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Grace Bay Resorts Fetes The Point Construction Workers in Appreciation of Their Hard Work

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

It was an atmosphere of appreciation, camaraderie and celebration at The Point Resort construction site in Grace Bay on Friday, November 20, as Grace Bay Resorts treated construction workers, contractors and consultants to an early afternoon of food, drinks and fellowship in recognition of their hard work.

Taking a welcome break from their construction duties in the early afternoon, the workers exchanged their tools for plates of food and refreshing beverages, enjoying a variety of dishes and an assortment of drinks, as the developer expressed gratitude for their dedication to bringing the luxury resort project to fruition.

The appreciation event also provided an opportunity to celebrate significant construction milestones and the longstanding partnership between Grace Bay Resorts and construction company Projetech.

Grace Bay Resorts Director of Development Jamie Stoughton expressed satisfaction with the project's progress, noting that construction had advanced considerably over the past year.

"This time last year we were on the first floor. We've now poured our sixth floor earlier this month. We're now getting ready to pour the seventh floor before Christmas," Stoughton disclosed.

He explained that the roof is expected to be installed between January and February 2027, while work continues on the casitas, spa, reception and back-of-house facilities.

Additionally, construction of a commercial building featuring retail spaces along Grace Bay Road is expected to commence before Christmas.

Stoughton estimated that the concrete structural frame is approximately 90 percent complete, with interior finishing already underway, including drywall installation on the second floor.

He reaffirmed that the development remains on course towards its targeted December 2027 opening.



The Grace Bay Resorts and Projetech Team take time for a photo



The construction workers were treated to a variety of drinks



The Point Construction workers waiting in line to served delectable meals

Turning to the appreciation event, Stoughton emphasised the importance of recognising those responsible for the project's progress.

"Today is just saying thank you to Projetech and all the supporting consultants, contractors. Without them this wouldn't happen," he declared.

Projetech owner Kyle Camaro also expressed satisfaction with the construction pace, highlighting the tremendous teamwork demonstrated since the project commenced approximately 18 months ago.

"Progress is going well. We're up at the sixth floor. Structure is flying along. Interior fit out is going along. Floors are down. Drywall is going in. Starting painting," Camaro explained.

He added that mechanical, electrical and plumbing installations in the casitas are progressing, with those structures expected to be enclosed shortly.

"Great progress on schedule. Great team. Great morale. Very successful project for everybody around," he remarked.

For his part, Projetech Managing Director Steve Thompson praised Grace Bay Resorts for consistently recognising the contributions of construction workers throughout their more than 25-year working relationship.

"They do an appreciation like this for all of the guys that are putting the hard work in to actually make it happen. And it's really appreciated," Thompson said.

He stressed that such gestures strengthen relationships and contribute positively to workplace morale.

"It helps create such a good team spirit. And it helps with the progress and just general atmosphere on site," he added.

Grace Bay Resorts Executive Vice President of Operations Thierry Grandsire also commended Projetech for maintaining excellent construction momentum.

"The site is moving fantastically, it's on time, even maybe ahead of time," Grandsire declared.

"Everything's going well, smooth, and we are absolutely delighted. And we are looking forward to open on time."

Turks and Caicos Islands Targets First National ID Card by 2028

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government is targeting the issuance of its first National Identification (ID) card by 2028, as it moves forward with a major digital transformation initiative supported by the World Bank.

Hon. E. Jay Saunders announced the target during remarks at the World Bank's Reimbursable Advisory Services (RAS) Inception Mission on the National ID Programme, outlining the government's plans to establish a secure and reliable identification system for all legal residents.

"Our target is the first National ID card by 2028," Saunders declared, stressing that meeting the deadline will require coordinated efforts across government ministries, agencies and regulatory bodies.

The proposed National ID system is expected to modernise how residents access government services, reduce administrative delays, strengthen national security and improve the verification of personal identities.

According to Saunders, the government's objective is to establish "a trusted identity for every legal resident, supporting secure access to public and, over time, private services."

The programme will bring together three major components: a modern Civil Registry, a National Population Register and an Identity Management System.

Together, these systems will support accurate population records, secure identity verification and the issuance of both physical and digital identification credentials.

A central feature of the initiative will be the introduction of a "Tell Us Once" approach, allowing residents to provide their information to government without having to repeatedly submit the same details to different departments.

Verified information could then be securely and lawfully shared across authorised government services, reducing duplication and improving efficiency.

Saunders said the current fragmentation of identity records creates unnecessary costs for residents, civil servants and private businesses.

"When Identity Records are fragmented, people spend time providing the same information repeatedly; civil servants spend valuable time reconciling records; and private businesses face uncertainty when verifying customers," he explained.

"These inefficiencies have costs. And those costs accumulate across our entire economy."

The initiative forms part of the government's wider ambition to introduce 24-hour, seven-day-a-week high-performance government services.

The World Bank partnership, which originated from discussions in Washington, DC, during the Global Digital Summit in March 2025, has now advanced into a structured programme of technical assistance, analysis and institutional capacity building.

Saunders said the advisory engagement will focus on four interconnected areas: National ID development, Digital Public Infrastructure, Cybersecurity and Data Protection.

These areas are intended to ensure that the new identification system is supported by secure technology, effective legislation, clear institutional responsibilities and safeguards for residents' personal information.

The World Bank's Identification for Development initiative will provide international expertise to assist the Turks and Caicos Islands in developing its programme.

However, Saunders cautioned that achieving the 2028 target will require more than technology alone.

"Delivery requires supporting policies, legislation, infrastructure and safeguards to be ready when they are needed," he said.

He called on those leading the various components of the programme to ensure their teams are prepared, provide information promptly and securely, and identify potential obstacles before they delay implementation.

"A shared deadline requires a coordinated programme," Saunders emphasised.

During the inception mission, World Bank representatives are expected to engage with government ministries, agencies, businesses and regulators to identify priority uses for the National ID system and establish a coordinated implementation plan.

The consultations are intended to produce clearly defined responsibilities, immediate priorities and practical next steps.

Saunders also highlighted the importance of data protection and cybersecurity in building public confidence, noting that the long-term success of the initiative will depend on residents trusting how their personal information is collected, protected and used.

He warned that weaknesses in policy, legislation and system design could prove difficult and costly to correct after implementation.

"The decisions we make now will influence costs, security and service quality for years to come," he stated.

The National ID initiative is expected to provide benefits beyond government administration, with the potential to improve identity verification for private businesses and support broader economic development.



SAUNDERS: "Delivery requires supporting policies, legislation, infrastructure and safeguards to be ready when they are needed."

Saunders thanked the World Bank delegation, Permanent Secretary Howell-Robinson, Ms Katarvia Taylor, the Attorney General's Chambers and participating government teams for their contributions to the initiative.

He concluded by urging all stakeholders to maintain a disciplined approach to implementation.

"We have a great opportunity to strengthen the foundations of a more productive and resilient Turks and Caicos Islands," Saunders said. "Our task now is to deliver it with discipline."

Ministry of Health and Human Services Advises Public on Increased Cases of Respiratory Illnesses

The Ministry of Health and Human Services is advising the public of an increase in cases of Acute Respiratory Illnesses (ARI) being reported across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Of those individuals tested, the predominant causative agent was Influenza A, followed by COVID-19 and RSV (respiratory syncytial virus). To date, none of the individuals reported has been admitted to hospital.

Symptoms of Acute Respiratory Illness may include:

- fever,
- cough,
- sore throat,
- runny nose,
- headache,
- body aches, and
- fatigue

To help reduce the spread of respiratory illness and other communicable diseases within our communities, schools, workplaces, and households, the Ministry encourages all residents to take the following precautions:

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water, especially after using the bathroom, changing diapers, and before preparing or eating food.
- Use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser when soap and water are not readily available.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or the inside of your elbow.
- Avoid close contact with persons who are sick.
- Regularly clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces.
- Stay well hydrated and get adequate rest when feeling unwell.

Consider receiving the seasonal influenza vaccine, which is available through the public health system at Primary Health Care Clinics. Vaccination can help reduce the risk of severe illness and complications from influenza.

Parents and guardians are especially encouraged to keep children at home when they are ill. Children experiencing fever, vomiting, diarrhoea, persistent coughing, or other symptoms of illness should not attend school, daycare, extracurricular activities, or social gatherings until they have recovered.

Sending sick children to school increases the risk of spreading infection to other students, teachers, staff, and family members.

Parents are also asked to promptly inform their child's school or daycare provider when a child is absent due to illness. Early notification assists schools in monitoring illness trends, implementing appropriate measures when necessary, and supporting efforts to prevent further spread within the school community.

Schools and childcare facilities are encouraged to reinforce good hand hygiene practices, ensure the availability of handwashing supplies, routinely clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces, and remind students and staff to stay home when unwell.

Individuals experiencing symptoms are encouraged to remain at home, limit unnecessary contact with others, and seek medical advice if symptoms worsen or become severe.

Individuals should seek immediate medical attention if they experience any of the following:

- Respiratory Illness Red Flags
- Difficulty breathing or shortness of breath
- Chest pain or chest pressure
- Persistent high fever
- Severe weakness or inability to carry out normal activities
- Confusion, excessive drowsiness, or difficulty waking up
- Symptoms that worsen after initially improving

Parents and caregivers should seek medical attention promptly for infants and young children who show signs of dehydration, difficulty breathing, persistent vomiting, high fever, unusual drowsiness, or are unable to eat or drink adequately.

'PROGRESS IN DOCKYARD, BUT...'

Governor Acknowledges Improvements But Says More Work Needed

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam says progress has been made in improving safety and strengthening relations between police and residents in Dockyard, Providenciales, a community that has endured periods of violence, fear and trauma.

Speaking during a Haitian Creole church service hosted by the Haitian United Churches and Christian Council, the Governor welcomed the improvements, crediting cooperation among police, churches, community leaders and residents.

"Today, we can give thanks for progress, which has come through people working together," she told the congregation.

The Governor, who has visited Dockyard on numerous occasions, recalled some of her earliest encounters with residents during a troubling period when violence had left families fearful for their safety.

"I have visited Dockyard many times, and I remember some of my first visits, when this community was living through a particularly difficult and traumatic period. Families were worried about violence and about the safety of their children," she said.

Since those visits, the Governor said she has continued to engage with residents, listen to their concerns and witness the community's determination to overcome its challenges.

She commended the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force for its efforts to improve community relations, highlighting initiatives such as the Children's Fun Day.

The Governor also praised churches, community leaders and families for their continued involvement in efforts to strengthen Dockyard.

However, while acknowledging the improvements, she cautioned that serious challenges remain, including intimidation, threats to residents and the lasting emotional impact of violence.

"But we should not mistake progress for the absence of problems. There are still those who seek to intimidate, control and bring harm to this community, and many families continue to carry the grief and trauma of what has happened to them.



DANIEL-SELVARATNAM: There are still those who seek to intimidate, control and bring harm to this community
File Photo

There is more work to do, together," she warned.

Building on progress

The Governor stressed that sustaining the progress achieved in Dockyard would require continued cooperation between law enforcement and residents.

She said strong and safe communities cannot be built through policing alone, but depend on trust, communication and meaningful relationships.

"Strong and safe communities are not built by authorities standing at a distance. They are built through trust, relationships and people working together," she declared.

She encouraged residents to share information that could help police prevent crime and protect lives, while acknowledging that some may be reluctant to come forward because of fear or a lack of confidence in the authorities.

"The information you hold can help prevent harm and protect lives. But people must be able to share that information safely and with confidence," she said.

The Governor emphasised that police must continue earning the community's trust and ensuring residents have secure ways to provide information.

She recognised that rebuilding confidence takes time and requires consistent action from law enforcement.

"That is why we must continue to listen, to build relationships and to show through our actions that people can turn to the authorities," she said.

Her comments underscored the importance of maintaining police-community engagement beyond individual initiatives, particularly in neighbourhoods where past experiences of violence may have weakened public confidence.

Recognising the strength of Dockyard

Beyond improvements in community safety, the Governor praised Dockyard residents for their resilience, hard work and commitment to creating better opportunities for their children.

She acknowledged that many families continue to carry burdens that are not always visible, including the emotional effects of past violence and the daily pressures of providing for their households.

"You work hard. You provide for your families. You want your children to be safe, to learn, to succeed and to have opportunities beyond those you had yourselves. Those hopes matter," she told the congregation.

The Governor highlighted the important role churches play in supporting families, guiding young people and maintaining hope during difficult times.

She also delivered a message of encouragement to the community's youth, urging them to believe in their potential and pursue their dreams.

"Your gifts matter. Your dreams matter. Your contribution matters," she said.

Looking ahead to Christmas, the Governor encouraged residents to embrace the season's message of hope, kindness and unity.

She said that although Dockyard has experienced difficult periods, those challenges should not define the community or overshadow the contributions of its residents.

"No community should be defined by its hardest days. You are a community of faith, of families, of hard-working people and of young people with dreams for the future," she said.

In the meantime, the Governor called on residents to build on the gains already made, continue supporting one another and remain committed to protecting their children.

"So let us continue to stand together, to look out for one another, to protect our children and to build on the progress we have made," she urged.

Police Force Charts Strategic Path Towards 2040 at Leadership Retreat

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) has taken a significant step towards shaping the future of policing in the territory following a three-day Strategic Management Retreat aimed at strengthening public safety, improving accountability and preparing the organisation for emerging security challenges.

Held from November 4 to 6, 2026, at the Alexandra Resort in Providenciales, the retreat brought together senior police officials and key community stakeholders under the theme, "Secure Islands, Strong Communities: Leading the RTCIPF Towards 2040."

The gathering provided an opportunity for police leadership to review the Force's vision and mission, assess its organisational capabilities and identify strategic priorities that will guide policing over the next 14 years.

Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam officially opened the retreat, challenging police leadership to adopt a forward-thinking approach to the changing security landscape.

She underscored the importance of collaboration, stressing that lasting public safety cannot be achieved by law enforcement alone but requires strong partnerships between the police, government agencies, private-sector organisations and the wider community.

Throughout the retreat, discussions centred on building a more professional, intelligence-led, data-driven and results-oriented police service capable of responding effectively to both current and future threats.

Particular emphasis was placed on establishing measurable performance targets, strengthening institutional accountability and ensuring that strategic objectives translate into meaningful improvements in policing and public confidence.

A major feature of the retreat was a stakeholder consultation session that allowed representatives from several organisations to contribute their perspectives on the future of law enforcement in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Participants included representatives of the Bar Association, Crime Stoppers, Ports Authority, Human Rights Commission, Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Association, Rotary Club of Providenciales and the TCI Christian Council, along with other community partners.

Discussions explored a range of critical issues, including emerging criminal threats, the growing role of technology in policing, tourism security, community engagement and the importance of rebuilding and maintaining public trust.

The consultation also highlighted the need for the Force to remain responsive to the concerns of residents, businesses and visitors as the territory continues to develop.

Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey stressed that the success of the strategic planning exercise would ultimately depend on the Force's ability to turn its ambitions into measurable results.

Describing the retreat as an exercise in setting direction and making critical decisions, Commissioner Bailey made it clear that accountability must remain at the centre of the organisation's long-term transformation.

"By 2040, the RTCIPF should be truly data-driven," Commissioner Bailey declared. "Every major priority must have a target and every target must have an owner."

His remarks reinforced the importance of clearly defined responsibilities, measurable outcomes and consistent performance monitoring in ensuring that the Force delivers on its commitments.

The retreat represents an important stage in the RTCIPF's efforts to develop a long-term strategic framework that addresses the territory's evolving security needs while promoting professionalism, operational effectiveness and stronger relationships with the communities it serves.

As the Turks and Caicos Islands looks towards 2040, the challenge for police leadership will be to translate the priorities identified during the retreat into practical action, sustained institutional reform and tangible improvements in public safety.

The central message emerging from the three-day gathering was clear: the future of policing in the Turks and Caicos Islands must be built on strategic leadership, measurable accountability, modern technology and meaningful community partnerships.



BAILEY: "Every major priority must have a target, and every target must have an owner."
File Photo

Email Hijacking Scam Hits TCI Businesses

Cybercriminals reportedly infiltrating private communications and redirecting payments to fraudulent bank accounts

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

A sophisticated cyber fraud scheme is reportedly targeting businesses across the Turks and Caicos Islands, with criminals infiltrating private email conversations, impersonating legitimate clients and attempting to divert substantial payments into bank accounts under their control.

NewslineTCI was reliably informed that a number of businesses have been affected by the practice, which involves hackers gaining unauthorized access to electronic communications between companies and their clients, then intervening in ongoing conversations to issue fraudulent financial instructions.

However, many of those businesses are opting not to make official reports to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police for varying reasons, including not wanting to have their names in the public domain to be numbered among cyber crime victims.

The scheme, internationally known as Business Email Compromise (BEC), is particularly dangerous because the fraudulent messages can appear to originate from legitimate clients, sometimes using their actual email accounts and continuing existing conversations.

In a typical case, a business and its client may be communicating about a legitimate financial transaction when a cybercriminal secretly gains access to one of the email accounts.

The criminal monitors the correspondence and, at an opportune moment, impersonates the client, instructing the business to transfer money to a particular bank account.

Believing the instructions to be genuine, the business may proceed with the transaction, only to discover later that the actual client never authorized the payment.

We are told by a unnamed cyber source that one of the main targets by the criminals are hotels.

"The tourism industry generates significant financial activity involving international visitors, property owners, travel companies and overseas suppliers," the source said. "Hotel operators routinely handle reservations, deposits, refunds and other financial transactions, making the industry potentially vulnerable to criminals who gain access to confidential correspondence."

What makes the scheme especially deceptive, according to a police source, is that criminals do not always need to create an entirely new email conversation. In some cases, they can enter an existing exchange, respond to previous messages and provide convincing explanations for changes in banking arrangements.

The recipient may have little reason to suspect that the person issuing the instructions is an impostor.

Authorities Previously Warned of Similar Fraud

The practice is not entirely new to the Turks and Caicos Islands. The Financial Intelligence Agency issued a warning in December 2021 about an increasing trend in Business Email Compromise, describing how criminals were targeting businesses and individuals involved in financial transactions.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force has also previously warned about email-related wire transfer fraud, including cases in which institutions received instructions appearing to come from legitimate clients but subsequently discovered that the transactions had not been authorized.

