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Royal Caribbean to buy 50% stake in Sandals/Beaches for \$3 billion PG4



Opposition Wants Finance, Health Ministers to Lose Portfolios over Hospital Dispute PG11

NOT
ANOTHER
WORD

GOVERNMENT SAYS IT WILL MAKE NO FURTHER PUBLIC COMMENT ON INTERHEALTH CANADA DISPUTE



Man charged over stolen cards after armed villa burglary in Providenciales

A 22-year-old man has been charged with offences involving credit cards reported stolen during an armed burglary at a villa in Blue Hills, Providenciales, where American visitors say masked men threatened them and one guest was struck with a gun. The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force identified the accused as Nicalos Alessandro Lewin, a Jamaican national living in Providenciales. He faces charges of obtaining property by deception, obtaining pecuniary advantage by deception and handling stolen goods. The charges concern the alleged use and possession of credit cards reported stolen during the September 6 incident at Aqua Blue Villa.

Police have not announced a charge against Lewin for entering the villa or assaulting its guests, and their statement does not say he was one of the armed intruders. The case has drawn attention in the Turks and Caicos Islands and abroad since visitors from Atlanta described the attack to FOX 5 Atlanta. Andrea Williams and friends and family members had rented the beachfront property for a birthday celebration. Williams and fellow guest Latorria Zachary told the station that seven masked men carrying guns, machetes and sticks approached members



of the group as they sat on the back porch. According to their account, the men ordered the guests not to move, threatened to kill them and took cash, passports, jewellery, purses and mobile phones. One woman was struck in the head with a gun, the guests said. Zachary, who was inside a locked room, contacted the Airbnb host and asked for police to be called. The men had fled by the time officers arrived. The guests also told FOX 5 that thousands of dollars were spent on their stolen credit cards after the attack.

That account provides context for the newly announced charges, although police have not disclosed the amount allegedly involved or detailed the transactions attributed to Lewin. In an earlier statement, police confirmed that armed individuals entered the property, confronted guests, stole property and physically assaulted one person. The Serious Crime Unit arrested a suspect on September 14. At the time, investigators said they were pursuing other people believed to have been involved and would withhold further information about the

victims and investigative methods while inquiries continued. The latest police statement said a woman was also in custody and assisting officers. It did not say she had been charged or describe her alleged connection to the stolen cards or the burglary. Lewin remained in police custody and was expected to appear in court later that week, according to the statement. No outcome of a court appearance was provided. The incident has raised questions about visitor safety in a territory heavily dependent on tourism. In a statement, Experience Turks and Caicos and the Ministry of Tourism said they were concerned by the attack and believed it appeared to be isolated. Airbnb told FOX 5 that it had given the guests a full refund and was prepared to assist the police investigation. Police Commissioner Fitz Bailey said investigators would pursue all lines of inquiry and appealed to anyone with information to come forward. Police have not announced charges against the other people they believe may have been involved in the armed entry. They are asking anyone with information to can contact the Serious Crime Unit at 231-1842 or give an anonymous tip to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-8477

Turks and Caicos Advances US\$500 Million Airport Programme as Port and Road Works Continue

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands is moving ahead with a national airport development programme valued at more than US\$500 million, Infrastructure Minister Arlington Musgrove said in a ministerial statement in the House of Parliament on Wednesday, September 23. He also reported progress on seaport projects and roads across several islands. The airport programme, to be delivered by the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority, is intended to develop the network from Providenciales to Salt Cay. At Howard Hamilton International Airport in Providenciales, architects and engineers were appointed in July for Terminal B, an interim passenger facility. It would move border clearance into a larger temporary space and free more of the existing terminal for departures. Musgrove said construction delivery is targeted over the next 18 months. The government is also planning a full

redevelopment of the Providenciales airport. Its business case is being finalised for approval, and a draft site master plan was presented to the National Steering Committee last week, Musgrove said. The proposal includes a new terminal designed for approximately 2.5 million to 3 million passengers annually and a parallel taxiway. Invitations to tender for a national radar project, design work on the parallel taxiway and runway work in North Caicos are expected soon. Design work for the redevelopment of Clifford Gardiner Airport in North Caicos is well advanced, with procurement for construction expected in the first quarter of the 2027/28 financial year. The airport authority is also assessing runway safety and risks in Grand Turk, while work on a car park and commercial centre continues at South Caicos airport. Musgrove said the airport authority is preparing a financing strategy that will go through approvals by its board, Cabi-

net and partners in the United Kingdom. He did not announce a financing agreement or a completion date for the full Providenciales redevelopment. The minister also outlined progress at South Dock Port, where construction of a second berth remains scheduled for completion by December. Once finished, it would allow the port to accommodate as many as four vessels simultaneously, he said. Later phases of the port project are planned for subsequent financial years. In South Caicos, a new port building is on track for completion by Christmas and is ahead of schedule, according to Musgrove. He said the Cedar Park waterfront development is also progressing ahead of schedule. At Bellefield Landing in North Caicos, Minister Musgrove said the commercial ramp and boat slip are complete, although minor alterations to the boat slip are still being finalised. A boardwalk is expected to be completed before the

fifth annual Kew Day Festival. Musgrove said work is underway to designate Bellefield Landing as an official port of entry.



ROCK HOUSE

TURKS & CAICOS
GRACE BAY RESORTS

OPEN JOB POSITIONS

* SECURITY SUPERVISOR

We are seeking a proficient and enthusiastic Security Supervisor to join our team!

JOB OVERVIEW: The Security Supervisor is responsible for assisting with overseeing asset protection for the resort, from the protection of people and staff to the prevention of theft and inventory loss. The Security Supervisor will be responsible for assisting with developing and implementing security standards and ensuring that they are followed by all resort staff.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

- Conducting regular security assessment and audits to identify potential vulnerabilities and recommend appropriate solutions.
- Monitoring and analysing security systems, such as CCTV cameras, access control systems.
- Coordinating with other departments to ensure compliance with security protocols and procedures.
- Collaborating with law enforcement and emergency services in case of emergencies or security breaches.
- Maintaining accurate records of security incidents, equipment inventory, and training activities.
- Develop and implement emergency response plans and procedures.
- Maintaining accurate records of security incidents, equipment inventory and training activities. **Full time.**

REQUIREMENTS AND SKILLS:

- Experience as a Security personnel or similar role
- Strong multi-tasking skills
- Excellent organizational skills
- Ability to adapt to a fluid environment
- Commitment to a high level of customer service
- Strict attention to detail
- Ability to handle sensitive matters with efficiency and discretion

Weekend and holiday work may be required.

SALARY \$10.00 - \$12.00 PER HOUR
SERVICE CHARGE

* EXECUTIVE CHEF

We are seeking a proficient and enthusiastic Executive Chef to join our team!

