had to be subbed off with a knock minutes after coming on." Musiala said he's "very optimistic" and is receiving excellent medical treatment.

"The important thing is that there is no additional health risk," he wrote.

"In close coordination and regular communication with experts, it has been my personal wish to face the challenge and, with the endorsement of the neurological specialists, to devote myself to what helps me most in recovery: to simply live my everyday life and keep up with my passion of playing football," Musiala added.

Bundesliga champion Bayern faces Borussia Dortmund on Saturday in the German Supercup, the traditional curtain-raiser for the season.

Jamaican chess player makes history at World Schools Championship

RAJVIR Shergil made history by becoming the first Jamaican to win a medal at the FIDE ISCF World Schools Team Chess Championship, while Creative Kids Learning Academy (CKLA) became the first Jamaican school to compete at the event in San Jose, Costa Rica, August 12-15. Shergil placed third overall on Board 2 to earn Jamaica's first medal at the championship, making the achievement even more significant for the Jamaica Chess Federation, which described it as a milestone for local school chess.

Shergil was part of the four-member CKLA team that included Luke Wright, ACM Jayden Hylton and Isabel Misir.

The Jamaican team finished 14th among 29 schools from 25 countries across the Americas.

Saco Oliveros de Lince of Peru won the overall competition, with Harvest Park Middle School of the United States finishing second and Crescent Heights Academy of Canada third. Shergil said he was happy to win

Jamaica's first medal at the competition and praised his teammates, coaches and parents for their support.

Coach Warren Elliott said he is proud of the team and Shergil's historic performance.

"I'm extremely proud of these youngsters. They prepared hard and displayed true grit playing against opposition, in some instances, much older than they are. Rajvir's historic performance will put a smile on my face for years to come," Elliott said.

CKLA opened the competition with a 3-1 win over Colegio Padre Agustin Valentini of El Salvador before losing 4-0 to Harvest Park Middle School.

The Jamaicans rebounded with a 3-1 win over Unidad Educativa Salesianos Don Bosco Macas of Ecuador and then drew 2-2 with Colegio Celta Internacional of Mexico.

CKLA lost 3-1 to Columbus American School of Colombia before beating British School of Costa Rica 3-1.

The Jamaican team then drew 2-2 with The Oxford School of Panama



From left: Creative Kids Learning Academy team members Rajvir Shergil, Jayden Hylton, Principal Hae-di-Kaye Holmes, Luke Wright, Isabel Misir, and Coach Warren Elliott at the World Schools Team Chess Championship in San Jose, Costa Rica, on Saturday.

before ending the competition with a 4-0 loss to Saint Gabriel's School of Peru.

Round 1 – CKLA 3, Colegio Padre Agustin Valentini (El Salvador) 1

Round 2 – CKLA 0, Harvest Park Middle School (United States) 4

Round 3 – CKLA 3, Unidad Educativa Salesianos Don Bosco Macas (Ecuador) 1

Round 4 – CKLA 2, Colegio Celta Internacional (Mexico) 2

Round 5 – CKLA 1, Columbus American School (Colombia) 3

Round 6 – CKLA 3, British School (Costa Rica) 1

Round 7 – CKLA 2, The Oxford School (Panama) 2

Round 8 – CKLA 0, Saint Gabriel's School (Peru) 4

DARWIN PLUS LOCAL: ANT DIVERSITY IN TCI

Departments of Agriculture and Environmental Health • Fera Science Ltd, UK

Tiny Invaders, Big Impact

Island-wide survey uncovers the hidden world of ants across the Turks and Caicos Islands

By Roneta Huntley Thomas, Jordinae E. C. Williams and Noel Tawatao



AT A GLANCE

More than 30 ant species have been collected so far—and most are non-native to the region.

30+

ant species collected



ABOUT 40%

native to the region



6 ISLANDS

included in the survey



They may be tiny, but ants can have an enormous impact on island life. Some invasive species threaten native wildlife, damage crops, disrupt ecosystems and create health and safety concerns for communities.