The warnings highlight the serious financial risks associated with relying exclusively on email correspondence to verify payment instructions.

How the Criminals Operate

Cybersecurity experts have identified several methods used in these schemes, including phishing attacks, stolen email passwords, unauthorized access to business accounts and the creation of deceptive email addresses resembling legitimate ones.

Once access is obtained, criminals may monitor correspondence for extended periods, waiting until a significant financial transaction is being arranged. They can then intervene with instructions claiming that banking details have changed or that payments must be directed to a different account.

In some cases, criminals also establish unauthorized email forwarding rules, allowing them to receive copies of messages without the account owner's knowledge. This gives them an opportunity to monitor transactions and time their fraudulent instructions to coincide with legitimate payment arrangements.

By the time the deception is discovered, the funds may already have been transferred to another financial institution or moved through multiple accounts, complicating recovery efforts.

Questions Over Financial Losses

The reported incidents raise concerns about the potential financial exposure of businesses operating in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The number of affected establishments, the total value of any fraudulent transfers and whether the incidents are connected have not yet been independently established.

It is also unclear whether the latest reported cases have been formally reported to police or whether investigators have identified any individuals or groups responsible. The involvement of hotels raises additional concerns about the potential impact on the territory's reputation as a leading international tourism destination, particularly if visitors or overseas business partners become victims of fraudulent payment instructions.

Businesses Urged to Exercise Caution

Cybersecurity specialists recommend that businesses independently verify any request to change banking details, particularly when instructions arrive unexpectedly or involve substantial sums of money. Such verification should be conducted by telephone using a previously confirmed contact number, rather than relying on telephone numbers or other contact information contained in a suspicious email.

Businesses are also encouraged to implement multifactor authentication, strengthen password security, monitor email accounts for unauthorized activity and require additional internal approval before transferring funds to newly designated accounts.

The FBI has repeatedly warned that Business Email Compromise is among the most financially damaging forms of cybercrime, affecting businesses, organizations and individuals worldwide. For businesses in the Turks and Caicos Islands, the reported incidents serve as a warning that even familiar email conversations and long-standing commercial relationships can be exploited by cybercriminals.



Director of Recreation & Activities

Job Specification:

- Collaborate with staff and clinicians to understand the ways in which activities can promote healing and belonging for our guest
- Conduct needs assessments to ascertain physical, cognitive, and emotional abilities.
- Determine individual interests and expectations regarding leisure time.
- Determine and overseeing the use of available finances.
- Develop an activities programme that is both sufficiently diverse and sensitive to our occupants' requirements.
- Purchase or leasing supplies for all activities.
- Source, training, and monitoring the work of Activities Assistants.
- Advertize events well in advance of their scheduled times.
- Supervise and participate in events alongside staff and occupants.
- Compile reports that outline successes, constraints, and the way forward.
- Demonstrable experience as an Activities Director for a similar group.
- Computer literate, with sound knowledge of budgeting tools.
- Excellent programme, event planning, and supervision skills.
- Upbeat, communicative, and empathic disposition.
- Committed to fostering well-being and fun.
- Willingness to avail yourself for occasional weekend work.
- Appropriate training and/or certification is highly advantageous.

Job Requirements:

- Must have experience managing Recreation Activities
- Must have 3+ years as a Recreation Manager + demonstrate management certifications
- Must have a good experience in managing diverse teams.
- Must be able to work outdoors: stand for long hours and work efficiently under pressure

Salary expectations - $57,000 - $66,000 per annum

Occupancy: Work permit holder

Housekeeping Supervisor

Job Specification:

- Assist the Assistant Housekeeping Manager in overseeing daily housekeeping operations, ensuring the highest standards of cleanliness, presentation, and guest service throughout the property.
- Manage department budget and resources
- Manage inventory supplies and equipment
- Maintain high standards of cleanliness, hygiene, and sanitation within the facility
- Ensure all housekeeping employees follow the appropriate protocols
- Delegate housekeeping tasks to employees as needed
- Provide feedback to employees to improve performance
- Provide feedback to management on employee performance
- Supervise and oversee the performance of housekeeping employees
- Provide feedback to management on employee performance
- Oversee daily operation of the housekeeping department

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience as a Supervisor
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - $35,000 - $40,000 per annum

Occupancy: Vacant

Assistant Housekeeping Manager

Job Specification:

- Assist the Housekeeping Manager in overseeing daily housekeeping operations, ensuring the highest standards of cleanliness, presentation, and guest service throughout the property.
- Supervise and coordinate housekeeping staff in the cleaning, servicing, and preparation of guest rooms, suites, and public areas.
- Conduct room inspections and oversee deep cleaning of carpets, upholstery, floors, mirrors, glass, brass fixtures, chandeliers, and other furnishings.
- Monitor linen, laundry, housekeeping supplies, and inventory to ensure adequate stock and efficient departmental operations.
- Identify and report maintenance issues, damaged furnishings, and faulty fixtures to the appropriate departments.
- Oversee the cleanliness and presentation of outdoor areas, terraces, pathways, outdoor furniture, and designated recreational facilities.
- Assist with staff scheduling, daily task assignments, training, mentoring, and performance monitoring to maintain consistent service standards.
- Respond to guest requests and housekeeping concerns promptly, coordinating with other departments to ensure guest satisfaction.
- Ensure compliance with departmental procedures, health and safety requirements, and luxury hospitality standards.
- Assist with administrative duties, quality control, deep-cleaning schedules, and seasonal preparations to ensure the department is fully prepared for peak and festive operating periods.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience in related field
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Prior experience in housekeeping or related field preferred
- Knowledge of cleaning chemicals, proper storage, and disposal methods

Salary expectation - $41,000 - $42,000 per annum

Occupancy: Vacant

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Building Better for Belongers Requires the Courage to Make Enemies

An Op-Ed By Paladin

"You have no enemies, you say?
Alas! my friend, the boast is poor;
He who has mingled in the fray
Of duty, that the brave endure,
Must have made foes!"
"You've hit no traitor on the hip,
You've dashed no cup from perjured lip,
You've never turned the wrong to right,
You've been a coward in the fight."
— Charles Mackay

Charles Mackay wrote those words more than a century ago, but they may be more relevant to the Turks and Caicos Islands today than at any point in our modern political history.

The reason is simple.

The greatest threat facing this country is not a lack of money. It is not a shortage of development. It is not even a shortage of opportunity. The greatest threat facing the Turks and Caicos Islands is the widening gap between what is announced and what is actually accomplished.

We are now living in an era of perpetual announcements.

Every month brings another press release. Another policy statement. Another development agreement. Another consultation. Another framework. Another committee. Another vision. Another strategy. Another promise that prosperity is just around the corner.

Yet ordinary people continue to ask the same questions they were asking years ago.

Where is the transportation system? Where is the housing strategy? Where is the healthcare transformation? Where is the traffic solution? Where is the workforce development plan?

Most importantly:

Where is the plan that prepares Belongers to benefit from all this promised prosperity?

That question should be at the center of every national conversation.

The current battle cry from Government is"Building Better for Belongers." It is a slogan championed by Arlington Musgrove, supported by Premier Washington Missick, and echoed by members of the administration. It is a powerful phrase because it appeals to something every citizen wants to believe: that the future being built will belong to the people of these islands.

But slogans are not plans. They are aspirations. And aspirations without execution eventually become political noise.

With more than $50 million reportedly available in surplus revenues and billions of dollars in investment expected over the next three to five years, the discussion should no longer be about attracting development.

That battle has already been won. The real battle is ensuring that Turks and Caicos Islanders are positioned to participate in that development at every level.

Not simply as labourers. Not simply as entry-level employees. Not simply as observers watching prosperity unfold around them.

But as supervisors. Managers. Directors. Engineers. Developers. Entrepreneurs. Investors. Owners.

The uncomfortable truth is that opportunities do not belong to the people merely because they exist within their borders. Opportunities belong to those who have been prepared for them. That preparation does not happen by accident.

It requires: vision, planning, execution, courage

Unfortunately, courage has become one of the rarest commodities in OUR politics.

Throughout this year, the public has been presented with a steady flow of government announcements. Cabinet statements have referenced housing initiatives, transportation policies, fisheries reforms, development agreements, infrastructure frameworks, regulatory authorities, water-sector reforms, and numerous other areas of public policy.

The problem is not that government lacks announcements. The problem is that the country appears to have become trapped in a cycle where announcements themselves are mistaken for achievement.

The people can see what is being announced. What they cannot always see are the measurable outcomes.

How many Belongers have been trained? How many apprenticeships have been created? How many new management positions have been localized? How many new entrepreneurs have been supported? How many citizens have been equipped to occupy the opportunities being generated by the next wave of development?

Where are the numbers? Where are the timelines? Where are the targets? Where is the accountability?

Because if billions of dollars are expected to enter the economy during the next three to five years, there should already be a clear and publicly available roadmap detailing precisely how Belongers will be prepared to share in that growth.

> **"The greatest tragedy would be watching all of that success unfold while future generations of Belongers remain concentrated at the lower rungs of the economic ladder simply because nobody had the foresight to prepare them for greater opportunities."**

Instead, there appears to be an assumption that prosperity will somehow distribute itself naturally.

History teaches otherwise. Everywhere in the world, prosperity follows preparation. Countries that succeed do not wait for opportunities to arrive before educating their people. They prepare their people before the opportunities arrive.

The Turks and Caicos Islands should already be implementing a national workforce development strategy. Where are the Vocational and Technical schools preparing young people for the trades that this development boom will require? Without the proper Certifications NO Belonger can be hired and paid what they deserve. Work can not be certified and Insured.

Where are the apprenticeship programmes linked directly to major projects?

Where are the Certification pathways for Electricians, Plumbers, Surveyors, Heavy Equipment Operators, Marine Technicians, Logistics Specialists and Project Managers? Living now amongst US are people qualified to "join the TCICC" that can teach to the LEVELS needed and issue these required Certifications; Water Sports being one major example.

Where are the accelerated Management Programmes for those already working within the private and public sectors? Where are the Executive Development Programmes designed to identify the next generation of senior leaders?

Where are the Scholarships tied directly to the needs of the future economy?

These are not revolutionary ideas. They are common sense.

The Caribbean already provides numerous examples. National Vocational Qualification systems have been successfully implemented throughout the region. Internationally recognized certification programmes such as City & Guilds have demonstrated their value for decades. The infrastructure for workforce development already exists elsewhere.

We do not need to reinvent the wheel. We simply need the political will and raw courage to put the wheel in motion.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Community College should be at the center of such an initiative. With proper funding, proper coordination and proper vision, TCICC could become the engine that produces the workforce required to sustain long-term national development.

The tragedy is that such a strategy would cost a fraction of what is routinely spent on major infrastructure projects. Yet the return on investment would be immeasurably greater.

Buildings eventually age. People continue creating value for generations. That distinction matters. Because true nation-building has never been about concrete. It has always been about people.

This is why the conversation must now move beyond the next project, the next contract, the next ceremonial groundbreaking, and the next political announcement.

The nation requires a comprehensive three-to-five-year action plan. Not another vision statement.

An action plan. A document with timelines. A document with benchmarks. A document with measurable outcomes. A document that survives changes in government.

Such a plan should establish clear objectives: How many Belongers will be trained annually? How many apprenticeships will be created? How many management positions will be localized? How many affordable homes will be constructed? How much agricultural production will be developed? How much support will entrepreneurial ventures receive? How will transportation infrastructure evolve? How will healthcare capacity expand? How will economic diversification be measured?

These questions should not be controversial. They should be standard.

One of the greatest weaknesses throughout the Caribbean has been the tendency to build political programmes rather than national programmes. A new administration arrives and the previous administration's initiatives disappear. Long-term planning is sacrificed on the altar of short-term politics.

Mature nations do not operate this way. When a truly transformative idea emerges, it should belong to the country rather than the party that conceived it. That is what legacy governance looks like.

Legacy governance asks what the nation will look like ten, twenty, or thirty years from now. Legacy governance prepares future generations rather than simply managing current headlines. Legacy governance builds systems capable of surviving elections.

Most importantly, legacy governance requires political leaders willing to make enemies.

And there lies the uncomfortable truth that Charles Mackay understood so well. People who challenge complacency make enemies. People who expose weaknesses make enemies. People who ask difficult questions make enemies. People who demand accountability make enemies. People who insist that public policy be measured by results rather than rhetoric make enemies.

Good.

If nobody is uncomfortable, nothing is changing. If nobody is objecting, no sacred assumptions are being challenged. If nobody is offended by the questions being asked, then perhaps the questions are not important enough.

The Turks and Caicos Islands does not need more politicians who excel at announcing plans. It needs leaders who excel at executing them. It does not need another slogan. It needs measurable outcomes.

It does not need another promise of prosperity. It needs a roadmap showing exactly how Belongers will participate in that prosperity. Because the greatest tragedy facing this nation would not be the failure of development. Development is coming. The cranes will rise. The contracts will be signed. The projects will proceed.

The greatest tragedy would be watching all of that success unfold while future generations of Belongers remain concentrated at the lower rungs of the economic ladder simply because nobody had the foresight to prepare them for greater opportunities.

That is not development. That is dependency disguised as progress.

Real progress creates ownership. Real progress creates leadership. Real progress creates wealth within the population itself. Real progress builds people.

And that is ultimately what Building Better for Belongers should mean. Not larger buildings. Not larger budgets. Not larger announcements. Better people. Better skills. Better opportunities. Better preparation. Better futures.

If Government truly wishes ***to build better for Belongers***, then the next announcement should not be another project.

It should be a national ***three-to-five-year action plan*** that identifies where the country is going, how it will get there, who will benefit, how success will be measured, and how the plan will survive beyond the next election cycle.

Anything less is simply conversation.

The Turks and Caicos Islands has had enough conversation. It is time for action.

And if demanding action creates enemies, then perhaps those enemies are long overdue.

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Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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Participants in the Women in Tourism Retreat take time for a group photo



A panel discussion at the event

Women in Tourism Caribbean Retreat Heads to Jamaica in 2027

The Women in Tourism Caribbean Retreat will be held in Jamaica in 2027, following two successful years of the regional gathering being hosted in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Founder of Women in Tourism Caribbean, Stacy Cox, said the decision to take the retreat to Jamaica was both meaningful and fitting, given the country's importance to the regional tourism industry and the organisation's desire to extend its reach across the Caribbean.

"Last year, we donated all the proceeds from the retreat to support Hurricane Melissa relief efforts in Jamaica, working through Lisa Hanna, who was the keynote speaker at our inaugural event. Jamaica is a powerhouse in regional tourism and we want to continue building this community across the Caribbean. Jamaica is rich in culture and nature and gives us another opportunity to connect with women in the industry, celebrate their contributions and create meaningful conversations that can move our sector forward," Cox said.

This year marked the second instalment of the Women in Tourism Caribbean Retreat. Women representing 12 Caribbean countries, and as far afield as South Africa, gathered from November 12th to 14th for a weekend of connection, professional exchange and meaningful conversations ranging from challenges in the workplace to making tourism meaningful for Caribbean people.

The weekend opened with a welcome reception at Treasure Beach Village at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort Villages and Spa. The reception brought together participants, tourism industry representatives and special guests, including the Governor of the Turks and Caicos Islands, Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, the Governor of the United States Virgin Islands, Hon. Albert Bryan Jr. and Turks and Caicos Islands Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly.

The programme also included visits to local schools, providing an opportunity for participants to engage with young people and reinforce the importance of introducing the next generation to the opportunities available within the tourism industry.

A highlight of the retreat was the Women in Tourism Brunch at The Shore Club, which featured two panel discussions offering candid and heartfelt conversations around the experiences, challenges and contributions of women in tourism. The programme also included an inspiring keynote address by Rexy Rolle, President and CEO of Bahamas'

Western Air, whose remarks encouraged participants to reflect on their leadership, influence and role in shaping the industry. The retreat concluded with a second brunch at Wymara Resort + Villas' Land + Sea restaurant, where the conversation turned to the relationship between tourism and the wider Caribbean community. The panel brought together the Honourable Zhavargo Jolly, Minister of Tourism for the Turks and Caicos Islands; keynote speaker Rexy Rolle; Miles Mercera, CEO at Curaçao Investment & Export Promotion Agency and RoseAnne Farrington Deputy Commissioner at the U.S. Virgin Islands Department of Tourism.

The discussion explored how tourism can deliver greater value to Caribbean people, strengthen communities and ensure that the benefits of the industry are felt beyond the visitor experience.

The discussions throughout the weekend reinforced the importance of creating spaces where women in tourism can exchange ideas, build relationships and draw on each other's experiences. While the Caribbean's tourism destinations may differ in size, structure and market positioning, many of the challenges and opportunities facing the women who lead and support the sector are shared.

Women in Caribbean Tourism is also about unplugging, relaxing and having fun. Participants enjoyed a fun-filled boat tour around the award-winning Grace Bay beach and a night of Karaoke.

As the retreat moves to Jamaica in 2027, Women in Tourism Caribbean will continue its work to build a connected regional community that recognises the women driving the industry and creates opportunities for their voices, ideas and leadership to shape its future.

Women in Tourism Caribbean would like to acknowledge the following sponsors for their support: Ministry of Tourism, Experience Turks and Caicos, the Hartling Group, Beaches Turks and Caicos, Ports of Call, InterCaribbean, The Suites at Mr. Grouper's, The Retreat, The Turks and Caicos Collection, SOS Media, the Wine Cellar, HAB Group, VIP Flyers Lounge, Guest Box, the Hospitality Store, Tiffany Minnis, Yvette Seymour and TKCA.

We would also like to thank the sponsors of the special prizes and gift certificates: Mr. Grouper's, Just Jai's, Faces and Fingers, Turquoise Wine, IGA Gourmet, Beans and Leaves, Island Organics, COMO Shambala Spa, COMO Parrot Cay and Flow.

'The Architect' Andy Missick Elected New CSA President in Decisive Victory

Strategic campaign earns Missick a new nickname as he secures 66.9 percent of votes and pledges stronger advocacy, transparency and improved working conditions for civil servants.

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

November 19, 2026: Andy Missick, whose carefully planned and executed election campaign earned him the nickname "The Architect," has been elected the new president of the Turks and Caicos Islands Civil Service Association (CSA), securing a commanding victory over fellow candidate and former president Jas Walkin.