JOB OVERVIEW: The executive chef will train and manage kitchen personnel and supervise/coordinate all related culinary activities; estimate food consumption and requisition or purchase food; select and develop recipes; standardize production recipes to ensure consistent quality; establish presentation technique and quality standards; plan and price menus; ensure proper equipment operation/maintenance; and ensure proper safety and sanitation in kitchen. The executive chef may oversee special catering events and may also offer culinary instruction and/or demonstrate culinary techniques. The executive chef directly supervises kitchen personnel with responsibility for hiring, discipline, performance reviews and initiating pay increases. He/she will assist in the development of employees.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Bachelor's Degree in Culinary Arts, Food and Beverage Management or Equivalent
- International culinary experience in a five star property with focuses on Mediterranean and Asian cuisine
- Candidate should have at least 5 years' experience in an Executive Chef Kitchen management capacity and excellent knowledge of current culinary trends.
- Must have experience of resort pre-opening
- Must have experience in high volume hotel business.
- Must be competent in culinary creativity as demonstrated by cooking test.
- Have strong knowledge of food cost and inventories.
- Must possess the ability to handle stressful and busy hotel.
- Candidate must have good knowledge of computers (e.g. Excel & Word).
- Clear, concise written and verbal communication skills.
- Candidate must be comfortable to speak to guests and conduct meetings.
- Must have a good understanding of cost control.
- Candidate must be a leader and a mentor.

SALARY \$100,000.00 - \$110,000.00 PER ANNUM
BONUS + SERVICE CHARGE

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

Qualified candidates should submit their Resumes to our Human Resources Department via Email: humanresources@rockhouseressort.com or hand deliver applications at our office on #1 International Drive, Providenciales. Positions marked with an * are currently being held by a work permit holder. **Deadline for submission: October 10, 2026**

Royal Caribbean to buy 50% stake in Sandals and Beaches Resorts for \$3 billion

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Royal Caribbean Group has agreed to acquire a 50% stake in Sandals and Beaches Resorts for approximately \$3 billion, marking the cruise company’s entry into the all-inclusive resort business. The companies said the partnership is intended to support resort expansion across the Caribbean and offer travelers a wider range of vacations. The transaction is expected to close in early 2027, subject to customary approvals and closing conditions. Royal Caribbean said it has secured committed debt financing from Morgan Stanley to fund the investment and expects the deal to add to earnings next year. The purchase price represents about 10 times Sandals and Beaches’ projected earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization, according to the companies. The proposed joint venture would bring the Sandals and Beaches resort portfolio alongside Royal Caribbean’s cruise brands, which include Royal Caribbean, Celebrity Cruises and Silversea. Royal Caribbean also operates private destinations and is developing a river cruising offering. The companies said they will explore ways to expand distribution, build stronger relationships with guests and make it easier for travelers to discover vacations across both businesses. They did not announce a combined booking system or changes to their existing loyalty programs.



Jason Liberty (left), Chairman and CEO of Royal Caribbean Group, and Adam Stewart, Executive Chairman of Sandals Resorts, mark the signing of an agreement to form a landmark partnership that expands Royal Caribbean Group into the all-inclusive resort space and supports the future growth of Sandals and Beaches Resorts. The signing took place at Royal Caribbean Group’s new headquarters in Miami, with the city’s skyline in the background. Photo Courtesy Royal Caribbean

Sandals and Beaches have operated in Caribbean hospitality for more than four decades. The investment is intended to help the resort brands expand more quickly to meet demand, while giving Royal Caribbean a presence in a vacation category beyond cruises and private destinations. The companies did not identify specific new resort projects in their announcement. Jason Liberty, Royal Caribbean Group’s chairman and chief executive, described the agreement as a further step in building a broader vacation business. He said Royal Caribbean sees an opportunity to extend the reach of Sandals and Beaches while building on the brands developed by the Stewart family.

Adam Stewart, executive chairman of Sandals and Beaches Resorts, said the partnership would give the resort company the ability to grow faster with a business that shares its commitment to hospitality and long-term investment. He said its growth would continue to create opportunities for employees, travel advisers and the communities where its resorts operate. Stewart’s father, Gordon “Butch” Stewart, founded Sandals Resorts. In announcing the agreement, Adam Stewart recalled his father’s ambition to build a Caribbean company that could stand alongside leading international hospitality businesses. He called the new partnership a continuation of that

vision. The joint venture will be governed by a board under the shared leadership of Stewart and Liberty. Stewart will remain executive chairman of Sandals and Beaches Resorts and continue to guide its long-term strategy. Existing reservations, resort and cruise operations, and loyalty programs will continue as usual, the companies said. Royal Caribbean and Sandals positioned the agreement as a way to serve guests across more types of trips. Royal Caribbean said its vacation platform already spans multiple cruise brands and private destinations; adding resorts could create more opportunities to introduce customers to experiences elsewhere in the combined portfolio. How those offerings will be presented or connected has yet to be detailed. The companies described the global vacation market as worth approximately \$2 trillion. Their announcement did not set a timetable for resort expansion or specify how many properties the partnership might add. The deal must also clear the approvals and other conditions required before its expected closing. The agreement was signed at Royal Caribbean Group’s new headquarters in Miami. BofA Securities and PJT Partners served as financial advisers to Sandals, while Latham & Watkins and Jones Day were its legal advisers. Perella Weinberg Partners and Morgan Stanley advised Royal Caribbean financially, and Kirkland & Ellis served as its legal adviser.

Scotiabank Acquires Artwork by Turks and Caicos Artist HezronH for its Global Art Program

Contemporary Turks and Caicos artist HezronH has announced that a work from his acclaimed Garden series has been acquired for the Scotiabank Global Art Program, marking a significant institutional milestone for both the artist and the growing recognition of contemporary art from the Turks and Caicos Islands. The acquisition places HezronH among the artists represented within one of the Caribbean’s most established corporate art collections and reflects the increasing visibility of his work within the region’s cultural landscape. The acquired work, *Untitled* (2026), forms part of *Garden*, an ongoing body of work that explores identity, memory, belonging and the relationship between people and place through expressive portraiture and the native flora of the

Turks and Caicos Islands. “This acquisition is deeply meaningful,” said HezronH. “*Garden* is a series rooted in the landscapes, histories and people of the Turks and Caicos Islands. To know that this work will become part of a collection that has spent decades documenting Caribbean artistic excellence is both an honour and an encouragement to continue building my art practice.” **Joining One of the Caribbean’s Most Significant Collections** For more than five decades, Scotiabank has built one of the Caribbean’s oldest and most respected art collections, acquiring works by many of the region’s most influential artists while supporting exhibitions, publications and cultural initiatives that have helped shape the Caribbean’s visual arts landscape. The collection is recognised not only for its

breadth, but also for its commitment to preserving works that reflect the artistic and cultural history of the region. When an artwork enters the Scotiabank Collection, it signals that the work has undergone curatorial evaluation and has been considered worthy of long-term stewardship. Beyond acquiring the object itself, the collection preserves and documents the work as part of an evolving narrative of Caribbean art, ensuring it remains accessible to future generations. For HezronH, the acquisition signifies institutional recognition of a practice developed in and informed by the Turks and Caicos Islands. “An institutional collection offers something different from a private acquisition. It becomes part of a larger cultural conversation and contributes to the historical record of Carib-

bean art. To have work from the Turks and Caicos Islands represented in that context is meaningful.”



Visual Artist Hezron Henry

Government ends public comment on InterHealth dispute, meets medical association on hospital plans

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government says it will no longer comment publicly on the substance of its legal proceedings with InterHealth Canada, as their dispute over the territory's hospital contract continues.

In a statement issued on September 22, the government said independent professional assessments commissioned over the past two and a half years had identified significant concerns about the condition, maintenance and long-term integrity of parts of the hospital infrastructure. It said the findings and recommended measures had been shared with InterHealth Canada and the Health Regulation Authority.

The government's position is that InterHealth Canada has failed to meet the standard required under the contract for maintaining the facilities. It said it had withheld certain infrastructure payments in connection with those concerns. The contractual rights of both parties, including the basis for the withheld payments, are now the subject of legal proceedings, according to the statement.