That is why the Darwin Plus locally funded project DPLO0130 launched the first island-wide effort to document ant diversity in Providenciales, North Caicos, Middle Caicos, South Caicos, Grand Turk and East Caicos spear headed by the Departments of Agriculture and Fera Science Ltd. in the United Kingdom.

What did the survey find?

Teams used baiting, leaf-litter collection and careful hand searches to sample ants in different environments. More than 30 species have been collected, and that number may rise as the project is completed.

About 40% of the species recorded are native to the region. The remainder are non-native and include two well-known invaders: the red imported fire ant (*Solenopsis invicta*) and the big-headed ant (*Pheidole megacephala*).



A human footprint in the findings

Providenciales—the largest and most populated island and the main centre of trade—recorded the greatest variety of ants.

By contrast, no non-native ants were collected on uninhabited East Caicos.



The contrast reinforces an important lesson: people, goods, plants, soil and cargo can unintentionally help invasive ants move from place to place.



RED FLAG SPECIES:

Red imported fire ant
(*Solenopsis invicta*)



Big-headed ant
(*Pheidole megacephala*)



Leaf litter is placed in Winkler traps, which extract ants for study.



Darwin Fellow Noel Tawatao trains local staff to identify ants.



Port inspections help detect invasive ants.



Collecting leaf litter samples to study ant species.



Turning research into protection

The project is not only counting ants. It is building the local skills and systems needed to detect new arrivals early and respond before they become widely established.



Local teams trained

Staff from the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Health and partner organizations received hands-on training in surveillance, ant identification and rapid-response procedures. Newly developed identification guides and reporting forms will help teams retain and share this knowledge after the project ends.



High-risk entry points checked

Plant nurseries and cargo docks received special attention because they are among the places where invasive ants are most likely to arrive, establish and spread. Inspections, stronger biosecurity practices, baiting and habitat isolation can help contain invasive populations.



SMART CONTROL: Any use of insect-growth regulators or toxicant baits must be carefully planned to limit effects on other species and protect ecological balance.



A legacy beyond the project

Although Darwin Plus Local funding is nearing completion, trained staff, practical tools and response protocols will support continued surveillance and management. Stronger partnerships and public awareness will help the Turks and Caicos Islands detect, manage and prevent future incursions.



The message is simple: protecting our islands begins with noticing the small things.

ABOUT THE PROJECT DPLO0130 — Ant Diversity and Management of Invasive Ant Species in the Turks and Caicos Islands

This project was funded by the UK Government through Darwin Plus (DPLO0130: Ant diversity and managing invasive ants in Turks and Caicos Islands).

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: SEPTEMBER 14TH, 2026

TCI U14 boys show promise despite early CFU exit

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Boys' Under-14 national football team gave a good account of itself despite failing to advance from the group stage of the 2026 Caribbean Football Union Boys' U14 Challenge Series in the Dominican Republic.

Competing in Tier II Group B, the young TCI side finished fourth after three competitive matches against Antigua and Barbuda, the Cayman Islands and Dominica.

TCI began its campaign with a narrow 1-0 defeat to Dominica on August 16. The team then fell 4-1 to the Cayman Islands before ending the group stage with a closely fought 2-1 loss to Antigua and Bar-

buda.

Although TCI finished without a point, the team scored twice and conceded eight goals, ending with a goal difference of minus six. The one-goal defeats to Dominica and Antigua and Barbuda highlighted the team's competitiveness against regional opposition.

Antigua and Barbuda topped the group with a perfect nine points from three victories. The young Benna Boys scored eight goals and conceded three, finishing with a plus-five goal difference.

The Cayman Islands placed second with six points after recording two wins and one defeat. They scored 10 goals and conceded five for a plus-five goal difference.



A TCIFA Photo shows the U14 Boys in training

Dominica finished third with three points after securing its only victory against TCI. The Dominicans scored three goals and conceded seven, ending with a minus-four goal difference.