Missick captured 417 votes, representing 66.9 percent of ballots cast, while Walkin received 206 votes, or 33.1 percent, in Wednesday's election. A total of 623 votes were recorded. Walkin was president of the CSA up until 2020, when he left that post to become the campaign manager for the then opposition and now government, the Progressive National Party (PNP).

The victory has brought attention not only to Missick's leadership ambitions but also to the strategic approach that characterised his campaign.

According to Missick, several people who observed the campaign praised its organisation, planning and execution, likening his approach to that of an architect carefully designing and constructing a successful project.

The comparison eventually gave rise to the nickname "The Architect," which Missick says has already begun gaining traction among supporters.

"Throughout my campaign, quite a few people commented on how strategically it was structured, organised and executed, describing my approach as that of an architect," he explained.

Missick welcomed the nickname, saying it reflects the vision, strategic planning and disciplined execution behind his successful bid for the presidency.



MISSICK: "I want to develop more of a sense of culture within the civil service."



Jas Walkin, the challenger

The challenge now facing "The Architect" is translating that same strategic approach into meaningful improvements for the civil servants he has been elected to represent.

A Mandate for Stronger Representation

Speaking in an exclusive interview following his victory, Missick expressed gratitude for the overwhelming support and confidence demonstrated by public servants.

"I feel really good about it," he said. "From the support from the civil servants, it shows that they have a lot of confidence in me."

He pledged to strengthen advocacy, improve communication and ensure civil servants have the resources, equipment and working environments necessary to perform effectively.

"I want to develop more of a sense of culture within the civil servants, from the standpoint that they know that they are the backbone of our economy and they should represent with pride," Missick declared.

Building on DeMarco Williams' Legacy

Missick succeeds DeMarco Williams, who served approximately seven years as CSA president.

He praised Williams for strengthening the association, noting that membership increased by approximately 600 percent during his tenure. Williams also expanded the incentive programme and strengthened the association's involvement with regional and international organisations.

Missick described his predecessor's contribution as an example of dedication and sacrifice, particularly because the presidency is an unpaid position requiring considerable responsibility.

"It's sacrifice, it's service. So you don't get paid for it, and you are representing on people's behalf," he said.

He pledged to build on those achievements while introducing fresh initiatives to strengthen employee engagement and representation.

Transparency and Communication at the Forefront

Among Missick's priorities is improving access to information about public service policies, employment rights, procedures and professional opportunities.

He said many employees remain unfamiliar with important provisions of the Public Service Handbook, while others feel discouraged from raising concerns because they believe meaningful changes will not follow.

"I want to have that constant line of communication from government straight to civil servants, from DG straight to civil servants, and also be a voice for them," Missick stated, referring to the Deputy Governor, who heads the public service.

He believes stronger communication between employees and government leadership will help address misconceptions, rebuild confidence and ensure legitimate workplace concerns receive appropriate attention.

An Unexpected Nomination

Despite the strategic campaign that earned him his new nickname, Missick revealed that his journey to the presidency began unexpectedly.

"I didn't put my hat in the ring. Someone put my hat in the ring," he explained.

He said he accepted the nomination after recognising the opportunity to serve his fellow civil servants.

Missick also dismissed suggestions that his relatively young age could hinder his ability to represent older employees.

He pointed to more than a decade of professional and community service, including experience in social work, probation and parole, juvenile management, Rotaract, Rotary and Youth Parliament.

"Listening is very important, especially bringing about change," he said, stressing that effective leadership requires collaboration across generations.

Three Years to Deliver

Missick confirmed that the CSA presidency carries a typical three-year term under the association's constitution.

"I'll do the three to the best that I can," he declared.

His decisive victory provides a strong mandate to pursue improved workplace conditions, greater transparency and stronger representation.

Parnell Calls for Stronger, More Independent Civil Service Association to Champion Public Servants

People's Democratic Movement (PDM) Leader Hon. Douglas Parnell has called for a stronger, more independent and proactive Civil Service Association (CSA), urging its leadership to champion the rights, welfare and professional interests of public servants throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

His call comes as Andy Missick takes over as the new president of the CSA following the association's presidential election on Wednesday, November 18, in which he contested the leadership against Jas Walkin.

In a statement issued ahead of the election, Parnell congratulated both candidates for putting themselves forward to serve their colleagues, while stressing that the association must play a more visible and effective role in addressing the concerns of civil servants.

"Both men have stepped forward to serve their colleagues, and I wish them well in tomorrow's election," Parnell said in his pre-election statement.

The PDM leader emphasized that civil servants are the backbone of government operations and play an indispensable role in maintaining essential services and supporting the continued development of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"Our civil servants keep the country running," Parnell declared, underscoring the importance of having an association that can effectively represent their interests and ensure their concerns reach the highest levels of government.

He said the CSA must be more than an organization that becomes visible during election periods, arguing that it should maintain consistent engagement with its membership and actively advocate for improvements in the public service.



PARNELL: "Our civil servants keep the country running."

Among the priority issues identified by Parnell were salaries, pensions, healthcare coverage, working conditions and fair opportunities for promotion and career advancement.

He stressed that these matters directly affect the financial security, morale and overall well-being of public officers and should remain central to the association's advocacy efforts.

Parnell also pointed out that civil servants, through their daily experiences within government departments, are often best positioned to identify administrative weaknesses, operational challenges and opportunities to improve public service delivery.

He said a strong CSA should provide a meaningful platform for those employees to share recommendations and contribute to decisions affecting the efficiency and effectiveness of government operations.

The PDM leader further welcomed recent discussions involving the Deputy Governor, the outgoing CSA executive and the two presidential candidates, describing such engagement as an important part of building a constructive relationship between public officers and government leadership.

However, he emphasized that these discussions should not be isolated events, but should instead form part of an ongoing process of consultation, accountability and meaningful follow-up on issues raised by civil servants.

Parnell also paid tribute to outgoing CSA President Demarco Williams, General Secretary Nelene Swann and the wider executive for their contributions and service to the association.

He acknowledged their commitment to representing public officers and helping advance the interests of the organization during their tenure.

Ahead of the vote, Parnell encouraged eligible CSA members to participate in the electoral process, noting that the successful candidate would assume the significant responsibility of representing civil servants across every island and at every level of the public service.

With Missick now taking over the presidency, attention turns to the direction of the association under his leadership and the steps his administration will take to address the concerns highlighted by Parnell.

The PDM leader indicated that his party looks forward to engaging with the incoming executive and gaining a better understanding of its priorities, particularly the issues members regard as most urgent.

Parnell's statement reinforces the expectation that the CSA should remain an independent, responsive and influential voice for public servants, capable of advocating for improved employment conditions while contributing to the overall strengthening of the public service.

As Missick assumes leadership, the challenge facing the new CSA administration will be to translate that expectation into sustained advocacy, constructive engagement with government and tangible progress on the issues affecting civil servants throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

TCICC to Host Festive Christmas Celebration in Support of Students in Need

The Turks and Caicos Islands Community College (TCICC) is preparing to spread Christmas cheer with a festive celebration titled "'Twas the Night Before Christmas," scheduled for Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. on the college's Provo Campus in Downtown Providenciales.

The event promises an evening of holiday entertainment, special performances, exciting prizes and giveaways, while bringing the community together in the spirit of generosity and goodwill.

More than just a Christmas celebration, the initiative will serve a charitable purpose, with proceeds going towards supporting the TCICC Chorale Ensemble and students in need.

Organisers are inviting students, families, friends and members of the wider community to join in the festivities and help make a meaningful difference in the lives of students.

Admission is $10 for students presenting a valid student identification card, while non-students will pay $20.

The celebration is expected to provide an opportunity for attendees to enjoy the magic of the Christmas season while supporting the college's commitment to student development, creativity and community engagement.

With special performances, prizes and giveaways forming part of the evening's attractions, the event aims to create a memorable holiday experience for those in attendance.

The fundraising component also highlights the importance of community support in helping students overcome financial challenges and pursue their educational goals, while encouraging the continued development of musical talent through the college's Chorale Ensemble.

As the festive season approaches, "'Twas the Night Before Christmas" offers residents an opportunity to celebrate, connect and contribute to a worthy cause.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Community College is encouraging the public to come out, embrace the Christmas spirit and support an evening where entertainment and generosity come together.

Event Details: The celebration takes place on Tuesday, December 1, 2026, at 6:00 p.m. at the TCICC Provo Campus in Downtown Providenciales. Admission is $10 for students with ID and $20 for non-students.



Candice Williams, President of the TCICC



General Manager Deryck Meany (right) reacts to Owenta Coleby's performance
Beaches Gospel1
A section of the audience in a celebratory mood during the concert



A Group of Singers ignited the atmosphere

Beaches Turks and Caicos Hits High Note with First-Ever 'Psalms of Praise' Gospel Concert

By Vivian Tyson Newsline Editor-In-Chief

The Caribbean Village Ballroom at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa was transformed into a hand-clapping, foot-stamping, Holy Ghost-filled atmosphere on Thursday, November 19, as the resort staged its first-ever staff gospel concert, themed "Psalms of Praise."

The historic event brought together talented team members for an evening of powerful singing, heartfelt worship, thanksgiving and spiritual celebration, showcasing an impressive array of musical gifts within the Beaches family.

From the opening performances, the ballroom reverberated with an exciting mixture of gospel genres, each bringing its own flavour to the occasion. Some selections ignited exuberant praise and thanksgiving, while others inspired moments of deep worship, reflection and adoration.

One of the evening's most captivating features was the remarkable diversity of talent displayed by the performers, all employees of the resort.

From powerhouse vocals and energetic praise selections to soulful, emotionally stirring renditions, the artistes demonstrated tremendous versatility, confidence and passion.

The variety of musical styles ensured there was something for every gospel music enthusiast, with the performers effortlessly transitioning between celebratory expressions of faith and moving songs of worship.

The performances also revealed another dimension of employees whose daily responsibilities centre on providing world-class hospitality, demonstrating that extraordinary musical talent exists throughout the resort's workforce.

The enthusiastic audience responded with applause, dancing, raised hands and spontaneous expressions of praise, creating an atmosphere of fellowship and celebration.

From Vision to Reality

The concert was the brainchild of Owenta Coleby, who conceived the idea following a gospel-themed entertainment segment at one of the resort's monthly team member awards ceremonies in November 2025.

Recalling how the initiative developed, Coleby explained that the positive response from employees convinced her that a full gospel concert would be worthwhile.

"Every month we have our team member awards. And it was, I think it was November last year, we did a gospel segment. So all the entertainment was gospel," she recalled.

Encouraged by the response and subsequent discussions with General Manager Deryck Meany, Coleby incorporated the proposed event into her budget, hoping it would receive approval.

"I said, I'm going to put it in my budget. I put it in my budget. I said, Lord, let them approve it," she shared.

Reflecting on the successful staging, Coleby described the experience as unforgettable.

"Tonight was phenomenal. Tonight was, it was magical. Words can't express what happened in here on tonight," she declared.

She emphasised that the concert was particularly meaningful because every performer came from within the Beaches workforce, highlighting the resort's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

"Every act was our team members. And that was the importance of it. To show that diversity, you know, inclusion," Coleby explained.

She added that the occasion was designed for employees who appreciate gospel music, regardless of their religious affiliation.

Spirit of Unity and Worship

President of the Turks and Caicos Islands Christian Council, Pastor WIlbert Jennings described the concert as a significant moment for the resort, declaring that God's presence was evident.

"I believe that God was in the place tonight," Jennings said. "It was an occasion where people were worshipping God, lifting up the name of Jesus."

"Beaches is known for hospitality and being the leading hotel in the Caribbean. But tonight, something new happened. Something fresh happened."

Meanwhile, General Manager Deryck Meany praised the concert for strengthening the family atmosphere among the resort's approximately 2,000 team members.

"If I was to classify one word, I would say it was very uplifting. The spirit, the energy, the vibes, the whole family atmosphere," he said.

Meany described the performances and audience participation as exceeding his expectations.

"I was blown away. I never expected what I felt. It was ten times greater in that feeling," he declared.

He also commended Coleby for transforming a simple idea into an extraordinary celebration, praising her passion, determination and musical ability.

Bigger Expectations for 2027

With the inaugural concert receiving an enthusiastic response, plans are already being envisioned for an even bigger presentation next year.

Meany expressed confidence that participation and attendance could double, with the event potentially attracting interest beyond the resort.

"The whole of Turks and Caicos will want to be there as well. We may have to go live," he predicted.

Coleby was equally optimistic, declaring: "It only can get better from here."

As the final notes faded, Psalms of Praise had delivered more than an evening of gospel entertainment. It had celebrated faith, uncovered exceptional talent and strengthened fellowship among employees, laying the foundation for what could become a cherished annual Beaches tradition.

OPEN LETTER TO THE GOVERNOR

ARE THE PEOPLE OF THE TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS BEING LEFT OUT?

To: Her Excellency the Governor,
Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam

Your Excellency,

Why are UK residents being advised to be prepared, but the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI) have heard very little about this?

A new campaign in the UK called 'Be Ready' was launched on the 22nd October 2026. It encourages households to store 3 days of vital resources, such as drinking water and tinned food, to be able to cope in the event of an emergency.

The European Union has also adopted a Preparedness Union Strategy, encouraging people to maintain sufficient essential supplies to sustain themselves for at least 72 hours during an emergency. Several European countries have developed their own public preparedness initiatives.

These initiatives reflect growing concerns about the ability of countries and their populations to cope with emergencies ranging from natural disasters to cyberattacks, geopolitical tensions and disruptions to essential services. However, given that these initiatives are taking place across the world, what emergency events are happening globally which have encouraged countries to take these precautions, and why are people within the TCI not being given the same clear advice?

I don't wish to suggest that we're in imminent danger. The UK Government says its campaign is designed to help households cope with emergencies, including severe weather and interruptions to essential services such as electricity, water, telephone services and internet access. Its wider national resilience programme also recognises the growing risks associated with cyberattacks, geopolitical tensions, hostile state activity and disruptions to critical infrastructure.

Cybersecurity deserves particular attention in the TCI. On 18 December 2024, our own Government suffered a ransomware cyberattack that seriously disrupted government services, forcing affected ministries and departments to activate business continuity arrangements, including manual processing. As more of our public services move online, our exposure to these threats becomes an increasingly important concern. We have already experienced the consequences of a major cyberattack. What assurance do we have that our systems are sufficiently protected against another?

Given that we rely heavily on imported resources in the TCI, including food, fuel, medication and other vital items, we're very vulnerable. In the event of a serious hurricane, there is clearly a risk to our resources. However, if international transport is disrupted, or we suffer from a power cut lasting multiple days and a loss of communication, how prepared are households, hospitals, businesses and emergency services in the TCI?

Although there is a Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies, and resources to help people prepare for hurricanes and emergency warnings, this doesn't necessarily mean that we are consistently providing high profile information to members of the public so they can be adequately prepared for all possible emergencies. The DDME provide information on different potential hazards however, is there a cohesive national preparedness campaign that provides regular information to households and businesses?

As King's representative, you have constitutional duties relating to internal security. You also chair the National Security Council, which advises you on internal security matters, with the Premier serving as Co-Chair. Furthermore, it lies with you to ultimately manage disasters within the TCI. As the chair of the Executive Policy Committee, you are very well placed to consider the following questions:

1. Have the recent initiatives to encourage people to prepare for emergencies been passed on to the Governor's Office and appropriate TCI authorities?
2. Has discussion occurred regarding providing similar advice on preparing for emergencies in British Overseas Territories?
3. Have we assessed how long we would be able to continue critical services if international supply lines, electricity, water and/or telecommunication systems were significantly disrupted?
4. Are we sufficiently prepared for risks beyond hurricanes, particularly cyberattacks and prolonged disruption to essential services, as more government operations move online?
5. Will you work with the elected Government and the Department of Disaster Management and Emergencies to implement a comprehensive public emergency preparedness initiative?

As British Overseas Territory citizens, it's concerning that people within the TCI may not be receiving the same level of public attention, practical guidance and information about emergency preparedness as people in the UK. Although many miles away from London, we still have a strong relationship with the UK.

While it's true that we have different situations from those within the UK, and we must consider emergency measures which suit the reality of living on islands, we should still be considered with the same level of importance in terms of safety. As citizens of a British Overseas Territory, shouldn't we be given the same level of consideration in relation to safety and security as individuals within the UK?

This isn't a call to cause panic within the public or cause people to run to empty shelves in shops. However, I would like to know why there is not a more prominent, informed national discussion around emergency preparedness.

Emergency preparedness isn't simply about whether residents have three days' worth of food and water. It's also about whether the country has the ability to keep functioning when essential services fail. We have already experienced a major cyberattack. We know how vulnerable island communities can be when essential supplies and services are interrupted. We should be asking these questions before another emergency puts our preparedness to the test.

Therefore, respectfully, I would like you to publicly address these concerns. Please identify what discussions, evaluations and preparations are being made in order to make sure people within the TCI are safe. We shouldn't leave it until an emergency occurs to find out whether we are sufficiently prepared.

Respectfully,
Audley Astwood



Audley Astwood

Wymara Resort + Villas Joins Preferred Hotels & Resort

Two Distinct Luxury Experiences in Turks and Caicos Become Part of the Legend Collection and Preferred Residences

Wymara Resort + Villas has announced a new affiliation with Preferred Hotels & Resorts, the world's largest independent hotel brand, representing more than 650 properties across 80 countries.

Wymara Resort, Grace Bay Beach joins the Legend Collection, a curated portfolio of exceptional luxury hotels and resorts distinguished by their individuality, personalized service and guest experiences, while Wymara Villas, Sunset Cove joins Preferred Residences, the brand's collection of luxury residential-style accommodations.

Both properties bring an impressive record of international accolades to Preferred Hotels & Resorts' global portfolio while establishing the brand's first Legend Collection and Preferred Residences offerings in Turks & Caicos. Among them, Wymara Villas, Sunset Cove is the first and only in Turks and Caicos to earn the coveted Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star Award, while Wymara Resort, Grace Bay Beach holds a Forbes Travel Guide Four-Star Award.