InterHealth Canada announced in July that it was terminating its contract to provide healthcare services in the islands. The government responded at the time that the company had "purported to terminate" the agreement and disputed its allegations concerning payment. It said all clinical costs due had been paid and that the sums it withheld related to the company's performance of its obligations for the hospital buildings and facilities.



The Cheshire Hall Medical Centre in Providenciales

The disagreement has brought uncertainty to a longstanding public-private partnership. InterHealth Canada says it was awarded a 25-year contract in 2008 to finance, design, build, staff and manage two hospitals: Cheshire Hall Medical Centre in Providenciales and Cockburn Town Medical Centre in Grand Turk. Its project description lists a term running from 2008 to 2033, although the company has now given notice that it is terminating the arrangement early.

In its latest statement, the government said InterHealth Canada's September 21 response did not, in its view, address the substantive concerns raised about hospital maintenance or the independent assessments provided to the company. It said its overriding responsibility was to protect the public interest and keep the hospitals safe and capable of serving residents in the years ahead.

The government also said it had in-

formed the project's financial stakeholders, including InfraRed Capital Partners, of its concerns as the assessments became available. It did not set out the findings of each assessment in the September 22 statement or identify specific repairs it wants carried out. "The wider commercial and contractual matters between the Government and InterHealth Canada are the subject of legal proceedings," the statement said. The government added that it would not argue those matters through the media or make further comment on the substance of the proceedings at this time.

While the contractual dispute continues, the government says care at both hospitals is continuing as normal.

In its July response to InterHealth Canada's termination announcement, it told patients to keep their appointments and seek treatment as usual. It also noted the company's assurance at that time that it would continue pro-

viding services to maintain continuity of care.

Meeting with Senior Medical Team

The question of how those services will continue was among the subjects discussed when Premier Charles Washington Misick and Health and Human Services Minister Kyle Knowles met the executive team of the Turks and Caicos Medical Association on September 12. According to a Ministry of Health release, Knowles requested the meeting to hear from healthcare professionals on matters affecting the sector. The discussions included plans for continuity of services related to TCI Hospitals, as well as the development and implementation of a Health Services Authority. The release described the talks as part of the ministry's wider effort to work with medical professionals and said it looked forward to further discussions with the association's broader membership.

The ministry did not announce a timetable for establishing the authority or explain what role it would have in operating the hospitals. It also did not provide details of the service continuity plans discussed with the association. The release described a meeting with the association's executive, rather than a meeting with all hospital employees. For patients and healthcare workers, the immediate assurance from the government is that services remain available at both hospitals. The longer-term arrangements for running them, and the financial and maintenance issues dividing the government and InterHealth Canada, have yet to be resolved publicly.

Dentons TCI Donates \$15,000 to Ashley's Learning Centre

Dentons TCI, formerly Griffiths & Partners, has made an initial donation of \$15,000 to Ashley's Learning Centre, marking the first major contribution under a new three-year charity partnership. The partnership will focus on creating greater opportunities for children with special educational needs in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Ashley's Learning Center was founded in 2015 by Angela Williams, beginning with just one student and one teacher, and has since grown into a specialist learning environment that supports children with a range of needs and helps families access educational opportunities tai-

lored to their children.

Earlier this year, Dentons TCI selected Ashley's Learning Centre as its preferred charity partner for 2026 - 2029, following a review of 16 worthy applications from charities and non-profit organisations across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Over the next three years, Dentons TCI aims to raise and deploy more than \$100,000 to support the school, with the partnership helping strengthen and expand early intervention, inclusive learning support, family engagement, and other specialist services.

Conrad Griffiths KC, Senior Partner at Dentons TCI, said, "We are proud

to support Ashley Learning Centre's vital work and look forward to a partnership that delivers lasting impact for children and families across the TCI."

The \$15,000 contribution continues Dentons TCI's longstanding commitment to giving back to the communities it serves. It follows the firm's previous charitable partnership with the TCI Diabetic Association, through which it has raised more than \$45,000 since 2023.

Media Contact

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— ENDS —



Deneicia Harris (left), Principal for Ashley's Learning Centre accepts cheque donation from Conrad Griffiths (centre) and Craig James (right) of Dentons.

Hospital Inevitable Collapse from Years of Government Indifference: The Urgent Steps Needed to Save TCI Healthcare

An Op-Ed by Paladin

For more than a decade, Turks and Caicos Islands has lived inside a slow moving health-care disaster—one that every Government saw forming, every Government had the power to prevent, and every Government chose to ignore. The implosion now unfolding at the Providenciales and Grand Turk Hospitals is not a surprise. It is not sudden. It is not accidental. It is the final stage of a decline that was **noticed, documented, warned about, and repeatedly dismissed.**

Today, with InterHealth Canada’s exit only weeks away, the country stands exposed: no successor named, no transition plan announced, no readiness assessment disclosed, and no public briefing from the Premier or Minister of Health. The silence is not leadership. It is governance failure at scale. Unless decisive action is taken now, Turks and Caicos could be left without a functioning hospital system for months. This Op Ed explains how we got here—and what must be done immediately to prevent a national health emergency.

A Decade of Ignored Warnings

The warning signs began early:

- ICU expansion proposals ignored
- Diagnostic upgrades deferred
- Overseas treatment costs rising
- Litigation replacing collaboration
- No hurricane resilience plan
- No long term capital strategy

Successive Governments—PDM and PNP alike—treated the hospital contract as a political irritant rather than a national institution. The decline was visible, measurable, and accelerating.

The Five-Year Litigation Era: Money Burned, Problems Untouched

For more than five years, TCIG and InterHealth Canada were locked in costly litigation. Millions were spent on lawyers and consultants—money that could have:

- Expanded ICU capacity
- Modernized equipment
- Reduced overseas treatment dependency
- Strengthened hurricane resilience

Instead, the hospital became a courtroom battleground. The public paid the bills. The system paid the price.

The Non-Payment Strategy:

A Decision Without a Plan

In January 2025, TCIG withheld infrastructure payments owed under the PPP contract. This decision was made:

- Without a successor entity

- Without a transition plan
- Without a readiness assessment
- Without a risk model
- Without public disclosure
- Without Cabinet explaining the legal exposure

InterHealth Canada self funded operations for 20 months. By July 17, 2026, IHC terminated the contract.

Under the agreement, TCIG had **90 days** to:

1. Designate a successor
2. Confirm the transition timeline
3. Fund the handback process

As of September 21, 2026, **none of these obligations have been met.**

This is maladministration under Commonwealth standards.

The Newest IHC Update: Material Risk to Hospital Operations

InterHealth Canada’s September 21 statement confirms:

- **Material risks to continued operations**
- **Deferred maintenance due to non payment**
- **Hurricane reinstatement works unfunded**
- **No transition activities underway**
- **Staff distressed and uncertain**
- **Facilities at risk of unsafe operation**
- **Government non engagement**
- **Arbitration ruling requiring TCIG to pay withheld sums**

The Government says “services continue as normal.” IHC says the hospitals are at risk. Only one of these statements is grounded in operational reality.

The PDM Warnings:

Questions Still Unanswered

The Opposition has repeatedly asked the Government to explain its strategy. The Premier and Minister of Health have not held a single press conference to face the public.

Unanswered questions include:

- Who will operate the hospitals after IHC exits?
- Will doctors, nurses, and specialists remain?
- Are medicines, equipment, and emergency services secured?
- Will overseas referrals continue uninterrupted?
- What is the Government’s full financial exposure?
- Has an independent readiness assessment been completed?
- What is the contingency plan if the transition fails?