The CFU tournament, staged from August 16 to 23, brought together 28 Caribbean teams competing across two tiers. Its format includ-

ed round-robin group play followed by placement and knockout matches, providing young footballers with valuable international experience.

Despite their early exit, the TCI players gained important exposure to regional competition and demonstrated resilience throughout the campaign.

Dehring: Caribbean must invest in girls' cricket

The six territorial cricket boards are being urged to do more to support the continued development of the West Indies Women's Team in the One-Day International and T20 formats.

That call has come from Cricket West Indies (CWI) Chief Executive Officer Chris Dehring, who believes that the potential for growth and earnings in the women's game is almost limitless if the proper framework is established across the region.

"Imagine, we can reach the semi-final of the women's World Cup, and there's not even a single girls' high school tournament anywhere in the region," Dehring told The Gleaner at a recent lacrosse black-tie fundraiser.

"... Imagine if we can put together high-school tournaments, high-

school leagues," he reasoned.

The West Indies Women are currently ranked sixth among 20 countries in the ICC Women's T20 International rankings while they sit seventh among 15 nations in the ODI rankings.

Dehring argued that the team's achievements are even more remarkable given the lack of structured grass-roots programmes for aspiring female cricketers across the region.

With men's and women's cricket set to return to the Olympic Games at Los Angeles 2028, the CWI CEO is optimistic about what a team featuring Jamaican talent could achieve.

"Attracting some of these incredible female athletes that we have in Jamaica ... I can well see Jamaica reaching the podium in women's

cricket quicker than in men's cricket."

'Give young people opportunity' The Jamaican businessman believes there are numerous benefits to establishing a proper youth structure for girls interested in cricket but noted that local stakeholders must first recognise the importance of investing in the sport. "How can Jamaica help itself? At the end of the day, the Jamaica Cricket Association is here, you have ISSA, you need to be looking at sports that give all young people an opportunity," Dehring said, noting that the earning possibilities in cricket are endless.

"... There's no bigger sport for women in the world at present time that gives you a greater opportunity for financial sustainability, financial earnings, and just an

international career bigger than cricket at this time. So look at that as an opportunity," he added.

The former managing director and CEO of the ICC Cricket World Cup 2007 is urging cricket stakeholders to put a proper developmental structure in place to make meaningful use of the region's vast talent pool.

"Jamaica probably has the highest per capita athletic quotient for women anywhere in the world. You just look at all girls' high-school athletes. It's just incredible the talent that we have. We need to be harnessing that. More importantly, we need to be giving those girls the opportunity that they deserve."

The West Indies Women were eliminated by Australia in the semi-finals of the ICC Women's T20 World Cup in June.

Young Swimmers Impress at 2026 Goodwill Champs

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Four young swimmers representing the Turks and Caicos Islands delivered encouraging performances at the 30th Goodwill Swimming Championships, held from August 14–16, 2026, at the National Aquatic Centre in Balmain, Couva.

The national delegation comprised Isabelle Martin, Samuel Martin, Michael Martin and Daniel Martin. The swimmers were accompanied by Team Manager Mrs. Ella Martin and Team Coach Mr. Bennett Williams.

Although the team did not earn medals, the swimmers demonstrated significant development by improving their previous times in all 15 legally completed races recorded during the championships. Collectively, the four swimmers reduced their times by approximately one minute and 47 seconds.

Eleven-year-old Daniel Martin produced the team’s largest combined improvement, reducing his previous times by a total of 45 seconds across four events.

Daniel placed 18th in the Boys’ 11–12 200-metre freestyle with a time of 3:21.52, improving by an impressive 20.93 seconds. He also placed 22nd in the 50-metre freestyle in 36.76, an improvement of 8.75 seconds. He completed the 50-metre butterfly in 47.32, placing 21st and improving by 7.57 seconds. Daniel also recorded 49.02 in the 50-metre backstroke, finishing 20th and improving by 7.75 seconds.