"From the beginning, my goal was to build a resort where design, authenticity and the natural beauty of Turks & Caicos converge in a way guests can't find anywhere else, "said Bruce Maclaren, Owner, Wymara Resort + Villas. "Wymara Villas, Sunset Cove being named the country's first and only Forbes Travel Guide Five-Star property, together with Wymara's restaurants holding the top three positions on Tripadvisor in Turks & Caicos, is tremendous validation of what we have created. Today marks our next chapter: Wymara Resort, Grace Bay Beach becoming Preferred Hotels & Resorts' first Legend Collection property in Turks & Caicos, while Wymara Villas, Sunset Cove joins Preferred Residences. We are proud to take our place among the world's most exceptional luxury hotels and introduce Wymara to an even broader global audience."

The Best of Grace Bay

Located on four acres of Grace Bay Beach, Wymara Resort combines the amenities of a luxury resort with the intimate atmosphere of a boutique hotel. Its 97 studios, suites and penthouses feature minimalist design, floor-to-ceiling windows and expansive ocean views. At the heart of the resort is a 7,000-square-foot mosaic-tiled infinity pool, surrounded by private cabanas and signature floating island pods.



Dining is overseen by Director of Culinary + Executive Chef Andrew Mirosch, with three distinct venues: Indigo, Blue Water Bistro and Pink Bar. The Spa at Wymara offers treatments combining natural ingredients with advanced skincare science, while the resort's leadership in sustainable hospitality is reflected in its Green Globe certification.

The Art of Private Villa Living

Just a short drive from the resort, Wymara Villas, Sunset Cove is set on a secluded 15-acre peninsula overlooking the turquoise waters of Turks and Caicos. The collection of 15 one- to six-bedroom villas offers the privacy and space of a luxury residence, with contemporary architecture, expansive indoor-outdoor living spaces, private pools and panoramic ocean views.

Each stay is complemented by a dedicated Villa Experience Manager and personalized butler service. Guests enjoy exclusive access to Sunset Cove Beach Club, home to the Caribbean's first in-ocean pool, stretching 130 feet along the waterfront, as well as extensive wellness and recreational facilities. The peninsula is also home to Land + Sea, Wymara's newest waterfront restaurant overlooking Sunset Cove.

"This partnership marks an exciting milestone in Wymara's journey," said Shelley Rincon, CEO, Wymara Resort + Villas. "Our vision to create one of the Caribbean's most distinctive luxury destinations has been shaped by an unwavering commitment to exceptional hospitality and authentic experiences, culminating in our Forbes Five-Star recognition and ranking as the number one hotel in Turks and Caicos on Tripadvisor. Joining Preferred Hotels & Resorts' distinguished Legend Collection further affirms Wymara's position among the Caribbean's most distinguished luxury resorts, while extending our global reach and preserving the distinctive identity, refined sense of place and highly personalized service that defines Wymara Resort + Villas."

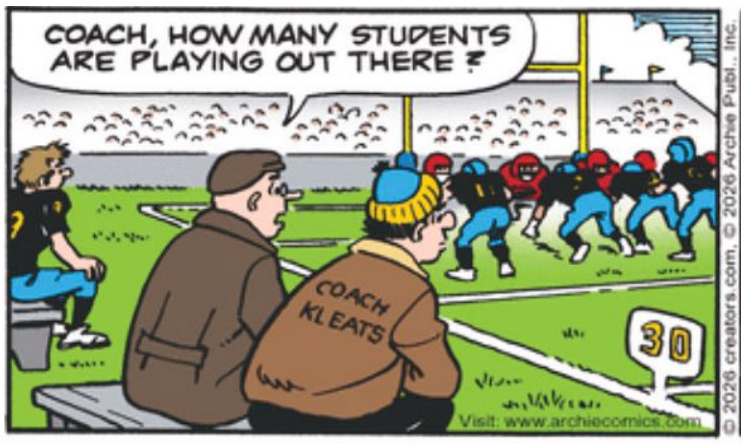
The Benefits of Belonging

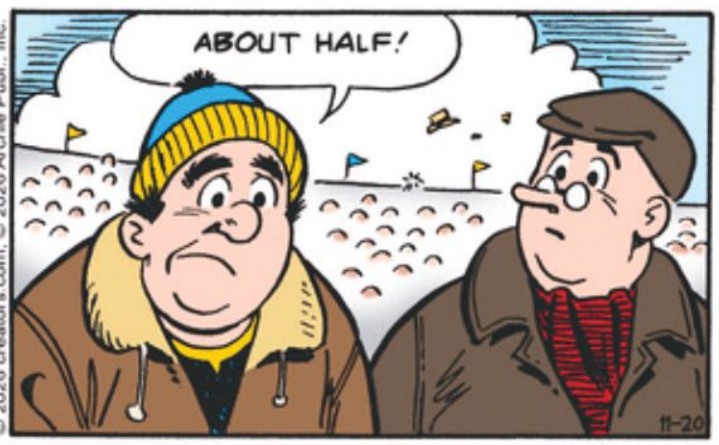
Guests of Wymara Resort + Villas are now eligible to enroll in I Prefer Hotel Rewards, the brand's complimentary, points-based loyalty program. I Prefer members earn points, status, and other complimentary benefits on eligible stays at over 700 participating hotels and resorts worldwide.

Through its global sales, marketing and distribution network, Preferred Hotels & Resorts provides independent properties with the reach and resources of an international hotel brand while allowing them to retain their individual identities. Additional support includes reservations services and revenue management expertise.

"Wymara Resort + Villas is a distinctive addition to our portfolio, offering two exceptional expressions of luxury within one remarkable destination," said Lindsey Ueberroth, Chief Executive Officer of Preferred Hotels & Resorts.

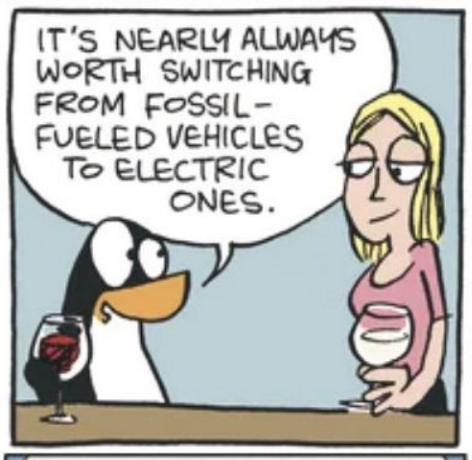
"From the refined beachfront experience on Grace Bay to the privacy and seclusion of the villas above Sunset Cove, both reflect the thoughtful design, personalized service and sense of place that define the Legend Collection. The villas also represent a natural fit for Preferred Residences, where space, privacy and a more residential approach to luxury create an exceptional sense of exclusivity." For reservations and more information, visit https://www.wymara.com/or www.PreferredHotels.com.



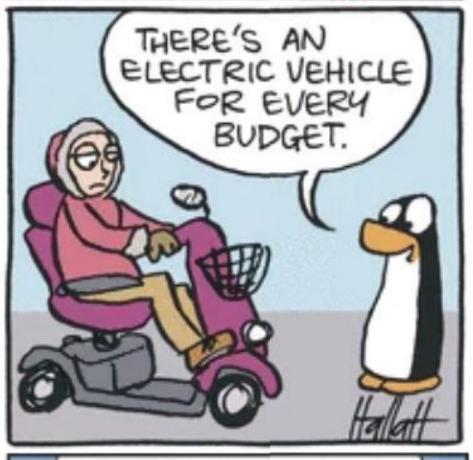


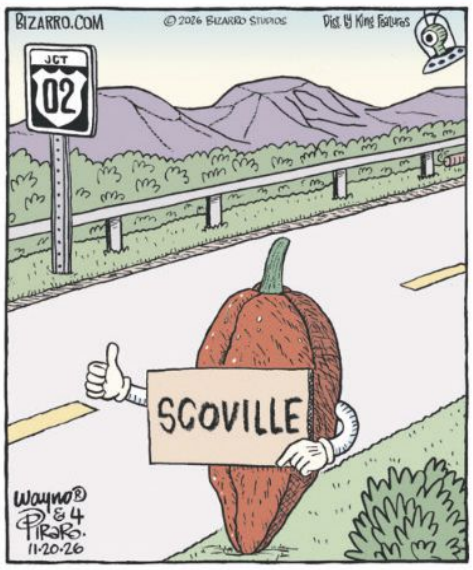
NEWSLINE TCI COMICS



















In the beginning, God said "Let there be light."And then he told the classic man-with-a-hook story and the campers were afraid.

















"AHA! TIME TO RUIN MY APPETITE!"

National Trust Turks and Caicos Islands. (2020). Cultural Heritage and Traditional Music of the Turks and Caicos Islands.
Sadler, H. (2006). Turks and Caicos Islands: Lands of Discovery. Macmillan Caribbean.
Visit Turks and Caicos Islands. (2019). Culture, Music and Festivals of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

RIPSAW music

NEWSLINE TCI Heritage



For generations, Ripsaw Music has been a defining sound of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Recognised as the national music of the islands, ripsaw reflects the creativity and resilience of a people who transformed simple tools into instruments of cultural expression (Visit Turks and Caicos Islands, 2019).

At the heart of ripsaw music is the carpenter's handsaw, an ordinary tool repurposed to create a unique rhythmic sound. The saw is bent and scraped with a metal object, such as a knife or screwdriver, producing a distinctive scraping tone known as "ripping" (National Trust TCI, 2020).

This sound forms the foundation of the music, often accompanied by drums, shakers, and other instruments. The rhythm is lively and expressive, commonly heard at festivals, community gatherings, and cultural celebrations across the islands (Sadler, 2006).

Ripsaw music is believed to have developed during the islands' early working years, when labourers used whatever materials were available to create music and pass the time. Like many forms of Caribbean folk music, it emerged from everyday life and reflects the shared experiences of the people (Visit Turks and Caicos Islands, 2019).

Over time, ripsaw has evolved while remaining rooted in tradition. It continues to be performed by local musicians and passed down through generations, preserving a sound that is uniquely Turks and Caicos.

Today, ripsaw music stands as a powerful symbol of national identity and cultural pride. Its distinctive rhythm and resourceful origins serve as a reminder that the islands' heritage is not only seen, but also heard in the sounds that bring communities together (National Trust TCI, 2020).



Government officials from the Turks and Caicos Islands, The Bahamas and the British Commission take time for a group photo following the Maritime Boundary Treaty Signing.

Historic Maritime Boundary Treaty Signed Between Bahamas, Turks and Caicos and UK

After more than three decades of negotiations, a landmark agreement promises greater maritime security, stronger fisheries protection and closer regional cooperation.

A maritime boundary dispute dating back more than 30 years has finally been resolved, as the Governments of The Bahamas and the United Kingdom, in close consultation with the Turks and Caicos Islands (TCI), signed a historic treaty formally defining the maritime boundary between the two Caribbean neighbours.

The landmark agreement brings an end to negotiations that began in 1992 and establishes a legally recognised boundary through the waters separating the Bahamian islands of Mayaguana and Inagua from the Caicos Islands.

For fishermen, maritime authorities and security agencies operating in these waters, the treaty represents a significant breakthrough, providing long-awaited clarity over territorial jurisdiction and strengthening the framework for regional cooperation.

The agreement is also expected to bolster efforts to combat illegal fishing, drug trafficking and human smuggling, while supporting the sustainable management of marine resources.

A Historic Milestone for Regional Cooperation

The treaty was signed in Nassau by Bahamas Minister of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, Hon. Frederick A. Mitchell, on behalf of The Bahamas, and British High Commissioner Smita Rossetti on behalf of the United Kingdom.

The Turks and Caicos Islands delegation was led by Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services, Hon. Jamell Robinson, who welcomed the agreement as an important achievement for both territories.

Robinson emphasised that the TCI Government played an active role throughout the negotiations to ensure the interests of its people, particularly those in maritime communities, were protected.

"This agreement is an important achievement for the Turks and Caicos Islands and our neighbours in The Bahamas," Robinson said.

"By establishing a clear boundary, we are strengthening the foundation for maritime security, responsible fisheries management and practical cooperation between our jurisdictions."

He added that the territory looks forward to continued collaboration in safeguarding the shared waters.

Stronger Maritime Security and Fisheries Protection

Beyond resolving a longstanding boundary issue, the treaty carries significant practical implications for maritime operations.



Hon. Frederick A. Mitchell (seated left) of The Bahamas, and British High Commissioner Smita Rossetti (seated right) sign the document establishing the Maritime Boundary Treaty between The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands. Looking on are Bahamas Prime Minister Hon. Philip E. Davis, KC (standing at left), Hon. Jamell Robinson, Deputy Premier and Minister of Immigration and Border Services for the Turks and Caicos Islands.

With a clearly established boundary, the Royal Bahamas Defence Force and security agencies in the Turks and Caicos Islands will have greater certainty about where their respective jurisdictions begin and end.

This is expected to improve coordination during patrols and joint operations targeting transnational criminal activity, including illegal migration, people smuggling, drug trafficking and unlawful fishing.

The agreement also complements an existing shiprider arrangement between The Bahamas and the Turks and Caicos Islands, further reinforcing cooperation in maritime law enforcement.

For fishing communities on both sides, the treaty provides a clearer legal framework for determining which country has authority over particular maritime areas, supporting more effective fisheries management and the protection of marine resources.

Bahamas Prime Minister Hails End to 34-Year Negotiations

Bahamas Prime Minister Hon. Philip E. Davis, KC, described the agreement as the successful conclusion of a process that began more than three decades ago.

"This Agreement brings to a conclusion to negotiations that began in 1992. It gives fishermen and law enforcement officers on both sides an agreed line, and it will strengthen the close cooperation between our security services," Davis said.

He also expressed appreciation to the United Kingdom and the Turks and Caicos Islands for their partnership throughout the negotiations.

"Our peoples have been friends for generations, and today's Agreement builds on that friendship," the Prime Minister added.

British High Commissioner Smita Rossetti similarly welcomed the treaty, highlighting its importance to regional stability, livelihoods and environmental sustainability.

"This treaty provides clarity and legal certainty on respective maritime jurisdictions for both the Turks and Caicos Islands and The Bahamas," Rossetti said.

She noted that the agreement would deliver practical benefits for regional security and the sustainable management of marine resources.

Negotiations Spanning Three Decades

Formal discussions on the maritime boundary began in 1992, but the process became more technically complex after The Bahamas established archipelagic baselines in 2008, changing the basis on which the boundary would be determined.

Negotiations resumed in 2023, with meetings held in Nassau and Providenciales.

The United Kingdom, which retains responsibility for the Turks and Caicos Islands' external affairs, negotiated on the territory's behalf, with participation from the TCI Government, the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office and the UK Hydrographic Office.

The final boundary was agreed in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, with the parties describing the outcome as equitable for both sides.

TCI Delegation Plays Key Role

Joining Deputy Premier Robinson at the signing were Minister of Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries, Heritage and the Environment, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, along with senior government officials representing immigration, fisheries, national security, the Governor's Office and the Attorney General's Chambers.

The delegation included Permanent Secretaries Althea Been, Wesley Clerveaux, Tito Lightbourne and Dr. Virginia Clerveaux, as well as Deputy Attorney General Khalila Astwood.

Their participation underscored the wide-ranging significance of the agreement, particularly for border management, national security, fisheries and international relations.

What Happens Next?

Although the treaty has been signed, it must still pass through the necessary domestic procedures before formally entering into force.

In the United Kingdom, the agreement will be presented to Parliament for 21 sitting days.

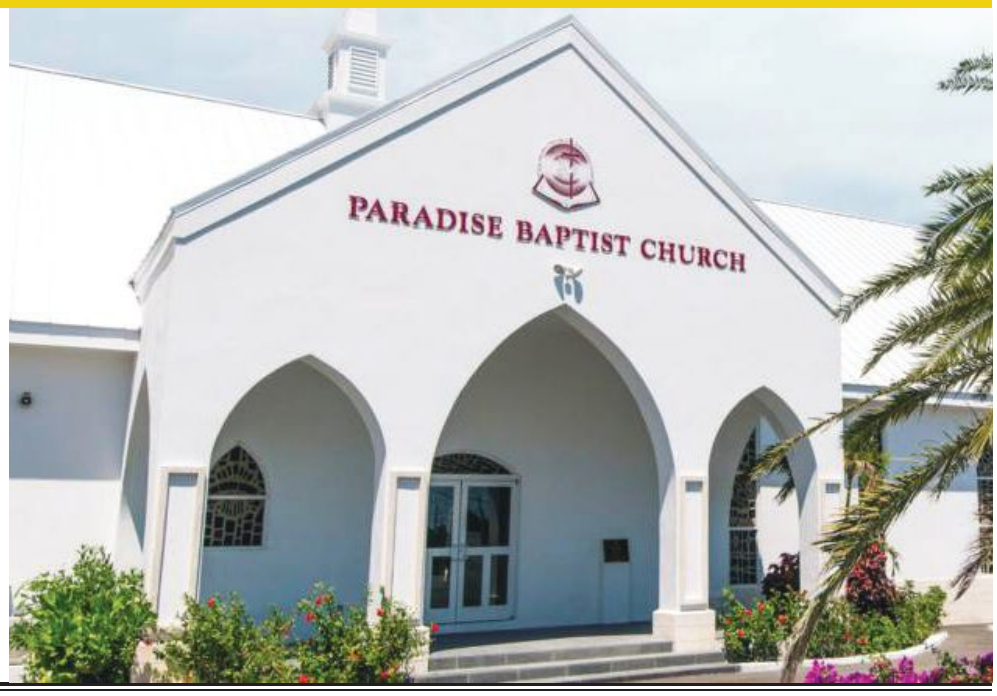
The treaty will officially take effect on the 30th day following the final notification that all required domestic procedures have been completed.

The agreement also reinforces longstanding defence ties between The Bahamas and the United Kingdom, including military training and disaster-response cooperation.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Paradise Baptist Church



This week we feature one of the Turks and Caicos Islands' longest serving churches – the Paradise Baptist Church located in Five Cays, Providenciales. The Paradise Baptist Church has been serving that community and its environs for decades. Pastored by Rev. Goldstone Williams, the Paradise Baptist Church, a few years ago underwent a major redevelopment exercise, to better serve the community. It is now one of the largest halls in the Turks and Caicos, thus making it a magnet for large church-related events, such as valedictory service and graduations. In addition to its regular Sunday service, Paradise Baptist Church conducts Prayer meeting and bible study on Wednesday; Every 2nd and 4th Friday of each month Daughters of The King meetings; Thursday & Saturday at 7pm Praise team practice; and Friday evening at 7pm Youth Fellowship. Its contact number is 941-4349.