These are not political questions. They are life and death questions.

The Financial Fallout: Predictable and

Now Unavoidable

The first arbitration ruling ordered TCIG to pay the disputed sums. A second arbitration is almost certain to produce the same outcome.

TCIG will need to borrow **an additional \$40 million**, pushing exposure toward:

- **\$150 million** (as warned by PDM Leader Douglas Parnell)
- **Possibly \$200 million** when unpaid back payments are included
- **Not including the outstanding hospital loan**

This outcome was foreseeable. It was avoidable. It was ignored.

WHAT MUST BE DONE NOW:

EMERGENCY STOP GAP MEASURES

Under Westminster/TCI constitutional norms, the Government has several lawful emergency tools available

immediately. These are not optional—they are required to prevent a healthcare blackout.

1. Issue an Emergency Statutory Instrument (SI) under the Public Health Ordinance

This allows the Minister of Health to:

- Temporarily assume operational control of hospital facilities
- Authorize emergency procurement of medicines and equipment
- Deploy temporary clinical staff
- Direct public funds without waiting for full parliamentary debate

This is the fastest legal mechanism available.

2. Establish a Temporary Hospital Authority (THA)

Created by Cabinet decision and formalized by SI.

Mandate:

- Maintain operations during the transition
- Contract short term medical staff
- Oversee facility maintenance
- Coordinate with IHC for hand back
- Report weekly to Parliament

This avoids a leadership vacuum.

3. Emergency Contracting of a Short-Term Operator

Under Commonwealth procurement rules, emergency contracting is lawful when:

- Public safety is at risk
 - Existing provider has terminated
 - No successor exists
- TCIG can immediately contract:
- A regional health authority
 - A UK NHS trust
 - A Caribbean medical consortium
- This ensures continuity of care.

4. Immediate Payment of Arbitration-Mandated Sums

Paying the first arbitration award:

- Stabilizes IHC cooperation during hand-back
 - Reduces legal hostility
 - Prevents sudden withdrawal of support
 - Restores minimal trust
- This is essential to avoid operational collapse.

5. Emergency Staffing Measures

TCIG can lawfully:

- Deploy Cuban, Jamaican, or Bahamian medical teams under bilateral agreements
 - Issue temporary medical licenses under emergency powers
 - Provide retention bonuses to existing staff
- This prevents a staffing exodus.

MEDIUM-TERM ACTIONS (WITHIN 6 MONTHS)

1. Pass a Hospital Transition Act

A short, targeted piece of legislation to:

- Establish a permanent successor entity
- Define governance structure
- Set financial oversight rules
- Mandate annual readiness assessments

- Require public reporting

This aligns with Commonwealth best practice.

2. Create a National Health Procurement Unit

Centralized procurement reduces:

- Cost overruns
- Supply shortages
- Contract disputes

3. Launch a 5-Year Clinical Expansion Plan

Including:

- ICU expansion
- Diagnostic modernization
- Telemedicine integration
- Overseas treatment reduction targets

LONG-TERM STRUCTURAL REFORMS

1. Establish a Turks and Caicos Health Service (TCHS)

A statutory body similar to:

- Bermuda Hospitals Board
- Cayman Islands Health Services Authority

Mandate:

- Operate hospitals
- Manage budgets
- Oversee clinical standards
- Report to Parliament

2. Create a Parliamentary Health Oversight Committee

A cross party committee empowered to:

- Summon ministers
- Review contracts
- Audit readiness
- Publish findings

This prevents future secrecy.

3. Implement a Mandatory Annual Hospital Readiness Audit

Conducted by an independent Commonwealth assessor.

THE COLLAPSE was TCIG Indifference — THE RECOVERY MUST be measured and thoughtful.

The hospital implosion was not inevitable because of fate. It was inevitable because of **decisions.**

Governments saw the decline. Governments ignored the warnings. Governments chose secrecy over planning. Governments chose litigation over collaboration. Governments chose non payment over stability. Governments chose silence over accountability.

Now the country pays the price.

But the future does not have to repeat the past.

Turks and Caicos can still act—lawfully, decisively, immediately—to prevent a health-care blackout. The tools exist. The authority exists. The urgency is real.

Thirty days remain. Lives are at stake. The silence must end now.



NEWSLINE TCI

Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department



TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS
FINANCIAL SERVICES COMMISSION

On October 1st, 2026, a new chapter of confidence begins.

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (FSC) introduces **The Shield**, a bold new visual identity that marks the strategic evolution of the Commission and reflects its growth, experience and enduring commitment to professionalism, integrity, transparency and international standards. It symbolises the Commission's role as a trusted guardian of confidence, stability and integrity within the financial services sector.

Since its establishment in 2001, the Commission has evolved alongside the financial services sector while remaining steadfast in its mission: to regulate, supervise and support a resilient, trusted and forward-looking industry. Its modern visual identity reflects this progress, presenting the FSC as a confident, accessible and internationally aligned regulator rooted in the heritage of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Rendered in authoritative Navy and dignified Gold, **The Shield** symbolises stewardship, vigilance and clear direction, with each design element carrying deliberate meaning: the Lighthouse represents leadership and guidance; the Waves reflect the Territory's maritime heritage and global connectivity; the Flamingo embodies local character, community and accessibility; and 'EST. 2001' acknowledges the Commission's history and institutional experience.

Our emblem has changed. Our purpose has not.

The Commission will continue to protect investors, promote compliance, strengthen confidence and support responsible business.

Hundreds Benefit From Free Eye Care in Providenciales

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Hundreds of residents received free, high-quality eye care in Providenciales through the 2026 iCARE outreach programme, a partnership involving the Turks and Caicos Islands Government, Great Shape! Inc. and the Sandals Foundation.

The Ministry of Health and Human Services and the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture formalised the partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Great Shape! Inc., a nonprofit organisation supported by the Sandals Foundation. The agreement establishes a framework for the participating organisations to expand access to eye-care services and improve vision and general health outcomes across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The signing ceremony took place in the Ministry of Health and Human Services Conference Room in Providenciales. Speakers included Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles; Deputy Secretary in the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture Edgar Howell; iCARE founder and director Steven Stern; and Beaches Turks and Caicos General Manager Deryk Meany.

Under the initiative, a team of 52 volunteers, including 14 doctors from the United States and Canada, operated a community clinic at the Church of God of Prophecy in Five Cays. The clinic opened from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday through Thursday and from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Friday.

Residents of Five Cays and the wider Providenciales community received a range of services at no cost, including:

- Comprehensive eye examinations
- Testing for vision problems, eye diseases and injuries
- Eye medications and specialist referrals
- Prescription glasses, reading glasses and sunglasses
- Laser treatment for diabetic retinopathy and glaucoma
- Health screenings for diabetes and hypertension

Patients requiring prescription glasses were also able to select their preferred frames and have their lenses made specifically for them.

The organisers hoped to serve more than 3,000 people during the outreach. “We have a world-class team here, and we’re going to take really great care of you,” Stern said, encouraging residents to visit the clinic as early as possible.

In recognition of Youth Week, observed from September 20 to 25, part of the iCARE team also visited selected schools to screen students for vision problems. Three doctors were assigned



The signing of the MOU Between Government and iCARE. At third from left is Hon. Kyle Knowles – Minister of Health and Human Services; fourth from left is Steven Stern of Icare, and at fifth from left is Deryk Is Derek Meany, General Manager for Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa.