Seven-year-old Isabelle Martin was the youngest member of the Turks and Caicos Islands team. Competing in the Girls’ 8-and-under division, she recorded substantial improvements in both of her events. Isabelle finished 19th in the 50-me-

tre freestyle with a time of 59.02, improving by 12.51 seconds. She also placed 19th in the 50-metre backstroke with a time of 1:07.41, reducing her previous time by 9.73 seconds. Her combined improvement across the two races was 22.24 seconds.

Samuel Martin, competing in the Boys’ 9–10 age group, improved in all five of his events for a combined reduction of 33.46 seconds. Samuel recorded his biggest improvement in the 100-metre freestyle, finishing in 1:40.34 and reducing his previous time by 10.50 seconds. He also produced an improvement of 9.54 seconds in the 50-metre butterfly, finishing 24th in 54.61.

In the 50-metre breaststroke, Samuel placed 22nd with a time of 58.53, improving by 6.59 seconds. He completed the 50-metre backstroke in 54.24, an improvement of 5.64 seconds, and the 50-metre freestyle in 41.93, improving by 1.19 seconds.

Michael Martin also competed in the Boys’ 9–10 category and recorded improvements in all four of his legally completed races. Michael finished the 100-metre freestyle in 1:31.35, improving by 0.94 seconds. He recorded 38.59 in the 50-metre freestyle, an improvement of 0.81 seconds, and completed the 50-metre butterfly in 47.60, improving by 3.84 seconds.

He also swam the 50-metre backstroke in 47.33, reducing his previous time by 0.63 seconds.

Coach Bennett Williams said the team’s performance demonstrated the value of giving developing swimmers opportunities to compete internationally.

“I am extremely proud of our four swimmers. They competed against



From left - Ella Martin, Daniel Martin, Michael Martin, Isabelle Martin, Samuel Martin and Bennett Williams

talented swimmers from across the region and improved their times in every legally completed event. Daniel reduced his times by 45 seconds, Samuel by more than 33 seconds, Isabelle by more than 22 seconds and Michael by more than six seconds. These improvements show that their training, discipline and hard work are producing positive results,” Williams said.

“Our purpose was not only to compete for medals. We wanted the swimmers to gain international racing experience, build confidence and understand the technical standards required at regional competitions. They represented the Turks and Caicos Islands with pride and good sportsmanship.”

Team Manager Ella Martin played an important role in overseeing the swimmers’ welfare, daily schedules, meals, transportation and general preparation throughout the trip, al-

lowing the athletes to concentrate on their events.

Participation in the Goodwill Championships represents another important step in the development of age-group swimming in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The competition provides younger swimmers with valuable regional experience and prepares them for future opportunities at CARIFTA, CCCAN, PanAm Aquatics, Commonwealth and World Aquatics competitions.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Swim Federation thanked the swimmers’ families, supporters, volunteers and everyone who assisted the delegation.

The Federation congratulated Isabelle, Samuel, Michael and Daniel for their courage, determination and outstanding improvements while proudly representing the Turks and Caicos Islands.

-Bennett Williams

ROYAL TURKS & CAICOS GOLF CLUB SETS AUGUST 24 DATE FOR FINAL KIDS’ SUMMER CAMP

Royal Turks & Caicos Golf Club will host its next Kids Summer Camp from August 24 to 28, giving young athletes five days of instruction in golf, tennis and swimming.

The upcoming session follows camps held July 6–10 and July 20–24.

Open to children ages 5 and older, the camp will run Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Participants will take part in drills, skill-development sessions and game-based activities designed to build confidence and consistency while keeping the experience fun.

Golf instruction will be led by PGA of Canada Class A professional Ashley Gravett. ITF- and USPTA-certified coach Rey García will oversee tennis, while Surfside Ocean Academy will conduct the swimming programme.

The full-day camp costs \$500.

Families may also register children for individual sports at \$210 each. Golf runs from 8:30 to 10:15 a.m., tennis from 10:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m., and swimming from 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Registration is available by emailing Ashley at ashley@rtcgc.com.