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 Prophesy,
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 Prophesy,
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

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@newslinetci.com





Photo Essay of the 70th Session of the Caribbean Meteorological Council

The 70th Session of the Caribbean Meteorological Council (CMC), Took pace at The Ritz-Carlton Resort in Providenciales on Thursday, November 12, 2026. The event saw a host of meteorologists from the across the Caribbean gathering in the Turks and Caicos islands. Also, Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove received the chairmanship for the 2026/2027 period. The following are photo highlights of the event.
















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GRACE BAY CLUB

GRACE BAY RESORTS

OPEN JOB POSITIONS

POSITION: Executive Pastry Sous Chef **PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club**

Job Overview: The Executive Pastry Sous Chef will assist the Executive Pastry Chef in overseeing pastry production, developing innovative desserts and ensuring consistency across all food and beverage outlets at Grace Bay Club. This role requires strong leadership, creativity, and a hands-on approach in producing and presenting high-quality pastries, desserts, breads, and confections. The Executive Pastry Sous Chef also ensures that all pastry operations align with company standards, cost goals, and health and safety regulations. He/She must have a passion for delivering exceptional pastry experiences in a luxury five-star resort environment.

Main Responsibilities:

- Assist in leading the pastry and bakery team to deliver exceptional quality and consistency across all outlets and events.
- Interact with guests to obtain feedback on product quality and service levels; respond promptly to guest concerns or complaints.
- Support menu development, recipe standardization, and cost control for all pastry and dessert offerings.
- Ensure all recipes and yields are accurately costed and updated regularly.
- Supervise the preparation, baking, and finishing of all pastries, breads, and desserts according to standard recipes and presentation guidelines.
- Maintain proper inventory levels, ensuring freshness and minimizing waste.
- Monitor food safety, hygiene, and sanitation standards throughout all pastry and storage areas.
- Ensure equipment is used safely, properly maintained, and kept clean at all times.
- Assist with the training, scheduling, and development of pastry team members to maintain high morale and performance.
- Support the creation of seasonal and special menus reflecting current trends, guest preferences, and local ingredients.
- Ensure proper communication and coordination with other kitchen sections and service teams.
- Participate in budget planning, inventory management, and cost control initiatives.

Skills and Competencies Required:

- Minimum 10 years' pastry/bakery experience, with at least 2 years in a senior management role in a luxury resort or hotel.
- Culinary or Pastry Arts degree required.
- Caribbean resort experience is highly preferred.
- Demonstrated ability to lead, train, and inspire a multicultural team.
- Strong knowledge of pastry techniques, chocolate work, bread making, and plated dessert presentation.
- Excellent administrative and organizational skills.
- Creative, innovative, and passionate about pastry arts.
- Strong communication and computer skills.
- Hands-on, detail-oriented, and self-motivated approach to all aspects of operations.
- Fair, firm, and motivational management style with excellent coaching skills.

Shift varies. Full time position. Weekend and holiday work may be required. Salary Range: $44,000 - $50,000 per annum. This position is currently held by a work permit holder.

POSITION: Line Cook **PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club**

Job Overview: The Line Cook is responsible for preparing, cooking, and presenting quality food in accordance with established recipes and standards. Working closely with the Sous Chef and kitchen team, the individual will ensure efficient kitchen operations, maintain proper food safety and hygiene practices, and consistently deliver well-prepared meals in a timely manner while meeting and exceeding guest expectations.

Main Responsibilities:
- Set up stations and collect all necessary supplies to prepare a menu for service.
- Weigh and measure ingredients for cooking.
- Prepare a variety of foods including meats, seafood, poultry, vegetable and cold food items.
- Prepare sauces and garnishes for the allocated station.
- Cover, date and correctly store all food items as per safe food-handling procedures.
- Serve food according to GBR's standards, in terms of quality, temperature, aesthetic, taste and presentation
- Close the kitchen correctly and follow the closing checklist for kitchen stations.
- Maintain an organized and sanitized work area at all times.
- Constantly use safe and hygienic food handling practices.
- Operate and maintain various kitchen appliances.

Skills and Competencies Required:
- Proven cooking experience, including experience as a Line chef, Restaurant cook or Prep cook
- Knowledge of food safety, sanitation, and proper food storage procedures.
- Excellent understanding of various cooking methods, ingredients, equipment and procedures
- Accuracy and speed in executing assigned tasks efficiently in a fast-paced kitchen environment
- Culinary school diploma highly desirable

Shift Varies. Full time. Weekend and holiday work may be required.

Salary Range: $9.00 - $12.00 per hour
This position is currently held by a work permit holder.

POSITION: Housekeeper **PROPERTY: Grace Bay Club**

Job Overview: As a member of the Grace Bay Resorts Housekeeping team, this position is responsible for providing support across all areas of Housekeeping to ensure the highest standards of cleanliness, presentation, and organization are consistently maintained. The primary goal of the role is to create a clean, comfortable, and orderly environment that enhances the guest experience and contributes to maintaining and strengthening Grace Bay Resorts' reputation for exceptional service.

Main Responsibilities:
- Ensuring that all rooms assigned to you during your shift are completed in accordance with the Grace Bay Resort room cleaning standards.
- Greet guests and respond to queries in a professional and timely manner.
- Clean and sanitize rooms assigned to you, according to the Grace Bay Resort rooms standard.
- Make beds, change linens, replace towels, and replenish guest amenities and supplies.
- Inspect guest rooms for cleanliness, presentation, maintenance issues, and missing or damaged items.

Skills and Competencies Required:

- High School diploma required; training certificate is preferred.
- 3-5 years Housekeeping experience working in a luxury/fine hotel preferred.
- Must be able to work under pressure in a fast-paced environment.
- Must be comfortable speaking to guests and referring guest queries and complaints to Management.
- Must be well-groomed, tidy and courteous.
- Must have clear, concise written and verbal communication skills (English).
- Must be able to work various shifts, holidays, and weekends when required.
- Must be flexible and able to cover Public Areas and Laundry shifts as required.

Shift Varies. Full time position. Weekend and holiday work may be required.
Salary Range: $8.00 – $10.00 per hour

This position is currently held by a work permit holder.
Interested persons should contact our Human Resources Department no later than December 4th 2026.
Email: humanresources@gracebayclub.com
(649) 946-5050 Ext. 1020
#38 Grace Bay Circle, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies

NOTICE OF SALE BY PUBLIC AUCTION

Scotiabank Turks and Caicos Limited, as Chargee, pursuant to its charge and the Registered Land Ordinance, hereby gives notice that it will cause to be sold the property listed below by Public Auction, to be held at E202 Le Vele Plaza, Grace Bay, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands at 10:30am on December 4th, 2026.

Overview



An opportunity to acquire an income-generating residential property in the established Blue Hills area of Providenciales. Located at #11 Hanco Street, off Bible Street, the property comprises a detached single-storey duplex with two self-contained units on a generous 0.37-acre parcel. The new owner may reside in one unit while renting the other, or rent both units for maximum rental return.

Parcel	Block 60505, Parcel 71
Proprietor	Sherlene Ramsey
Site Area	Approx. 0.37 acres
Zoning	Residential

Description

- **Main building:** single-storey detached duplex of concrete construction with an asphalt shingle roof, built circa 2000. Floor area: approx. 1,666 sf.
- **Accommodation:** two self-contained units with a combined 3 bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, including kitchen and living/dining areas.
- **Site:** level parcel of approx. 0.37 acres with frontage onto a paved public road.
- **Additional structures** on site are not included in this description (see terms and conditions of auction).







To obtain the applicable Auction Terms and Conditions please provide your name and contact details via email to jcordova@genesisintgroup.com and lpelaez@genesisintgroup.com requesting information.

MONTAGE HOTELS & RESORTS ANNOUNCES MONTAGE TURKS AND CAICOS

Leader in ultra-luxury hospitality, Montage Hotels & Resorts to debut Montage Turks and Caicos on Providenciales in 2031.

Montage Hotels & Resorts and Windward today announce plans for Montage Turks and Caicos, a new ultra-luxury resort and private residences located on Providenciales, Turks and Caicos, anticipated to open in 2031.

"Turks and Caicos is one of the most breathtaking destinations in the world, and Providenciales is a truly extraordinary setting, with pristine waterfront and an unmistakable sense of place," said Alan J. Fuerstman, founder, chairman and CEO of Montage International.

"We are thrilled to partner with Windward to bring Montage to the island and create a resort that celebrates the spirit of Turks and Caicos while offering the gracious, heartfelt service and unforgettable experiences our guests have come to love."

Set across 55 waterfront acres, Montage Turks and Caicos will feature approximately 84 guestrooms and 107 Montage Residences, thoughtfully positioned atop dramatic 100-foot limestone bluffs with sweeping ocean views. Envisioned as a destination for discovery, relaxation and connection, Montage Turks and Caicos will offer a collection of distinct culinary experiences, including an all-day dining restaurant, signature restaurant, lobby bar and lounge, poolside bar and grill, market and café, and destination bar.

Montage
HOTELS & RESORTS

A Spa Montage with 10 treatment rooms and a fitness center, along with a sports complex with pickleball, padel and tennis, will serve as a sanctuary for wellness, movement and restoration. Complimenting amenities include Compass Sports, offering curated island excursions and on-the-water adventures; Paintbox, the brand's signature children's program; and more than 5,000 square feet of indoor meeting and event space, with expansive outdoor venues designed for intimate celebrations, gatherings and destination events. The Marina in the heart of the
development will allow residents and hotel guests to enjoy a seamless lifestyle on the water, with available boat slips accommodating vessels up to 60 feet. Montage Residences Turks and Caicos will feature 107 Montage Residences offering a variety of beachfront and waterfront settings as well as elevated locations with sweeping views of the Caicos Bank, ranging from one-bedroom Resort Residences to five-bedroom Beach or Ocean Ridge Estates with over 5,000 square feet of interior living space. Designed for gathering with family and friends, the residences will pair relaxed island living with personalized Montage service and access to the resort's amenities.

Montage Turks and Caicos will be developed in partnership with Windward, an experienced Turks and Caicos based development firm that specializes in luxury waterfront real estate and hospitality developments across the destination, including most recently, South Bank Resort on Long Bay.

"Turks and Caicos has become synonymous with an extraordinary waterborne experience and an exceptional luxury lifestyle in Providenciales," said Ivor Stanbrook, Director of Windward. "The resort will offer a setting characterized by an elevated ridge surrounding a marina basin creating 270-degree water views with sunrise and sunset orientations, unlike anywhere else on island. We welcome our partnership with Montage Hotels & Resorts to create a destination that celebrates the natural beauty of the island while establishing a new standard for luxury hospitality and residential living in Turks and Caicos."



Join our team

THE STRAND
TURKS & CAICOS

Guest Service Expert/Server

Job Specification:

- Take food and drink orders from customers accurately and with a positive attitude.
- Write patrons' food orders on order slips, memorize orders, or enter orders into computers for transmittal to kitchen staff.
- Engage with customers in a friendly manner.
- Knowledge of the menu, with the ability to make suggestions.
- Ensure tables are enjoying their meals and take action to correct any problems.
- Collect payments from tables.
- Prepare checks that itemize and total meal costs and sales taxes.
- Help food preparation staff when necessary.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 3- 5 years experience as a Server
- Must have good interpersonal skills
- Must have experience working in busy restaurant environment
- Must be able to stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - $8.50 - $11.00 per hour

Occupancy: Local

Guest Environment Expert/Room Attendant

Job Specification:

- Clean and tidy guest rooms, bathrooms, and common areas
- Change bed linens and make beds
- Replenish guest room supplies, such as toiletries and towels
- Dust and polish furniture and fixtures
- Vacuum and sweep floors
- Report any maintenance issues to the appropriate department
- Assist guests with any requests or needs they may have
- Follow all safety and sanitation policies and procedures

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2- 3 years experience in related field
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.
- Prior experience in housekeeping or related field preferred
- Knowledge of cleaning chemicals, proper storage, and disposal methods
- Ability to follow instructions and procedures
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn

Salary expectation - $20,596 - $22,880 per annum

Occupancy: Local

Gardener/Landscaper

Job Specification:

- Install and maintain seasonal plants
- Mow, trim and fertilize green spaces
- Mulch, edge and weed gardens
- Prune and trim trees and bushes
- Maintain all gardening equipment and machinery, like mowers, trimmers and leaf blowers
- Monitor and maintain the health of plants
- Deal with pest problems that could damage plants
- Keep gardens and green spaces clear of debris and litter

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience as a Gardener
- Certificates and advancement qualifications
- Must be able to work in a restaurant environment, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.

Salary expectation - $9.00 - $10.00 per hour

Occupancy: Work permit holder

APPLY NOW!

Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

Company Address : 1 Seaview Drive Cooper Jack Bay, Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Isalnds
We encourage belonger applicants to apply to our resort and send a copy of your resume to the Labour Department located Downtown, Aiport Road, Providenciales

What do DNA changes in Alzheimer's disease mean for patients and families?

Scientists know that age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's disease, but aging alone doesn't explain why some people develop the condition while others do not. Genetics, lifestyle factors and environmental influences also appear to play a role. Researchers are working to understand how these factors interact in the brain, explains Nilüfer Ertekin-Taner, M.D., Ph.D., a neurologist and neuroscience chair at Mayo Clinic in Florida.

Alzheimer's disease is the most common cause of dementia. It affects memory, thinking, behavior and the ability to carry out everyday activities.

"For many years, Alzheimer's research has focused on two proteins found in the brain: amyloid and tau. The buildup of these proteins is one of the best-known features of the disease," Dr. Ertekin-Taner says. "While these proteins remain important, researchers now recognize that Alzheimer's is a complex disease involving many biological processes beyond amyloid and tau."

A recent Mayo Clinic study explored another piece of the puzzle: changes in how the brain turns genes on and off.

Genes are sections of DNA that provide instructions for how cells work. Cells can control which genes are active and which remain inactive, allowing them to carry out different functions without changing the underlying DNA sequence. Scientists call this process epigenetics. These chemical changes can influence how cells behave and respond to aging, disease and environmental factors.



Alzheimer's disease

In the study, researchers examined brain tissue from hundreds of people with Alzheimer's disease and looked for patterns in these gene-regulating changes. They identified several changes strongly linked to the tau protein.

The research also highlighted the possible importance of oligodendrocytes — brain cells that support nerve cells by producing myelin, a protective layer that helps signals move efficiently. When myelin is damaged, communication in the brain may be disrupted.

"The findings suggest that Alzheimer's disease may involve not only damage to nerve cells but also changes in the systems that support how those cells communicate with one another," explains Dr. Ertekin-Taner, the study's senior author. "This growing understanding is encouraging researchers to look beyond traditional explanations of the disease."

So, what does this mean for patients today?

These findings are not expected to change how Alzheimer's disease is diagnosed or treated right now, Dr. Ertekin-Taner says: Scientists must confirm the findings, better understand how these changes affect the brain and determine whether the discoveries can lead to safe and effective treatments.

"One reason researchers are excited about epigenetics is that, unlike inherited DNA changes, some gene-control changes may be reversible," she adds. "While much more research is needed, the findings so far suggest that future therapies could target these biological processes."

Studies like this also help identify new areas for investigation and may reveal why Alzheimer's disease affects people differently, Dr. Ertekin-Taner says. As researchers learn more, they move closer to developing more personalized approaches to prevention and treatment.

The Mayo Clinic team that did research on the DNA changes associated with the disease also created a free online tool that allows researchers worldwide to explore the study's data. Called the Multiomic Atlas of AD Brain Endophenotypes, the searchable resource lets scientists look up specific genes and view results in interactive tables and graphs.

By making these findings widely available, researchers hope to accelerate discoveries and support the development of improved treatments for Alzheimer's disease and other neurological conditions.

Vertigo and dizziness are not the same and it is important to know the difference

Vertigo is a sensation that either you or your surroundings, or both, are spinning or moving when they are not. Some people confuse vertigo with dizziness, but there is a difference, explains Neil Shepard, PhD, an audiologist at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota.

"Dizziness typically is a feeling of being lightheaded, or it may be a loss of balance that makes you unsteady on your feet. Dizziness usually does not involve the feeling that either you or something in your environment is moving," Dr Shepard says.

"Experiencing vertigo can be very unnerving, especially if you've never had it before," Dr Shepard adds.

A number of disorders can trigger vertigo. The most common is a condition called benign paroxysmal positional vertigo, or BPPV. If you have BPPV once, you are at an increased risk of getting it again. In many cases, BPPV can be successfully treated.

For many adults, BPPV is the underlying source of vertigo. With BPPV, vertigo happens when you move a certain way. Sitting up, tilting your head or lying down may all trigger vertigo if you have BPPV.

"BPPV is a result of tiny crystals in your inner ear being out of place. The crystals make you sensitive to gravity and help you to keep your balance," Dr Shepard says. "Normally, a jelly-like membrane in your ear keeps the crystals where they belong. If the ear is damaged — often by a blow to the head — the crystals can shift to another part of the ear."

When they are out of place, the crystals make you sensitive to movement and position changes that normally don't affect you, sparking vertigo. Occasionally, especially in older adults, the specific cause of BPPV cannot be determined.

Treatment of BPPV

To diagnose BPPV, doctors use a technique called the Dix-Hallpike test. During this test, you are placed in the position that usually causes your vertigo to begin. When the symptoms start, your doctor checks to see if they are accompanied by a certain type of involuntary eye movement response. If so, that usually confirms BPPV.