Members of the public being registered for eye-care diagnosis and treatment

to the school-based programme while the main clinic operated simultaneously.

Stern said identifying vision problems in children can have a life-changing ef-

fect.

“When you give a child the ability to see properly, it changes the whole trajectory of their life,” he said. “Once you put glasses on them, you can see

children change before your eyes. They have a much better chance of doing well in their schoolwork.”

Government officials said the school component demonstrated their com-



Opticians assist patients with choosing medicated and sunglasses



Hundreds of persons had their eyes examined by doctors at the Five Cays Church of God of Prophecy



A doctor preps a patient for examination, while others waited their turn



Patients' records being examined by doctors, before administering the recommended medications and referrals

mitment to the health, education and overall well-being of young people. Early diagnosis and treatment can remove barriers to learning, improve classroom participation and support students' academic development. Welcoming the programme's return, Knowles acknowledged the contributions of the government ministries, Great Shape! Inc., the Sandals Founda-

tion, the visiting healthcare professionals and other supporting partners. Meany said the outreach reflected the Sandals Foundation's commitment to giving back to Caribbean communities through programmes focused on health, education and the environment. "We hope to assist about 3,000 people through the eye-care programme," he

said. "This is very special. We are going into the schools and communities—everywhere we can—to make a positive impact." The 2026 outreach marked the iCARE programme's second clinic in the Turks and Caicos Islands, following its first visit in 2018. Great Shape! Inc. has received support from Sandals since 2005, initially through dental outreach programmes. Its eye-care initiative began in 2009 and has since served nearly 80,000 people throughout the Caribbean.

The Sandals Foundation and Great Shape! Inc. also supported a dental outreach in the Turks and Caicos Islands that treated more than 6,000 people during the previous year. Stern described serving the people of Providenciales as an honour and also invited residents from the other islands to take advantage of the free services. "We're blessed and happy to serve the people of Providenciales," he said. "We hope people from the other islands come as well. We would love to see them."

C12 Capital Management

General Manager, Turks & Caicos

Full-Time | Turks & Caicos Islands

C12 Capital Management, the management company for The Loren Hotels and The Loren Residences, is seeking an experienced **GENERAL MANAGER** to lead the pre-opening, launch, and ongoing operations of **The Loren Turks & Caicos**.

The General Manager will oversee hotel, residences, and restaurant operations, lead a high-performing team, deliver exceptional guest and homeowner experiences, and drive the property's financial and operational performance.

Key Responsibilities	Candidate Profile
- Lead pre-opening planning, staffing, training, budgeting, and operational readiness. - Recruit and develop the hotel's leadership team. - Oversee Rooms, Food & Beverage, Spa, Engineering, Finance, Sales & Marketing, and Residential Services. - Establish and maintain exceptional luxury service standards. - Develop and oversee residential services and owner relations, including HOA operations and rental management. - Drive financial performance, budgeting, forecasting, and revenue growth. - Lead sales, marketing, restaurant, and events strategies. - Serve as an ambassador for The Loren within the Turks & Caicos community.	10–15 years' experience leading luxury hospitality operations. - Proven experience successfully opening luxury hospitality properties. - Experience with high-end residential hospitality. - Strong Caribbean or island-market experience. - Proven leadership and team-building skills. - Experience working in an entrepreneurial, independent organization. - Strong business acumen, integrity, and communication skills. - Ability to manage multiple priorities in a complex pre-opening environment.
Qualifications	- Undergraduate degree required. - MBA preferred.
Compensation & Benefits	- Salary: US\$200,000–\$250,000, plus performance bonus. - Medical, dental, and vision benefits. - Paid time off and holidays.



Apply with resume and cover letter via email to:
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Tel: 946-4732



Location:
Turks & Caicos Islands

THE RETREAT TURKS & CAICOS TO OPEN OCTOBER 1 NEAR GRACE BAY BEACH



The Retreat Turks & Caicos will officially open its doors on October 1, introducing an intimate new hotel for travelers seeking a more personal and independent way to experience Providenciales. Located in the heart of Grace Bay, The Retreat places guests within walking distance of world-renowned Grace Bay Beach, as well as many of the island’s most popular restaurants, bars and boutiques. Its central location and thoughtfully considered services allow guests to explore the destination at their own pace while returning to a calm, contemporary setting at the end of each day. “The Retreat is designed for guests who

want to feel connected to Turks and Caicos rather than removed from it,” said Layvern Daniel, hotel manager of The Retreat Turks & Caicos. “Our team will provide thoughtful local guidance and take care of the details, allowing each guest to experience Providenciales in a way that feels personal, effortless and entirely their own.” Daniel was appointed hotel manager in June 2026 and brings more than 12 years of Caribbean hospitality experience spanning hotel and resort operations, guest relations, concierge services, sales and reservations. She was named a Manager of the Year in 2025 and selected to partic-

ipate in the Caribbean Hotel and Tourism Association’s Young Leaders Forum for 2025–2026. Complimentary bicycles allow guests to explore the surrounding Grace Bay neighborhood. At the beach, complimentary chairs and umbrellas are provided, together with buggy transportation. The hotel’s concierge can also arrange boating excursions, paddleboarding, diving and other personalized island experiences. Intentionally limited to 24 rooms, The Retreat is arranged around a central garden and features a swimming pool and hot tub, guest lounge, fitness center and 24-hour front desk.

Accommodations are available in Standard and Superior King and Twin configurations. Connecting rooms offer additional flexibility for families and guests traveling together, while accessible accommodations are also available. Guest rooms combine warm natural textures with solid-timber cabinetry, Caesarstone countertops and Kohler fixtures. Each room features a spacious walk-in shower, mini-refrigerator and private patio or balcony, creating a relaxed and well-appointed residential atmosphere. A light continental breakfast offering is included. Introductory rates begin at \$290 per night.

Registration Opens for Made in TCI 2026 and Inaugural Grand Turk Trade Expo

Entrepreneurs, artisans, producers, creatives and business owners across the Turks and Caicos Islands will have two major opportunities to put their work in the spotlight this November. The Department of Trade, Industry and Fair Competition has opened vendor registration for the inaugural Grand Turk Trade Expo and the fifth annual Made in TCI Trade Show & Exhibition. Designed to celebrate the creativity, innovation and entrepreneurial spirit of the Turks and Caicos Islands, both events will give local businesses a platform to showcase their products and services, strengthen their brand visibility, connect with customers and

build relationships with fellow entrepreneurs. A New Trade Expo for Grand Turk The inaugural Grand Turk Trade Expo will take place on Saturday, November 14, 2026, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Victoria Public Library on Front Street. The event will provide a dedicated space for businesses and entrepreneurs to promote their brands, engage with residents and visitors, and explore new opportunities for growth. Its introduction marks an exciting expansion of efforts to support enterprise and create greater exposure for businesses operating in the nation’s capital.

Made in TCI Celebrates Five Years One week later, Made in TCI will return for its fifth annual Trade Show & Exhibition. The event will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Allegro Road in Grace Bay, Providenciales. Made in TCI has become the country’s premier showcase of locally made, grown, produced, designed and developed products and services. The exhibition brings together businesses from multiple sectors and connects them with residents, visitors and the wider community. From emerging entrepreneurs to established brands, participants will have an

opportunity to share their stories, introduce their offerings to new audiences and demonstrate the talent found throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands. Vendor spaces for both events are limited, and interested businesses are encouraged to register early to secure their participation. Registration links and event updates are available through @madeintci on Instagram, Facebook and TikTok. Do not miss the chance to take part in two events dedicated to celebrating local enterprise and ingenuity. Register today and show the Turks and Caicos Islands what makes your business stand out.

Opposition Calls for Finance, Health Ministers to Lose Portfolios over Hospital Dispute

An Op-Ed by Dr. Clarence E. Pilgrim

Opposition Leader Douglas Parnell has called for the ministers responsible for Finance and Health to be relieved of their portfolios while an independent examination reviews the government's handling of its dispute with hospital operator InterHealth Canada.

Premier Hon. Washington Misick is the minister responsible for finance, while Hon. Kyle Knowles is the Minister of Health and Human Services.

Speaking at a People's Democratic Movement press conference on Tuesday, September 11, Parnell alleged that the government had not given Parliament or the public a full account of the financial risks associated with withholding payments to the company. He also questioned whether adequate arrangements were in place to keep the hospitals operating after InterHealth Canada's departure.

"The hospital crisis, government must account to Parliament and the people," Parnell said.

Parnell said payments had been withheld for two financial years. He argued that the government should have disclosed the potential consequences in its budgets and in the Fiscal and Strategic Policy Statement submitted to the United Kingdom government. He alleged that Parliament had been misled about the territory's financial exposure and called for the underlying records to be made public.

Those allegations have not been independently established. Parnell said they could be tested against the government's budgets, fiscal statements and other documents, and challenged ministers to identify where the potential



Leader of the Opposition PDM Doug Parnell (right) addresses a news conference at its Headquarters in Providenciales on Tuesday, September 22. Looking on is party Chairman Ezra Taylor

liability was reported. The opposition leader estimated that the dispute could expose the territory to approximately \$200 million or more. He said that figure was based on the PDM's assessment of possible contractual claims, legal costs and employment liabilities. He acknowledged that it was an estimate, not a sum already found payable, and that any claim would have to be established through legal proceedings.

"If government believes our approximate \$200 million estimate is wrong, tell the country what the correct figure is and produce the basis for it," he said.

Parnell called for the premier to be relieved of responsibility for the portfolio while the accuracy of financial information presented to Parliament and the UK government is independently examined. He made a similar call concerning the health minister, citing questions about the dispute and the hospital transition. He said decisions made under the previous health minister should also be reviewed.

A government statement issued before the press con-

ference, said wider commercial and contractual matters between the government and InterHealth Canada were subject to legal proceedings. The statement said the government would not address the substance of those proceedings through the media, in order to protect its legal position.

Parnell disputed the idea that the legal case prevented the government from explaining its operational plans. He asked who would employ current hospital staff after a transition, whether their salaries and years of service would be preserved, and who would bear any severance costs. He also asked which supplier and service contracts would need to be transferred, replaced or renegotiated.

He said the opposition believed potential employment costs could run into tens of millions of dollars, but called on the government to provide its own assessment.

"Because the morning after InterHealth Canada exits, patients will still arrive," Parnell said. "The hospitals must work."

Asked about a suggestion that



Premier Hon. Washington Misick



Minister of Health and Human Services Hon. Kyle Knowles

a local doctor might take over hospital operations, Parnell said he would not judge a prospective operator without reviewing the proposal. Any person or group entrusted with the facilities should be properly vetted, he said, and the public should be told what the arrangement would cost.

Parnell said the PDM had offered to assist with the transition. Asked whether he had discussed the issue with the government, he described unsuccessful attempts to connect by telephone with the premier and said he remained willing to meet.

FRED, I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE A JOINT BANK ACCOUNT!

WITH WHOM?

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NEWSLINE
COMICS

Sometimes I like to go to antique shops and visit my old furniture.

I DON'T SEE WHAT YOU HAVE AGAINST "PERSONAL GROWTH" PROGRAMS

THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO MAKE YOU "BETTER"

THEY'RE JUST TELLING YOU YOU'RE "NOT GOOD ENOUGH"

YOU'RE A "GLASS HALF-EMPTY" TYPE OF GAL, AREN'T YOU?

IN A "GLASS HALF-FULL" KIND OF WAY

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Wayne & 2 PIRKS 9-24-26

WHAT DO I WANT ON MY PIZZA?

TYPE TYPE TYPE

IS ANOTHER PIZZA CONSIDERED A PIZZA TOPPING?

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Wayne & 2 PIRKS 9-24-26

My detached arm grew a new body and is now claiming it owns twenty percent of my assets.

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Wayne & 2 PIRKS 9-24-26

DON'T SULK, DADDY! MOM'S VISIT TO AUNT FRYJA ENDS TOMORROW!

I WISH IT WAS TODAY! I MISS HER

GET UP AND FIX THAT BUSTED DOOR LOCK!

HER HEART IS IN THE RIGHT PLACE!

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Wayne & 2 PIRKS 9-24-26

GIMME ANOTHER COOKIE!

YEAH, SORRY, PAL, I THINK YOU'VE HAD ENOUGH.

YOU CAN'T TELL ME WHAT TO DO!!!

IF THIS PARENTING THING DOESN'T WORK OUT, MAYBE I'LL BE A BARTENDER. I GOT THE EXPERIENCE.

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Wayne & 2 PIRKS 9-24-26

LINUS, DO YOU THINK GIRLS SHOULD PLAY THE SAME SPORTS AS BOYS?

WELL, I'M NOT SURE..

THERE'S ALWAYS THE PROBLEM OF INJURY...

I HATE GETTING KILLED!

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Wayne & 2 PIRKS 9-24-26

HAVE YOU SEEN GRANNY, PAPPY OR SWEETPEA?

NOT FOR DAYS!

THEY DISAPPEARS EVERY AFTERNOON!

BUY ME A HAMBURGER!

NO! NO! GRANNY, MOOCHING IS A SUBTLE SCIENCE!

WIMPY SCHOOL OF MOOCHING

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Wayne & 2 PIRKS 9-24-26



"The best part about a corporate shake-up is all that snow. Am I right?"

NEWSLINE
Heritage

JUNKANOO

Junkanoo is one of the most enduring cultural traditions in the Turks and Caicos Islands, rooted in African heritage and shaped by the territory's history of enslavement, migration, and community life. While the festival is most widely associated with The Bahamas, Junkanoo has long been practiced in the Turks and Caicos Islands and remains an important expression of cultural identity and continuity.

The origins of Junkanoo date back to the era of slavery, when enslaved Africans were allowed limited periods of celebration during the Christmas season. These gatherings provided rare opportunities for cultural expression and allowed African rhythms, dance, masking, and music traditions to survive under colonial rule. Across the wider Caribbean, including the Turks and Caicos Islands, these practices gradually evolved into organised street performances tied to Christmas and New Year celebrations.

In the modern Turks and Caicos Islands, Junkanoo is primarily celebrated on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, with major parades held in Providenciales and Grand Turk. Organised Junkanoo groups perform to the sounds of goatskin drums, cowbells, whistles, and brass instruments, wearing colourful, handcrafted costumes made from materials such as cardboard, crepe paper, foil, and wire. Groups compete in categories including music, costume design, choreography, and overall presentation, attracting large crowds of residents and visitors.

A defining feature of Junkanoo in the Turks and Caicos Islands is its strong community and family-based foundation. Preparation often begins months in advance, with multiple generations contributing to costume-making, instrument construction, and rehearsals. This collective effort strengthens social bonds and ensures the transmission of cultural knowledge from one generation to the next.