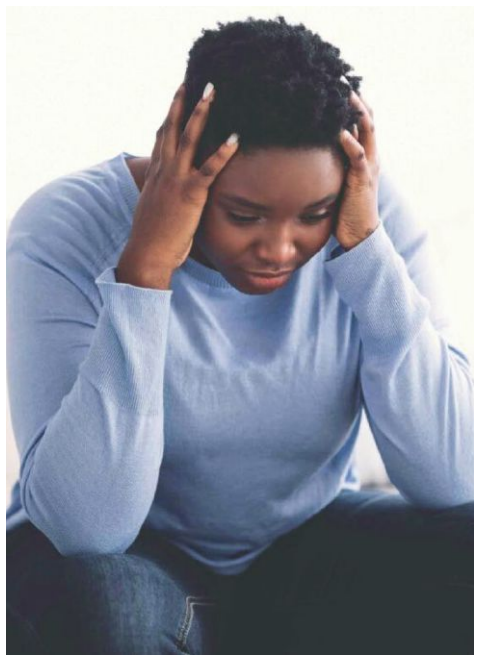
"If the test does not yield clear results but you have a history of vertigo and your symptoms are intermittent, other tests may be used to detect involuntary eye movements or to test your ability to maintain your balance," Dr Shepard says. "Physical therapy and other diagnostic tests also may be necessary."

Treatment of BPPV involves your doctor guiding you slowly through a series of specific head movements that reposition the crystals in your inner ear where they no longer cause vertigo. For the majority of people with BPPV, vertigo goes away after just one repositioning treatment. For about 50 per cent of people successfully treated for BPPV, however, the vertigo does come back within a year.

Your doctor will likely teach you how to perform the repositioning procedure by yourself, so you can do it at home. If the problem is not resolved after trying the repositioning treatment for a couple of days, follow-up treatments with your doctor may be necessary.

Beyond BPPV, examples of other medical conditions that can cause vertigo include vestibular neuritis and labyrinthitis. Both involve inner ear damage that is usually the result of an infection. Meniere's disease, a rare inner ear disorder, also can lead to vertigo. The underlying cause of Meniere's disease is not clearly understood. These disorders can be harder to treat than BPPV. In many cases, though, the vertigo they cause can be effectively managed so it doesn't interfere with a person's daily activities.

"Although it is not a medical emergency, if you have an episode of vertigo, see your doctor as soon as possible to have your condition evaluated," Dr Shepard recommends. "It is important to find the underlying cause of vertigo so it can be effectively treated."



Vertigo is a sensation that either you or your surroundings, or both, are spinning or moving when they are not. Photo - Mayo Clinic

Buju, Chronixx, Ziggy Marley among six nominees for Best Reggae Album Grammy



Six Jamaican artistes have been nominated for Best Reggae Album at the 69th annual Grammy Awards. From top left: Chronixx, Protoje, and Shaggy. Bottom from left: Buju Banton, Runkus and Ziggy Marley.

Jamaican artistes Buju Banton, Chronixx, Ziggy Marley, Protoje, Runkus and Shaggy have been nominated for Best Reggae Album at the 69th annual Grammy Awards.

The six artistes will compete for the award with albums spanning roots reggae, dancehall and other contemporary sounds.

Buju Banton earned a nomination for 'Too Too Bad', while Chronixx was recognised for 'Exile' and Ziggy Marley for 'Brightside'.

Protoje received a nod for 'The Art of Acceptance', while Runkus is nominated for 'Supernova' and Shaggy for 'Lottery'.

The nominations bring together established international reggae stars and artistes representing a newer generation of Jamaican music.

Runkus is the only first-time nominee in the category.

For Chronixx, the nomination is his second career Grammy nod, following his recognition for 'Chronology' in 2018.

Protoje earns his third nomination, having previously been recognised for 'A Matter of Time' in 2019 and 'Third Time's the Charm' in 2023.

Buju Banton and Shaggy each receive their ninth career nominations, while Ziggy Marley extends his record to 17 nominations. Marley is a nine-time Grammy winner, while Banton has won once and Shaggy twice.

The winner will be announced at the 69th Grammy Awards on February 7, 2027.

Final-round voting by Recording Academy members is scheduled to take place between December 10 and January.

The Best Reggae Album category recognises excellence in reggae recordings, including roots reggae, dancehall and ska.



WHAT PHILANTHROPY MISSES WHEN IT LEAVES OUT THE ARTS

At the WINGS Forum in Montreal this September, philanthropy leaders from around the world discussed how the sector should respond to rising authoritarianism, climate change, entrenched power imbalances, artificial intelligence and the need for greater collective action. Arts and culture funding was largely absent, from the agenda and from the room.

CCF was happy to join our Caribbean Philanthropic Alliance (CariPhil) colleagues – the Haiti Development Institute, AFS Intercultura (Dominican Republic) and the Jamaica Network of Corporate Foundations – in bringing Caribbean perspectives into these discussions. Our Executive Director left with a sense of increased urgency for bringing arts perspectives into these spaces.

Philanthropy is grappling with challenges that are fundamentally about how people understand the world, relate to one another, exercise power and imagine different futures. Yet the creative and cultural sectors are often treated as separate from the wider development agenda. The arts are not simply another sector competing for philanthropic resources. They are also a resource that can contribute to the work of many other sectors.

CCF's own portfolio shows the breadth of this contribution. Of the 100 projects we have funded, 37% explicitly address social justice, while a further 43% contribute through cultural rights, community participation, representation, and the preservation and transmission of historically marginalised knowledge and practices. About 20% address climate action directly, even though no CCF call has ever asked for this. Across our portfolio, we see a myriad of examples of how the arts bring cohesion and clarity to complex issues.

One outstanding example is the Beyond the Beach project in Barbados, which translates climate research into multidisciplinary arts experiences for the coastal communities most vulnerable to climate change. It gives Barbadians who are vulnerable to climate change a way to engage with information that directly affects their lives, through visual arts, songs and theatre.

This November, CCF is joining Global Artivism Month to feature artists, organisations and initiatives using creative expression to address issues around the world. But the responsibility extends beyond featuring this work within activist communities. Arts funders need to raise their voices within wider philanthropic circles and make the case for integrating creative practice into responses to the challenges of our time. Funders of climate action, democracy, human rights, peace and security, and economic development should be asking how artists and cultural organisations can contribute to their objectives.

There is, however, a second dimension to this argument. We must be careful not to justify arts funding solely through its contribution to other development priorities. Art does not always need to solve a problem, advance a policy objective or deliver a measurable social outcome to deserve support.

There is a growing body of research documenting the emotional, cognitive and physical benefits of making and experiencing art. In Your Brain on Art (2023), Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross explore the ways artistic experiences influence our brains and bodies, with implications for wellbeing across the lifespan. Through study after study, they highlight the benefits for particularly vulnerable groups such as children, older people and survivors of trauma.

Even more poignantly, they point to the measurable, neural benefits the arts have on all of us. Artistic expression and cultural participation are fundamental to how people understand themselves, connect with others and make meaning of their experiences. We need to fund the arts both as a contributor to change and for their own sake.

The philanthropic sector needs to rethink where and how it invests. This means involving artists and cultural organisations in the design of programmes addressing major societal challenges, building partnerships with arts funders and intermediaries, and allocating resources directly to creatives. It also means protecting space for artistic practice that is not required to demonstrate a specific development outcome.

CCF brings the experience of funding 100 projects in the region and a network of 3500 creatives and cultural organisations across the Caribbean. We are inviting philanthropic organisations, foundations and corporate funders to explore what we can achieve together. From matching gifts and collaborative calls for proposals to co-designed programmes, CCF connects funders with the people and organisations already using creativity to make a difference.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF MINISTERIAL GOVERNMENT, 1976–2026:ROAD TO 1976

PROMISE, PRESSURE AND THE WORK OF GOVERNING

The First Ministerial Government, 1976–1980: What Was Promised, What Was Undertaken and What Was Achieved

By Joan Astwood-Sutton
Author. Cultural Historian, Heritage Educator

ARTICLE 17 OF 23

A government can win an election in a single day, but building a country requires decisions and investments whose consequences may not become apparent for years. When the first Ministerial Government assumed responsibility in 1976, the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands expected improvements in employment, education, transport, public utilities and economic opportunity. Those expectations were understandable. Families had endured decades of economic uncertainty, the decline of traditional industries and the departure of relatives seeking better opportunities overseas.

The first administration inherited limited financial resources, difficult transportation links between islands, and public services in need of considerable improvement. The ministers also entered office without the experience of an established local ministerial system to rely on. They had to learn how to operate the new constitutional arrangements while addressing the immediate needs of communities whose patience had already been tested by years of hardship.

The historical importance of this administration cannot be measured solely through political speeches or promises. Its record must be examined through identifiable projects, financial commitments, negotiations, completed improvements and initiatives that continued under later governments. Some developments produced results during the first term. Others laid foundations for successive administrations to build on.

Education: Investment in the Next Generation

Education was among the responsibilities assigned to Oswald O'Neil Skippings, whose portfolio also included Health, Welfare and Local Government. The challenge went beyond providing classrooms. The government had to consider the availability of teachers, educational materials, practical facilities and buildings capable of accommodating changing student populations.

A report in the Cayman Compass on 18 April 1980 described an extension to the North Caicos Junior High School to accommodate rising enrolment. The additional facilities included provision for practical subjects, staff accommodation and library use. Plans for a new primary school at Whitby were also reported.

These developments matter because they highlight the distinction between establishing a new service and improving an existing one. The North Caicos school predated Ministerial Government. Its expansion was an effort to strengthen an institution already serving the community. Historical recognition should therefore go to both those who established the earlier educational foundations and those who contributed to their subsequent development.

For families, improved educational facilities meant more than construction. Every additional opportunity for a child to study closer to home reduced the burden of obtaining an education elsewhere. Investment in education also offered the chance to prepare a generation capable of participating in the country's emerging economy.

Salt Cay: Electricity, Water and Everyday Survival

Public Works and Utilities, under Minister Lewis Edwin Astwood, addressed some of the most immediate concerns facing island communities. In Salt Cay, where the decline of the salt industry had profoundly affected economic life, reliable electricity and water storage were particularly important.

The April 1980 newspaper report identified British funding for a standby generator, additional electricity distribution lines, and a catchment to improve the use of the recently completed Gold Tank. These measures reflected practical needs rather than the construction of highly visible prestige projects. Electricity could support refrigeration, small businesses, and household activities, while improved water collection and storage offered greater security in a community dependent on rainfall.

The available record identifies funding and proposed work, but it does not establish that every item had been completed by the date of the report. This distinction is essential when assessing historical achievements. A project announced, a project funded and a project delivered are three distinct stages of development. The public ultimately benefits from government when a service becomes available and remains dependable.

The Washington Negotiations: Seeking a Better Return for the Territory

Some of the administration's most consequential work took place outside the Turks and Caicos Islands. From 17 to 24 September 1979, a government delegation, including Chief Minister JAGS McCartney, Oswald Skippings, and Lewis Edwin Astwood, travelled to Washington to discuss the American installations.

According to the United Nations Visiting Mission report, the negotiations addressed the transfer of the Grand Turk airfield to territorial control, subject to international operating standards. They also concerned US$750,000 in rental payments previously paid to Britain, with an agreement on their transfer to the territorial government. The delegation also raised wage differences between local and American personnel employed at the installations.

These were substantial matters for a small territory. The airfield represented an important national asset, the rental payments concerned public revenue, and the wage issue directly affected workers. The negotiations illustrated how the new administration sought to advance the territory's economic interests even while external affairs remained constitutionally within the Governor's special responsibilities.

The wage issue deserves particular recognition because national development cannot be separated from how those whose labour sustains it are treated. Employment opportunities matter, but so do the conditions under which people work and the fairness with which their contributions are valued.

Providenciales: Decisions That Preceded a Tourism Transformation

The development of Providenciales offers another example of why a government's achievements must be examined across more than one political term. In 1979, the



first administration supported the proposed tourism venture that would eventually become Club Med. In early 1980, British funding of more than £3.9 million was announced to support infrastructure, including airport, road, water, and electricity works. An agreement followed in February 1980.

The resort opened in 1984, after McCartney's death and under a subsequent administration. Its eventual opening should not be attributed exclusively to the first government, just as the early decisions and negotiations that helped advance the project should not be overlooked.

Tourism development required investment, infrastructure, government approvals, technical expertise and labour. These elements came together over several years. The resulting transformation of Providenciales became one of the most significant economic developments in the country's modern history. Yet its foundations were laid through decisions made long before the full scale of that transformation became apparent.

Salt Cay's tourist cottages, completed in late 1979, represented a different approach. Their smaller scale reflected an attempt to create opportunities suited to a community whose economic circumstances differed from Providenciales'. Together, the two developments demonstrate that tourism was being considered through more than one model.

Radio Turks and Caicos: Giving the Islands a Common Voice

The development of Radio Turks and Caicos in December 1976, building upon the earlier broadcasting service, was another important institutional change. In a territory where communities were separated by sea, radio provided a practical way to share news, weather information, public announcements, and local programming.

Its significance extended beyond communication technology. Radio helped connect communities that did not always have regular physical contact. People could hear voices, music and concerns from other islands, strengthening a sense of belonging to a wider national community.

The establishment and development of broadcasting services therefore formed part of the country's social and cultural progress, alongside more visible investments in roads, buildings and utilities.

The Constitutional Debate That Complicated Government

By the end of the first term, constitutional questions were increasingly prominent. Following discussions with Britain in 1979, the Legislative Council accepted a proposed timetable for independence by mid-1982, along with an aid package. However, the proposal did not command unquestioned public support.

Questions arose about economic readiness, the adequacy of financial assistance and the consequences of independence. During its April 1980 visit, the United Nations mission heard differing opinions from political leaders and members of the public. Its subsequent assessment indicated substantial opposition to independence under the circumstances at the time. That assessment should not be mistaken for a referendum result.

The debate showed that introducing Ministerial Government had not settled all questions about the country's constitutional future. Instead, it created a new setting in which elected leaders, opposition representatives, and citizens could disagree on the next stage of political development.

Judging the First Government Fairly

The first Ministerial Government should not be remembered as an administration that delivered every development the country required. Nor should its contribution be reduced to the difficulties it encountered. The documentary record identifies important initiatives in education, public utilities, tourism, transport, broadcasting and international negotiations.

Those initiatives involved ministers, public officers, technical staff, investors, workers and development partners. Their contributions should be recognised without attributing every outcome to a single individual or political organisation.

The most useful lesson from 1976–1980 is that government must be judged by the relationship between decisions and outcomes. Political promises set expectations, but governing requires careful planning, lawful authority, resources, and sustained implementation.

The first ministers did not inherit a developed country. They inherited the responsibility to help create the conditions for development. Their legacy is best understood not by exaggerated claims, but by the decisions they made, the work they undertook and the foundations they helped lay for generations who followed.





MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES HOST COMMUNITY TOWN HALL MEETING IN SOUTH CAICOS

The Ministry of Health and Human Services, in collaboration with the National Health Insurance Board (NHIB), has reaffirmed its commitment to improving healthcare delivery, strengthening public health systems, and enhancing patient experiences following a recent community town hall meeting on the island of South Caicos.

The event provided residents with an open forum to discuss healthcare services, infrastructure needs, and public health concerns directly with senior Health officials, including the Minister of Health and representatives from the National Health Insurance Board.

Throughout the discussion, residents shared concerns regarding access to specialist healthcare services and the continued need for patients to travel overseas for treatment. Officials acknowledged these challenges and highlighted ongoing efforts to build local healthcare capacity by increasing the number of specialists, including internists and other critical healthcare providers, while continuing to strengthen primary and secondary care services throughout the country.

"Improving access to quality healthcare remains a top priority for the Ministry of Health through the Health Services Authority," noted, Hon. Kyle Knowles, Minister of Health and Human Services. "Our goal is to ensure that more services can be provided locally, reducing the burden and inconvenience faced by patients who currently need to seek treatment abroad."

The meeting also focused on concerns surrounding medical referrals and travel arrangements for overseas treatment. Community members described instances of communication breakdowns and administrative delays that have affected patient appointments. In response, officials outlined plans to implement a centralized case management system designed to improve patient coordination and tracking. Additionally, work is underway to introduce a unified NISS/NHIP identification system that will enhance record management and create a smoother patient experience.

Public health and environmental sanitation were also key topics of discussion. Residents expressed concern about waste management practices and the condition of local dumpsites, citing potential health impacts on surrounding communities. Environmental Health officials advised that mosquito control measures, including larvicide treatments, are ongoing and that the Government continues to explore more comprehensive and sustainable waste management solutions.

Concerns were also raised about the maintenance and cleanliness of public buildings. Officials emphasized the importance of shared responsibility, noting that while estate management has oversight for facilities, department leaders and staff must also play an active role in maintaining healthy and sanitary work environments.

The need for expanded mental health services was another significant issue highlighted during the meeting. Officials acknowledged the challenges associated with recruiting dedicated mental health professionals and reiterated their commitment to strengthening support systems for individuals experiencing mental health crises. Efforts currently underway include continued recruitment initiatives and specialized training for law enforcement officers to better assist vulnerable individuals in emergency situations.

The town hall further provided an update on the Government's broader health sector modernization agenda. Officials reported that nine strategic work streams are currently being advanced to improve human resources, financial management, legal frameworks, healthcare operations, and medical infrastructure across the national health system.

As part of these reforms, the NHIB also committed to maintaining a stronger and more consistent presence throughout the islands to better support patient registration services, respond to concerns, and improve direct engagement with communities.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment by both the Ministry of Health team and residents of South Caicos to work collaboratively toward a healthier Community. Citizens were encouraged to actively participate in community clean-up efforts, report administrative challenges promptly, and engage constructively with healthcare providers and public officials to support ongoing improvements.

The Ministry of Health and Human Services thanked residents for their active participation and valuable feedback, reaffirming that community engagement remains essential to building a more accessible, responsive, and sustainable healthcare system for all.



Digital Assets & FinTech Taskforce Roundtable Discussion share a photo moment

TCIFSC LAUNCHES VIRTUAL ASSETS AWARENESS AND OVERSIGHT INITIATIVE

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (the Commission) has launched TCI FSC Speaks: Virtual Assets, a 15-episode educational and public awareness series, and convened its first Digital Assets & FinTech Taskforce Roundtable Discussion.

The series, led by the Commission's Supervision, Digital Assets & FinTech Department, aims to make information about virtual assets more accessible, relevant and practical. It will explore key concepts, emerging developments, potential opportunities and risks, helping individuals, businesses and other stakeholders make more informed decisions about digital financial technologies.

"As virtual assets become more prominent, people need clear, practical information to understand how they work and what to consider before engaging with them," said Mrs Gessie Herilien, Deputy Director, Supervision, Digital Assets & FinTech. "This series is an opportunity to build awareness and encourage responsible, informed participation in an evolving area of finance."