Beyond entertainment, Junkanoo serves as a living symbol of resilience, freedom, and cultural survival. As the islands continue to modernise, the tradition remains a powerful reminder of the past and a vibrant expression of the living heritage that continues to shape the identity of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

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CIBC Caribbean 2026 Unsung Heroes Awarded During Ceremony at Beaches Resort

CIBC Caribbean celebrated their 2026 Unsung Heroes during an evening ceremony at Beaches Turks & Caicos on Thursday, September 10, 2026.

The ceremony recognized winner Andy Missick and his commitment to youth development, rehabilitation and community services throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Fellow nominees were also honoured for their dedicated service to their respective communities, especially second runner up Myriame Chery with a representative accepting the award on her behalf.

The ceremony welcomed members of the community, representatives of CIBC Caribbean, a member of the Turks and Caicos 2026 Unsung Heroes judging panel and government officials including Hon. Kyle Knowles and Hon. Zhavargo Jolly who spoke on behalf of Hon. Shaun Malcolm. Their remarks reflected the heart of the initiative, celebrating individuals who serve, uplift and strengthen their communities.

Missick was presented with a \$5,000 award and plaque for first place and second runner up Myriame Chery awarded \$2,500. Missick said that the award provided an opportunity to reflect on his journey shaped by service, personal growth and the people who have supported him along the way.

The moment his name was announced as the 2026 Unsung Hero for Turks and Caicos Islands, Missick said “this moment is bigger than me”. “I knew I was standing there because an entire community helped shape me and I received it on behalf of every unsung hero across the Turks and Caicos Islands.”

Looking back on his humble beginnings, Missick reflected that his younger self may never have imagined a moment like this. He credits his family for teaching him resilience, sacrifice and the importance of remembering where he came from.

When asked who he considers the unsung heroes behind his own journey, he highlighted his family, mentors, colleagues, friends and the young people he has served, all of whom have played a role in shaping the person he is today. “They may believe I am helping to shape their lives, but the truth is that they have also shaped mine,” Missick said.

Missick views the award not as validation of the work itself, but as recognition of the lives and communities at the heart of it. “Much of the work I do happens away from the cameras” he noted. “The award does not make the work important. The lives affected by the work are what make



From left: Hon. Kyle Knowles – Minister of Health and Human Services; Carolaen Padua Rodriguez - Business Support Officer and Unsung Heroes 2026 Coordinator at CIBC Caribbean; Alonzo Higgs - Corporate Manager; Mary Harvey is the name of the lady in photo 4 with the green blazer; Andy Missick – Unsung Heroes winner for 2026; Drexwell Seymour – who served as one of the judges; and Hon. Zhavargo Jolly – Minister of Tourism.

it important.” Turning the spotlight to others, Unsung Hero 2026 Missick shared a message for those whose services often go unnoticed. “Never confuse a lack of recognition with a lack of impact,” he said. “Some of the most important work in our society will never trend on social media or receive public applause.” Business Support Officer and Unsung Heroes 2026 Coordinator at CIBC Caribbean Carolaen Padua Rodriguez said the programme reflects faith and commitment to a greater purpose. “With faith, dedication and purpose, anything is possible.” Customer Service Assistant Manager at CIBC Caribbean Angela Clarke echoed the importance of service that often happens out-

side of the public eye. “I believe the greatest impact often happens quietly, in the moments we choose to support, serve and show up for others,” Clarke said. Following the recognition, Missick emphasized it is not the conclusion of his service, but the motivation to continue. “The photographs will eventually stop circulating and the applause will fade, but the responsibility remains,” he said. “That is the real test of service, whether you continue showing up after the spotlight has moved elsewhere.” Missick continued: “If five years from now one young person believes that their circumstances do not define their destiny, then I know the work has produced something meaningful.”



From left: Hon. Kyle Knowles – Minister of Health and Human Services; Tercia Missick, Andy Missick, Holly Missick and Minister of Tourism Hon. Zhavargo Jolly

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

St. Thomas Parish Church: The Oldest Church in the TCI

The St. Thomas Parish Church in Grand Turk is the oldest house of worship in the Turks and Caicos Islands, having been established in 1823. The St. Built by the Bermudan settlers, the Thomas Anglican Church was the first church to be constructed on that island and the second to be built in the Bahamas archipelago. At first the church was thought to have been built from stone transported from Bermuda. However, since the church was is located near the old quarry, it is also speculated that the materials may have been obtained from that location. It is also speculated that the rocks were obtained from the nearby quarry also and the wood imported from Bermuda. The St. Thomas Church is listed as very sturdy, cut-stone building with some walls as thing as two feet. The hard stones that were hand hewn were set to in a primitive mortar of lime mixed with turtle oil.



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 sanc-
tuaries you can attend throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581 Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030 One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com. Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731 Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755 Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289 Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118 Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854 Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866 Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212 Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.com. Rock of Jesus Ministry, 15 Five Cays, Safe Haven. Tel: 649-3317628 of 649-2410087	Firm Foundation Ministries International 19 Honour Lane, Behind Smart Supermarket , Providenciales. Telephone: 649-332-6240 Church of God of Prophecy, Providenciales Tel:941-3438 Roman Catholic Church, Providenciales, Tel: 941-5136 Faith Tabernacle Church of God, Providenciales, Tel:946-4073 New Testament Church of God, Orea Alley, Grand Turk Tel:946-2175 New Testament Church of God, South Caicos Tel:946-3631 Methodist Church, Grand Turk Tel:946-2352 Healing Waters Ministries, Blue Hills Providenciales Tel: 941-5867 House of Prayer Church of God, Long Bay Road Providenciales Tel: 941-8309 Kingdom Hall of Jehovah’s Witnesses, Darrell Road, Grand Turk Tel:946-2727 Mount Mariah Baptist Church, Conch Bar Middle Caicos Tel:946-6205 New Beginning Harvest Ministry, Pond Street, Grand Turk Tel:946-1759 New Testament Church of God Orea Alley P.O. Box 495 Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-1255 Airport Road, South Caicos Tel:231-2402	Firm Foundation Ministries International Waterloo Road, Grand Turk. Telephone: 649-332-624 Paradise Baptist Church, Five Cays, Providenciale Tel:941-4349 Revival Faith Center, North Backsalina, Grand Turk Tel:946-2349 Salem Baptist Church, Mission Folly, Grand Turk Tel:946-2565 Solid Rock Apostolic Ministries International, Discovery Bay Providenciales Tel: 946-5181 St. Monica’s Anglican Church P.O. Box 866 Cheshire Hall Providenciales Tel: 946-4046 Fax:946-4046;941-8499 Turks and Caicos Mission of Seventh Day Adventists, P.O. Box 803, Providenciales United Pentecostal Church, Brown’s Plaza, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel: 956-5852 Wesleyan Methodist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel: 946-4075; 941-4223; 941-3596 <i>Editor’s Note: If your Ministry is not listed and/or you would like for it to be part of the NEWSLINETCI Church Diary, contact us at: contact@newslnetci.com</i>
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Youth Skills and Career Fair On Provo

As part of National Youth Week, which was observed between September 20 and 25, the Ministry of Education, Youth and Culture, staged a Youth Skills and Career Fair at the Gustavus Lightbourne Sports Complex on Wednesday. The event saw displays by government and private sector entities represented, giving students and members of the public the opportunity to seek collect information on career paths and employment opportunities currently available. The following are photo highlight of the event.