The Commission will share further information about the series and upcoming episodes every Friday through its official communication channels. The initiative forms part of the regulator's wider commitment to financial literacy and to supporting a safe, transparent and resilient financial services sector in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

On 13 October 2026, the Commission convened its first Digital Assets & FinTech Taskforce Roundtable Discussion. Led by Mrs Herilien, the meeting brought together Taskforce members, including Mrs Kenisha Bacchus, Managing Director (Ag), to consider developments and regulatory priorities in the digital assets and fintech sectors.

Discussions focused on the proposed virtual assets regulatory framework and its progress towards Cabinet and parliamentary approval. Members also considered licensing and supervisory arrangements, cybersecurity requirements and the potential introduction of a regulatory testing sandbox.

The roundtable examined risks associated with virtual assets, including cybersecurity vulnerabilities, digital asset custody, third-party outsourcing, corporate governance and beneficial ownership transparency. Participants highlighted the need to strengthen supervisory tools, technical capacity, due diligence and public education ahead of the framework becoming operational.

"Effective regulation depends on understanding both the opportunities and the risks," said Mrs Herilien. "By bringing together expertise and perspectives, we can identify practical priorities and help ensure our approach remains informed and responsive to a changing financial landscape."

Mrs Bacchus noted that "innovation must be accompanied by appropriate safeguards, effective oversight and the institutional capacity to put them into practice. Protecting the integrity and resilience of our financial services sector will remain central as we respond to developments in digital assets and fintech."

Through continued knowledge-sharing, collaboration and professional development, the Taskforce initiative aims to strengthen members' technical expertise and supervisory capabilities.

Together, the education series and roundtable reflect the Commission's commitment to promoting public understanding and developing a balanced, forward-looking approach to virtual assets and financial technology.



Pope Leo XIV touches his face while arriving in a popemobile surrounded by a large crowd of people holding up phones to take pictures.

Pope Leo Struck in the Eye by Thrown Rosary During Peru Farewell Parade

Pope Leo's run of successfully catching items tossed to him by crowds came to an end on Monday, as what appeared to be a rosary thrown in his direction struck him near the eye as he arrived for a farewell Mass in Peru.

Leo, ending a 12-day trip to South America, has become known for his nimble hands, as faithful in the crowd throw him things as he tours. He has caught plush dolls, flags and even stopped to grab a pizza offered by Chicagoans at an audience in St. Peter's Square in Rome.

But on Monday, Leo, traveling in the popemobile, missed an object sent in his direction from a large crowd gathered at an airbase in Lima ahead of his journey back to Rome.

Photos and video showed the pope rubbing his eye shortly after the object was tossed toward him as he greeted well-wishers along the route to Mass. Images suggested the object was likely a rosary, prayer beads that pilgrims often ask the pope to bless.

The pope continued his tour and there was no indication he was injured. In his sermon, he thanked Peruvians for their hospitality during his six-day visit to the country, which he called his homeland.

Leo, 71 and a tennis player, is known for being unusually dexterous for his age. But his luck has run out before. At a previous event in Rome he apologized to the Vatican videographer in the back of his popemobile for knocking the camera operator as he tried to catch something thrown his way. He missed that catch, too.

US colleges struggle as international students turn away



Steven Miller, Donald Trump's new Chief of Staff on the campaign trail

The U.S. has long been a prime landing spot for international students. Thanks to President Donald Trump's visa crackdown, they're now taking their talents and tuition dollars elsewhere.

Tighter visa restrictions, stricter vetting and visa interview and appointment bottlenecks are contributing to what early data suggests will be a steep decline in international student enrollment nationwide this fall. And that was before Trump elevated Stephen Miller — the architect of his immigration agenda and campaign against academia — to chief of staff.

The limits on foreign students advances two administration aims: narrowing avenues of potential immigration and hitting the bank accounts of academic institutions conservatives have long criticized. Now, the policy changes, coupled with the administration's "America First" rhetoric and immigration sweeps, are taking hold, higher education leaders say.

"This is great for the United States that they're spending money here, that they're learning about our culture and our country," Michael Roth, president of Wesleyan University, a private liberal arts school, said of international students. "To just make it harder in the name of some kind of nationalism, it seems like we're shooting ourselves in the foot just to see how good our boots are."

The nationwide enrollment stats for the last academic year are expected to be released this month, but figures released by individual universities signify what is likely to be another slump this fall.

The number of international students enrolled at the University of Washington's Seattle campus declined for a second year in a row, falling to its lowest level in at least a decade. At the Ohio State University, those numbers fell by nearly 13% — the fewest it's seen in 16 years. And the Illinois Institute of Technology plans to borrow up to $200 million from its endowment because of its declining international student enrollment.

Benjamin Johnson, a spokesperson for Ohio State, said in a statement the university's international student enrollment "strengthens the academic experience" for all of their students.

"We want the world's best and brightest to choose Ohio State for school and stay to build a life and career in Ohio," Johnson said.

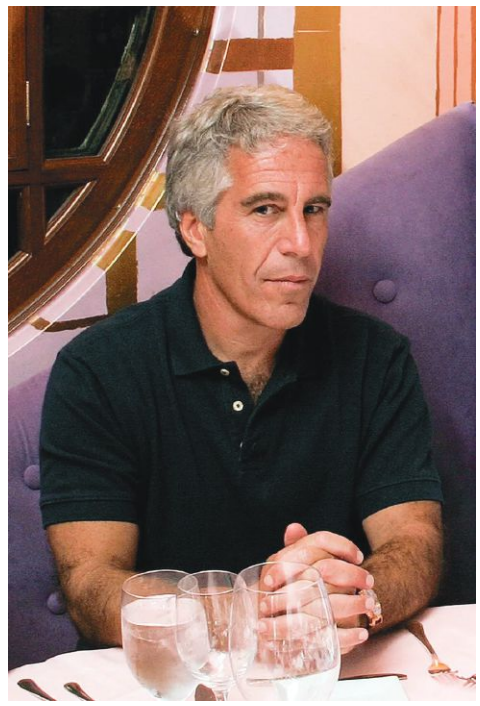
Stan Veuger, an economist at the American Enterprise Institute, a conservative-leaning think tank, said the Trump administration's goal is to "cut off all forms of migration to the maximum extent they can."

And with Miller now serving as the president's top adviser, "I think it will gradually get worse unless some of the Democrats manage to effectively push back," he said, referencing the pending Democratic takeover of Congress.

Higher education leaders warn that the administration's ever-changing visa rules and proposed restrictions could permanently damage the country's appeal to international talent and upend universities' finances. International students, who often pay full tuition, are an important source of revenue for colleges and sometimes subsidize financial aid and other services for domestic students.

"The latest data we have shows that when it comes to bachelor's degree programs at public universities, every international student opens up two spots for American students," said Zuzana C. Wootson, deputy director of federal policy at the Presidents' Alliance, which represents 500 presidents and chancellors of public and private colleges and universities.

Forensic expert says his analysis of autopsy photos suggests Epstein was killed



Jeffrey Epstein

A forensic expert has said he believes that convicted sex offender Jeffrey Epstein's death in prison was the result of a homicide, not suicide.

Speaking to BBC Newsnight, Professor Michael Freeman said that after reviewing the New York City medical examiner's file he believes Epstein was strangled, most likely from behind.

The medical examiner who carried out the autopsy concluded in 2019 that Epstein's injuries were consistent with suicide and there was no evidence of the defensive wounds expected if his death had been a homicide.

Epstein was found dead in prison on 10 August 2019 in New York as he awaited trial on sex trafficking charges.

Dr Barbara Sampson, chief medical examiner at the time of Epstein's autopsy, who ruled that Epstein's death was a suicide, has previously said: "I stand firmly behind our determination of the cause and manner of death for Mr. Epstein." The BBC has approached Sampson for further comment.

Freeman has served as a cause-of-death expert to attorneys-general in the US for death in police custody cases, including George Floyd in Minnesota.

He published his research and the New York City medical examiner's files after presenting his findings in London on Monday evening.

Freeman, who did not see the body, based his conclusions on the files and photographs from the examiner's report provided to him by Epstein's brother, Mark Epstein, who has always maintained that his brother was murdered.

Freeman said his analysis is independent and that he was not paid by Mark Epstein. His research has not been peer reviewed.

He told the BBC that he believed there are signs indicating an assault on Epstein, including a deep haemorrhage to his left shoulder and injuries that appear to be consistent to being struck in the face.

Freeman said he believed the evidence was most consistent with strangulation using a ligature and then that same ligature was probably used to suspend the body from the bunk bed.

He said there appeared to be fingernail marks above the ligature mark on Epstein's neck, which "would be consistent with strangulation, particularly from behind. And the attempt by the victim to try to remove the ligature from the neck".

He said "the injuries and the way the body was found don't match up. There's only one remaining explanation then, and that is that the death was as a result of a homicide."

The medical examiner who performed the autopsy at the time told the Department of Justice (DoJ) Office of the Inspector General that Epstein's injuries were more consistent with, and indicative of, a suicide by hanging rather than homicide by strangulation, adding there was no evidence of defensive wounds consistent with what is seen in victims of strangulation.

Epstein was awaiting trial on sex trafficking charges when he was found dead in his cell Freeman said he would have expected in an investigation of a death by hanging in custody for there to be a photograph before the body was taken down.

According to a DoJ investigation into Epstein's time in prison, the guard who found Epstein immediately called for a second colleague to help, lowered Epstein's body to the floor and began attempts to resuscitate him.

Epstein's death came a month after he was briefly placed on suicide watch, the DoJ report said.

When asked who might have killed Epstein if his interpretation of the evidence was correct, Freeman said he had "no idea".

"That is not something I have an opinion about. That isn't any part of any investigation that I've done," he said.

Challenged on whether his views veered into conspiracy theory, Freeman said: "I have the luxury of being able to say, don't take my word for it, let everybody look at it."

"If you think I'm still a conspiracy theorist because I'm looking at something that looks like a strangulation and say, I think it is a strangulation and I don't think it could be a hanging, show me where I got it wrong."

"I'm wide open to that. I'm an academic. I'm quite happy to hear people's theories on things that are informed," he said.

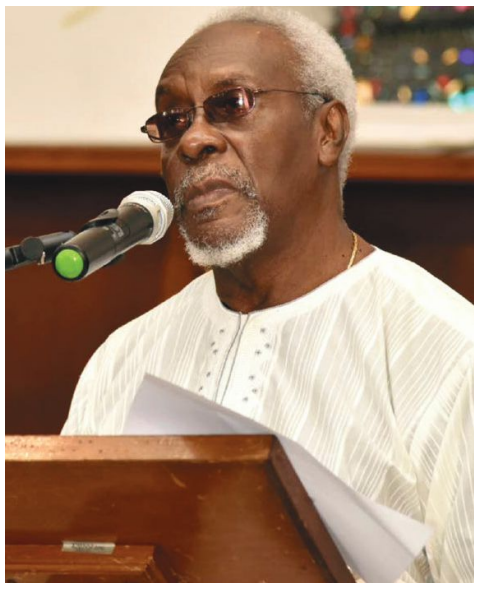
Epstein was convicted in 2008 of soliciting prostitution from a minor, for which he was registered as a sex offender. He escaped a heavy jail sentence as a result of a plea deal.

Eleven years later, Epstein was charged with running a network of underage girls for sex. He was awaiting trial in 2019 when he was found dead at the Metropolitan Correctional Center in New York City.

Former Jamaican Prime Ministers Lament Slow Caribbean integration



Bruce Golding, former Prime Minister of Jamaica



PJ Patterson former Prime Minister of Jamaica

Former Prime Ministers PJ Patterson and Bruce Golding have lamented the slow pace of Caribbean integration, arguing that the region has fallen short of the vision and aspirations that inspired the formation of CARICOM.

Golding said the integration movement had made some achievements but remained far from realising its full potential.

"I am not sure that Manley, Barrow, Williams and Burnham would recognise the community today," he said.

Golding was speaking at the launch of a book on Caribbean integration by former Governor General Sir Kenneth Hall, titled 'Caribbean Integration: The Patterson Doctrine – Governance, Transformation and the Future of the Caribbean Community', at the University of the West Indies, Mona, on Sunday.

He said the Eastern Caribbean was significantly further ahead in integration than the wider CARICOM community, attributing the disparity to the problem of insularity across the region.

He lamented that the flame which burned brightly at the beginning of the integration movement had lost much of its intensity.

Golding argued that the region's failure to deepen integration had left it vulnerable to interference, exploitation and disruption.

He identified weak conviction and a lack of political will as the biggest obstacles to advancing the integration process.

Golding also questioned whether CARICOM's founding fathers would be satisfied with the direction in which the community had moved.

Meanwhile, Patterson said the current global climate was increasingly characterised by isolationist rather than integrative tendencies.

He noted that while the region had experienced major upheavals in the past, the current challenges represented an unprecedented period of uncertainty.

"After more than six decades, we still seem haunted by the Federal ghost. We cannot remain haunted by it forever. The global turbulence and innumerable obstacles dictate that our only choice for salvation is to be of good courage and move boldly forward to fashion a mature, resilient and vibrant regionalism," he said.

Patterson argued that the current global turbulence and hegemonic doctrines made it imperative for the region to establish and maintain what he described as the Global African Community (GAC).

He said the proposed coalition would bring together people and organisations of African birth and descent across the six regions of Africa and the diaspora, including communities in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Central and South America, the United Kingdom and the Middle East.

Patterson also stressed that the region's foreign policies should be guided by fundamental principles rather than narrow transactions or subservience to powerful interests.

"It is none but ourselves can free our minds to determine what our future portends – carving out our own space, charting our own destiny and no longer let others continue to determine that for us," he said.

He argued that Hall's book challenges the region to bridge the gap between its institutions and the citizens they serve through stronger governance, production integration and a renewed sense of shared Caribbean purpose.

Patterson said the University of the West Indies' Mona campus was an appropriate place to begin that process, given its role in education, research and developing Caribbean solutions to regional challenges.

PROVO PREMIER LEAGUE HEATING UP

14 Goals Scored in Last 3 Matches



SEE PAGE 32

ICC reveals format for World Cup Qualifiers

The West Indies will have to battle through a five-team group stage and hope to reach the semi-finals if they are to make it out of next year's World Cup Qualifiers.

The ICC yesterday revealed the format for the 2027 Qualifiers, which are due to be held in February and March.

As part of the new format, which sees the number of teams increased from 10 to 14, the 10 teams in the Qualifier will be divided into two groups of five.

The round-robin group stage will be followed by a semi-final and a final, with the top four teams qualifying for the World Cup, which will be co-hosted by South Africa, Zimbabwe and Namibia from October 2 to November 21.

The winners of the Qualifier progresses directly to the World Cup group stage, whereas the three remaining teams will compete in the Super Series to determine the final group stage spot.

In total, the Qualifiers will have 23 games.

The Windies, along with Ireland, Netherlands, Oman, Scotland and the USA have already secured their spots at the Qualifiers, with the remaining four teams coming from the World Cup Qualifier Play-off to be held in Nepal from December 4 to 21.



The West Indies will have to be among the top two teams in their group at the Qualifiers if they are to have any chance of reaching the 2027 Cricket World Cup.

The eight teams which are a part of the Play-off are Nepal, Italy, Namibia, Uganda, Kuwait, Canada, Jersey and the United Arab Emirates.

Afghanistan, Australia, Bangladesh, England, India, New Zealand, Pakistan and Sri Lanka have already booked their spots at the World Cup, with South Africa and Zimbabwe getting automatic qualification as hosts.

Concacaf Unveils Details for Revamped 2027 U-17 Qualifiers

Concacaf has officially announced the framework for the 2027 Concacaf Under-17 Qualifiers, introducing a streamlined competition format that will see 16 nations battle for a spot on the world stage.

The tournament is scheduled to take place from February 8 to 14, 2027, with Honduras and Mexico serving as host nations.

The primary objective for the participating Member Associations will be securing one of the region's eight berths for the FIFA U-17 World Cup 2027.

The new format will divide the 16 teams into four groups of four, with each team playing a single round-robin schedule. The top two finishers from each group – the four group winners and four second-place finishers – will punch their tickets to the World Cup.

The field of competitors, listed alphabetically, includes Barbados, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Puerto Rico, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United States.



Members of the Bermuda team celebrate after scoring a goal against Jamaica during the 2019 Under-17s Championship in Florida.

The path to qualification will be determined at the Official Draw, set for November 19, 2026.

Seeding for the draw is based on the Concacaf Under-17 Rankings as of February 14, 2026.

The draw pots are as follows: Pot 1: Mexico, United States, Canada, Panama; Pot 2: Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Haiti; Pot 3: Puerto Rico, Nicaragua, Jamaica, Dominican Republic; Pot 4: Barbados, Guatemala, Trinidad and Tobago, Cuba

Draw procedures will begin with Pot 1, assigning the top seeds to positions A1, B1, C1, and D1, before proceeding through Pots 2, 3, and 4.

A key constraint has been implemented to ensure separation of the co-hosts: Honduras and Mexico cannot be drawn into the same group.

This tournament marks a significant shift for the Confederation, following the announcement of its revamped Youth National Team competitions calendar for 2026-2029.

The complete match schedule will be released following the conclusion of the draw.

The 2027 edition follows a successful campaign in the previous cycle, where Costa Rica, Cuba, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, and the United States topped their respective groups to qualify for the FIFA U-17 World Cup Qatar 2026.

UWI targets $100m annual windfall from Mona Bowl revamp

The University of the West Indies (UWI) Mona Campus is embarking on an ambitious redevelopment of its 41-acre Mona Bowl sporting complex, with plans to transform the historic facility into a premier sporting and entertainment hub expected to generate $100 million in annual revenue for the university.

Although a final price tag for the redevelopment has not yet been established, the project is expected to cost in excess of $100 million.

The redevelopment will be undertaken in phases through a combination of university investment, corporate sponsorships, and private-sector partnerships.

Bornette Donaldson, executive director of UWI's Business Development Office, said the redevelopment is aimed at addressing years of deterioration across several facilities.

He said the goal is to create a sustainable commercial model that can support the Mona Bowl's long-term maintenance and development.

The Mona Bowl spans over 40 acres and includes the UWI/Usain Bolt Regupol Track, the Sir Frank Worrell Cricket Ground, the UWI gymnasium, football fields, tennis courts, swimming pools, and other sporting facilities.

Donaldson said the facilities have never lacked demand, but rather the financial resources and commercial structure needed to bring its venues up to competition standard.

"We expect that the facility itself will generate about $100 million net revenue to the campus every year, so it's a worthwhile thing," Donaldson said.

INTERNATIONAL MARKET

The redevelopment will be driven by three main areas: establishing the Mona Bowl as a premier sporting and cultural venue, developing a sports academy offering specialised training and academic support, and expanding sports medicine and sports tourism opportunities.



At the unveiling of the UWI Mona Bowl Redevelopment project are (from left) Olympian Oblique Seville; Professor Densil Williams, Pro Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UWI; Professor Sir Hilary Beckles, Vice Chancellor of UWI; Fayval Williams, Minister of Finance and the Public Service and Member of Parliament for St Andrew Eastern and Dr Donovan Stanberry, Campus Registrar at the UWI. The unveiling ceremony took place at the Usain Bolt Track at the UWI Mona Bowl yesterday.

Donaldson said the university is particularly interested in attracting international teams, clubs, and universities seeking training-camp opportunities in Jamaica.

"Internationally, there's a major opportunity for universities, clubs, and teams that want to come to Jamaica and have a training camp or something like that. That's a market that we're going to be catering for because we have the accommodations on the campus," Donaldson explained.

The university, through its redevelopment, also intends to strengthen existing local relationships with several sporting organisations, including the Jamaica Football Federation, Racers Track Club, Jamaica Cricket Association, and Rugby Jamaica.

PHASED DEVELOPMENT

Donaldson said a timeline for completion is yet to be established but believes the Mona Bowl will be fully operational within the next five years.

The redevelopment will be executed through a phased approach, with the first phase already under way through the university's own investment.

Donaldson confirmed that work had already started on restoring the cricket ground, the grass track, the football fields, the facilities' perimeter fencing, and rehabilitating the swimming pool.

Phase two will depend heavily on private-sector participation and includes an expanded gymnasium and indoor sporting hall, a tennis complex, a renovated cricket pavilion, a major entertainment venue, and an upgraded Usain Bolt Mini Stadium.

Beyond the university community, the redevelopment is expected to preserve and expand access for surrounding communities, particularly August Town, which, historically, has benefited from access to the Mona Bowl's sporting facilities.

Donaldson said the university intends to maintain that relationship while improving the complex's capacity to accommodate schools, community sporting programmes, and national competitions.

The university is targeting an approximately 18-month rollout for the next stage of development although individual projects will progress as funding and partnerships are secured.



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Reservations Manager

Job Specification:

- Provide leadership, guidance, and direction to the reservation team, including recruitment, training, performance management, and professional development, to foster a high-performing and motivated workforce.
- Oversee all aspects of the reservation process, including handling inquiries, managing bookings, confirming reservations, and resolving issues or discrepancies, ensuring accuracy, efficiency, and compliance with hotel policies and procedures.
- Develop and implement strategies to maximize room revenue and occupancy levels, including setting pricing strategies, managing inventory, and implementing upselling and cross-selling initiatives to achieve revenue targets.
- Distribution channel management
- Manage relationships with distribution partners, online travel agencies (OTAs), and global distribution systems (GDS), negotiating contracts, optimizing distribution channels, and monitoring performance to increase market share and revenue.
- Analyze reservation trends, booking patterns, and market demand data to forecast occupancy levels, identify opportunities for revenue growth, and make data-driven decisions to optimize pricing and inventory management strategies.
- Guest experience enhancement
- Collaborate with other hotel departments, including front office, sales, and marketing, to ensure a seamless and personalized guest experience from booking to check-out, implementing initiatives to enhance guest satisfaction and loyalty.
- Evaluate and implement reservation management systems, booking engines, and revenue management tools to streamline processes, enhance efficiency, and improve the guest booking experience.
- Reporting and analytics
- Generate reports and analytics related to reservation performance, revenue metrics, and market trends, providing insights and recommendations to senior management for strategic planning and decision-making.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 3-5 years as a Reservations Manager + management certifications
- Must have a good experience in sales and revenue management.
- Must be articulate, professional and able to meet targets set for revenue generation.

Salary expectations - $50,000 - $65,000 per annum

Occupancy: Work permit holder

Maintenance Technician

Job Specification:

- Inspecting machinery, equipment, buildings and systems, including heating, ventilation and air conditioning
- Performing routine cleaning and sanitising, including specialist cleaning of delicate or high-value items such as entry systems, security equipment, lifts and escalators
- Completing small repairs such as fixing locks, leaky taps and broken windows
- Checking and maintaining safety equipment such as fire alarms, fire extinguishers and carbon monoxide detectors
- Performing grounds maintenance such as mowing lawns, trimming bushes and replacing exterior light bulbs
- Inspecting and troubleshooting problems and issues reported by clients or colleagues
- Maintaining vehicles, tools and equipment required to perform the role effectively
- Following a maintenance schedule to ensure that all routine tasks are completed

Job Requirements:

- Must have 2-3 years working in the Maintenance or Mechanical departments
- Must have a good experience in problem solving and fixing issues as required within the hotel environment, water waste, carpentry, mechanical issues, maintenance and fixtures.

Salary expectations - $22,000 - $35,000 per annum

Occupancy: Vacant

Guest Service Expert/ Pool & Beach Associate

Job Specification

- Greet guests upon arrival and provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere.
- Provide information about the resort's amenities, services, and activities available at the pool and beach.
- Take food and beverage orders from guests and deliver them in a timely manner.
- Maintain knowledge of the menu, daily specials, and promotions.
- Monitor pool and beach areas to ensure safety and enforce resort policies and regulations.
- Respond to guest inquiries, concerns, and any emergencies promptly and professionally
- Assist in enforcing pool and beach rules to maintain a safe and enjoyable environment.
- Regularly inspect and clean pool deck and beach areas, ensuring they are free of debris and hazards.

Job Requirements

- Must be able to speak English
- Must have 2+ years experience in related field
- Must be able to work in customer service, stand for long hours, and work efficiently under pressure.
- Ability to stand for extended periods and lift up to 25 pounds.
- Must be comfortable working outside in varying weather conditions
- Ability to follow instructions and procedures
- Positive attitude and willingness to learn

Salary expectations - $8.50 - $9.00 per hour

Occupancy: Local

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Exciting Matches and Standout Performances Highlight Inter-Primary School Football Competition

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Young footballers across the Turks and Caicos Islands continue to showcase their talent, determination and competitive spirit as the Inter-Primary School Football Competition gathers momentum, with several exciting encounters, impressive individual performances and closely contested matches during the course of this past week.

The competition, organised under the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA), has seen schools battling for supremacy in the Under-12 Boys/Co-Ed division, while preparations continue for another round of fixtures in Providenciales and Grand Turk.

Ona Glinton and Eliza Simons Battle to Entertaining Draw

In Grand Turk, Ona Glinton Primary School (OGPS) and Eliza Simons Primary School (ESPS) played to a 1-1 draw in Match #2 of the Grand Turk Inter-Primary Competition.

Ona Glinton took the lead in the 10th minute through Steve Simieon, wearing jersey number 14, but the advantage was short-lived as Eliza Simons responded just two minutes later.

Amari Lewars, wearing jersey number 6, found the back of the net in the 12th minute to restore parity.

Both teams entered the halftime break level at 1-1, and neither side managed to find a winning goal in the second half, resulting in the points being shared.

Community Christian Edges Richmond Hill in Narrow Victory

In the Providenciales Under-12 Boys/Co-Ed competition, Community Christian Primary School (CCPS) secured a hard-fought 1-0 victory over Richmond Hill Primary School (RHPS).

Damian Registre proved to be the difference-maker, scoring the only goal of the encounter in the 15th minute to give Community Christian a halftime advantage.

Despite efforts from Richmond Hill to get back into the contest, Community Christian maintained its narrow lead until the final whistle.

CCPS player Wendjy Diamant, wearing jersey number 4, earned Player of the Match honours for his performance.

The match also saw Community Christian's Windayson Jeanrilus, wearing jersey number 16, receive a caution in the 26th minute. Richmond Hill recorded no cautions.



The CCPS Team

Caron Lightbourne Shines as Richmond Hill Defeats BEST

Richmond Hill Primary School also enjoyed an impressive outing against BEST, recording a convincing 3-0 victory.

Caron Lightbourne was the standout performer, scoring twice to lead his team to a commanding win.

Lightbourne opened the scoring in the third minute before doubling his tally in the 12th minute.

Kimani Williams added a third goal in the 20th minute to put the result beyond doubt.

Richmond Hill carried its 3-0 advantage into halftime and maintained that scoreline through the second half. Lightbourne's two-goal performance earned him Player of the Match honours.

No cautions were recorded during the encounter, while Sophia Garland served as match commissioner.

Elite Overcomes OJPS1 in Nine-Goal Thriller

One of the most entertaining results from the competition saw Elite secure a 6-3 victory over OJPS1 in a high-scoring encounter.

Elite raced to a 3-0 halftime advantage, with Fernandinho Francois opening the scoring in the third minute, followed by Abelson Chery in the ninth minute and Paul Paulson in the 15th minute.

OJPS1 fought back after the break, with Tyshawn Patterson converting a penalty in the 16th minute before adding another goal in the 22nd minute.

Fred Jean also got on the scoresheet in the 28th minute as OJPS1 attempted to close the deficit. However, Elite's attacking strength proved decisive.

Paulson completed an impressive hat-trick with additional goals in the 20th and 26th minutes, while Christiano Blanc scored in the 30th minute to seal the 6-3 victory.

The nine-goal contest highlighted the attacking talent emerging through the competition, with both teams demonstrating their ability to create scoring opportunities.

More Matches Scheduled Across Providenciales and Grand Turk

Attention now turns to another busy round of football action, with fixtures scheduled for Friday, November 20, and Saturday, November 21.

Elite and Precious Treasures International School (PTIS) are scheduled to meet at 4:30 p.m. on Friday.

On Saturday, November 21, the Providenciales competition will feature several matches across the different divisions.

The Girls A division will begin at 10 a.m., with PCS facing OJPS and ACA meeting MILLS.

At 10:50 a.m., TLPS will take on PCS, while ECPS will face OJPS.

The final Girls A matches of the morning are scheduled for 11:40 a.m., featuring ACA against ECPS and MILLS against TLPS.

The afternoon programme will begin at 12:30 p.m., with Elite facing ACA in Group C on Turf 1, while PTIS takes on OJPS 1 on Turf 2.

At 1:20 p.m., OJPS 2 will meet TLPS in Group B on Turf 2, while MILLS faces BEST in Group A on Turf 1.

The day's scheduled action will conclude with PCS against ISTC in Group B on Turf 1 and OJPS 1 against ACA in Group C on Turf 2, both beginning at 2:10 p.m.

Meanwhile, in Grand Turk, Eliza Simons Primary School and Ona Glinton Primary School have been scheduled for a series of Group D encounters at Parade Ground.

The competition continues to provide an important platform for young players to develop their football skills, gain match experience and represent their schools with pride.

TCI Leads International Registration Race for 2027 Run of Nations

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The excitement is already building for the 2027 Road Dogs Running Club Run of Nations 5K/10K, as runners from seven nations have signed up to participate in what promises to be a vibrant celebration of fitness, national pride, and community spirit.

With registration underway, the Turks and Caicos Islands has taken a commanding lead, accounting for 50 percent of all registrations so far, demonstrating strong local support for the upcoming event.

However, international competition is heating up, with Mexico, the United States, and Trinidad and Tobago each accounting for 11 percent of registrations.

The United Kingdom, Ireland, and Canada are also represented, each contributing 6 percent of the current registration total.

Seven Nations, One Finish Line

The Run of Nations is shaping up to be much more than a traditional road race. The event brings together participants from different countries, encouraging runners and walkers to proudly represent their national flags while promoting healthy lifestyles, unity, and friendly competition.

With seven nations already represented, organizers are building anticipation around one big question: Which country will bring the biggest team to the starting line?

Although the Turks and Caicos Islands currently holds a significant advantage, the international leaderboard could change as more runners register in the coming weeks.

The growing participation from countries across the Caribbean, North America, and Europe highlights the event's potential to attract a diverse field of competitors and supporters.

A Celebration of Fitness and National Pride

Scheduled for Saturday, January 23, 2027, at The Market Place in Grace Bay, the event will feature 5K and 10K distances, along with a 5K walk, making it accessible to both competitive runners and recreational fitness enthusiasts.

Participants will have the opportunity to challenge themselves, enjoy the camaraderie of fellow athletes, and showcase their national pride.

The event also provides an opportunity to strengthen community connections while encouraging physical activity among people of different ages and fitness levels.

The Race for the Biggest Team Is On

With Turks and Caicos currently leading the registration standings, attention now turns to whether the other participating nations can close the gap before race day.

Mexico, the United States, and Trinidad and Tobago are tied for second place, while the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Canada remain firmly in the running.

As registration continues, supporters are being encouraged to rally friends, family members, running clubs, and fellow countrymen to join the event and help their nations climb the leaderboard.

Whether participants are aiming for a personal best, completing their first 5K, or simply walking in support of their country, the Run of Nations promises an atmosphere filled with energy, excitement, and national pride.

Registration Now Open

The Road Dogs Running Club Run of Nations 5K/10K takes place on Saturday, January 23, 2027, at The Market Place, Grace Bay, Turks and Caicos Islands.

Interested participants can register by scanning the QR code on the event's promotional flyer.

Seven nations are already counting, but which country will show up with the biggest team?

The challenge has been issued. Now it's time for runners around the world to lace up, represent their flags, and get ready for the Run of Nations 2027.



Members of the Road Dogs Running Club

Teachers FC, Beaches FC and Forbes Soccer Academy Register Impressive PPL Victories

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Teachers FC set the tone for an action-packed week in the Provo Premier League (PPL) with a commanding 3-0 victory over Teachers YS on Wednesday, before Beaches FC and Forbes Soccer Academy FC registered impressive wins in Saturday night's, November 14 double-header.

The three encounters produced a combined 14 goals, with Saturday's fixtures also featuring three red cards, late strikes and outstanding individual performances.

Teachers FC Cruise Past Teachers YS

Teachers FC opened the week's action in convincing fashion, defeating Teachers YS 3-0 following a disciplined attacking performance.

Genixson Petion gave Teachers FC an early advantage when he found the back of the net in the ninth minute, putting his team firmly in control.

Michael Morales doubled the lead in first-half stoppage time, striking in the 45+1 minute to send Teachers FC into the break with a comfortable 2-0 advantage.

Teachers FC maintained their momentum in the second half, keeping their opponents off the scoresheet before Yoel Fundora sealed the victory with an 83rd-minute goal.

Adelain Saintilien was named Player of the Match for Teachers FC, while Santiago Rodriguez earned the corresponding honour for Teachers YS.

The result provided a strong start to the week's PPL fixtures, setting the stage for Saturday's entertaining double-header.

Beaches FC Power Past Nine-Man Teachers Strikers

Beaches FC delivered an impressive attacking performance in Saturday night's feature match, defeating Teachers Strikers 4-1 in an encounter marked by two second-half dismissals.

Tevin Thompson opened the scoring for Beaches FC in the 26th minute, but Teachers Strikers responded through Santiago Rodriguez, who equalised in the 33rd minute.

Conwae Coleman restored Beaches FC's advantage in first-half stoppage time, sending his team into the interval with a 2-1 lead.

The match took a dramatic turn early in the second half when Teachers Strikers' Diego Venegas received consecutive yellow cards in the 53rd and 54th minutes, resulting in his dismissal.



The Beaches Football Team



Adelain Saintilien was named Player of the Match for Teachers FC

Beaches FC quickly capitalised on their numerical advantage, with Andrew Montaque extending the lead to 3-1 in the 57th minute.

Teachers Strikers' challenge became even more difficult when Nadio Vernal received his second yellow card in the 80th minute, reducing his team to nine players. Vernal had received his first caution in the 64th minute.

Dushawn Mighty completed the scoring in the 90th minute, securing a convincing victory for Beaches FC.

Teachers Strikers' Santiago Rodriguez was also cautioned in the 55th minute, while Beaches FC's Kevon Luke, Conwae Coleman and Michael Wong received yellow cards.

Despite not being among the goalscorers, Mavrick Roberts was named Beaches FC's Most Valuable Player, while Rodriguez collected the award for Teachers Strikers.

Saint Fleur Double Leads Forbes Soccer Academy to Victory

In Saturday's curtain-raiser, Michel Saint Fleur scored twice to inspire Forbes Soccer Academy FC to a 3-1 victory over Provo United SC.

Saint Fleur broke the deadlock in the 40th minute, giving Forbes Soccer Academy a 1-0 halftime advantage.

Provo United fought back in the second half, with Diamant Ralph finding the equaliser in the 77th minute to bring his team level.

However, Forbes Soccer Academy responded strongly in the closing stages.

Saint Fleur restored his team's lead in the 86th minute with his second goal of the match, before Billy Forbes added a third in the 90+2 minute to put the result beyond doubt.

Provo United's frustrations were compounded when Djouby Almond was sent off after receiving yellow cards in the 86th and 87th minutes.

Alce Steevenson, Myck Soire and Wensky Louis were also cautioned for Provo United.

Saint Fleur's decisive two-goal performance earned him the Most Valuable Player award for Forbes Soccer Academy, while goalkeeper Christopher Nelson received the corresponding honour for Provo United.

The match officials were referee Xavier Scott, assistant referees Paul McDonald and Dantes Snideen, and fourth official Davion Watson.

Goals, Red Cards Highlight PPL Action

The three matches produced 14 goals and three red cards, providing plenty of excitement as the Provo Premier League continued.

Teachers FC's comfortable victory on Wednesday was followed by two entertaining Saturday encounters, with Beaches FC showcasing their attacking strength and Forbes Soccer Academy demonstrating resilience after surrendering a first-half lead.

Saint Fleur's double, the scoring contributions of Petion, Morales and Fundora, and Beaches FC's four-goal display were among the standout performances in a week that delivered goals, drama and competitive football.