50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government...Road to the 1976 Series

A COUNTRY CONNECTED

PART FOURTEEN

By Joan Sutton

On 1 October 1976, the Turks and Caicos Islands entered the age of Ministerial Government. Yet the new administration inherited a country in which communication could not be taken for granted. The Islands were separated by sea. Telephones were limited. There was no internet or mobile service. Mail, passengers, government papers, medicines and supplies moved by boat or small aircraft, subject to weather and available service. A decision made in Grand Turk did not immediately reach the other islands. News of a delayed flight, approaching storm, death overseas or government announcement travelled through a chain of human beings. The people who operated radios, handled telegrams, sorted mail, carried letters, piloted aircraft, captained boats and delivered messages were doing more than performing ordinary jobs. They were helping hold a scattered country together. Ministerial Government needed laws, budgets, public officers and connection. Without communication across the Islands, national government could exist on paper while remaining distant from the people.

Government Across the Sea

Grand Turk was the capital and administrative centre, but most Turks and Caicos Islanders lived with the practical reality of distance. A resident of Bottle Creek, Bambarra, Lorimers, Blue Hills, Five Cays, South Caicos or Salt Cay could not simply drive to a government office in the capital. The sea was the country's first highway. It carried people, food, building materials, correspondence and news. But it was never predictable. Wind, rough water, mechanical trouble and the availability of vessels could delay a journey. A letter might wait for the next boat, while a family awaiting supplies watched the horizon and hoped that the vessel would arrive. Small aircraft added speed, but they did not remove uncertainty. Airstrips and services were limited, and travel remained beyond the regular reach of many families. In the mid-1970s, international flights served Grand Turk and South Caicos, while small aircraft helped connect communities within the territory and with neighbouring countries. Even so, geography continued to shape government, commerce and family life. That reality gave special importance to every dependable means of communication.

When Radio Became the Meeting Place

Before modern broadcasting, news often moved from person to person. A message received at a government office, shop, dock or family home could travel quickly through a small community, but its reach depended upon who heard it and who could carry it onward. Radio changed that. The official history of Radio Turks and Caicos records that Cable & Wireless established and maintained the AM station VS18 in Grand Turk during the late 1960s and early 1970s. Its transmitters and studio were housed in the Cable & Wireless building on Front Street. The station became one of the few ways a message could cross the Islands at the same time. People listened for news, weather, travel updates, government notices and community announcements. Its importance was especially clear because so many Turks and Caicos Islanders were living and working in The Bahamas. RTC's history records that messages from relatives abroad were sent by telegram through telegraph links to Grand Turk. Operators prepared them for the lunchtime news, and announcements were read at the beginning of the local bulletin. When a message was urgent, its full contents might be broadcast. For a family waiting at home, a radio voice might carry word from a son or daughter in Nassau, announce that a relative was returning or report an emergency. The radio carried the personal life of the country across distance. VS18 also broadcast information about the international air service from Nassau to South Caicos.



Caicos Sloop, the traditional Traditional sloops

In an era before airline apps, online timetables or widespread telephones, such announcements could determine whether someone met a passenger or received an urgently needed package. The history of communication is sometimes written as a story of transmitters, frequencies and studios. But equipment alone does not create connection. People do. RTC identifies early announcers including Harry Francis, Alden Astwood, Earle Malcolm, Earle Ginton and Herbie Ingham. During the 1970s, Vernon Malcolm, Edison Brooks, Newton Ginton and Chester Smith were among those who joined the station's work. Their voices entered homes across the Islands and became familiar to listeners who might never have met them. William Grant, widely known as Garvey, later delivered the 1:30 p.m. Government News. Through such broadcasts, public information moved beyond the offices where it had been prepared and reached the people whose lives could be affected by it.

From VS18 to Radio Turks and Caicos

In December 1976, the Turks and Caicos Islands Government assumed responsibility for the station. VS18 was renamed, and Radio Turks and Caicos began operating as the official government broadcasting service. The timing was significant. Only months after the new Constitution came into operation and shortly after the first Ministerial Government took office, national broadcasting became a government responsibility. The change formed part of the wider movement towards greater local responsibility for domestic affairs. J. A. G. S. McCartney became the first Chief Minister with responsibility for Home Affairs and Communications. His portfolio recognised that governing separate islands required more than issuing instructions from Grand Turk. The government needed a way to speak to the country, and the country needed ways to hear and respond. A national station could create a room large enough for every island. People separated by miles of water could hear the same announcement, weather report and national news. For a developing Ministerial Government, that shared experience mattered.

The Mail That Had to Move

Radio could spread information quickly, but it could not replace a signed letter, an official file or the private words of a family member. Letters connected parents and children separated by migration. Government correspondence connected departments and district offices. Businesses relied upon invoices and orders. Schools, churches and community organisations used the mail to communicate beyond their settlements. In Grand Turk, family and community recollection remembers Charles Ginton Snr. as a postman whose service extended beyond standing behind a counter. He walked through the community and carried mail to people's homes. That account presently rests substantially upon oral testimony and should be identified as such until departmental records are located. The arrival of the postman could bring a money order, a government notice or news from a relative overseas. The person carrying the mail became part of the emotional life of the community. No one knew whether an envelope contained comfort, opportunity or sorrow. The mail also depended upon people willing to carry it across the sea. Before regular air service changed inter-island communication, Captain Algernon Dean captained the Donna Casilda, which carried government mail from Grand Turk to Providenciales. In a published account, his son, also named Algernon Dean, recalled that delivery was expected every two weeks, although the boat was sometimes delayed. On Providenciales, Dean took the mailbag to the Brown family's house in Blue Hills. The home served as the island's post office, with George Brown identified as postmaster and Osley Brown remembered helping residents find their letters. It was a modest system, but a captain, a boat and a family home connected government, businesses and families. Their work rarely appeared in political photographs, yet Ministerial Government depended upon correspondence reaching public officers and communities. The older maritime culture also had named custodians. A 1984 oral-history project recorded James Simmons, who spent his youth on Salt Cay and captained a salt lighter before moving to Grand Turk. It also documented Hedley Forbes of Middle Caicos, a self-taught boatbuilder who learned by watching his cousin, ship's carpenter Cornelius Forbes. Forbes built his first full-sized boat in 1957 and recalled building twenty-eight boats. He also described how a new boat was launched at Bambarra and the community festivities surrounding it. Their testimony preserves the world of practical skill and sea travel upon which inter-island life had long depended.

The Human Network

Not every important message travelled through an institution. A passenger, boat captain, nurse, pastor, shopkeeper or public officer travelling between islands might be entrusted with a letter, message or small package. These networks worked because people knew who was travelling and who could be trusted to carry something safely. Women often stood at the centre of this communication. They wrote letters for relatives, received messages at shops, passed news through churches and maintained family connections. A store, front porch or church gathering could carry news into several households before the day ended. The country's communication system extended far beyond government offices. It lived within the community. In hurricanes, rough seas and medical emergencies, those same networks became lifelines. A warning could change a fisherman's decision to

leave shore; an urgent message could help move a patient by sea or air. Connection was not merely convenient. It was part of public safety.

The Politics of Being Heard

Communication also shaped political life. The movements and parties of the 1970s did not possess social media, group chats or instant video broadcasts. Organisers depended upon meetings, printed material, radio, limited telephone service and people willing to carry information from one community to another. A political message had to travel physically. Someone typed, copied, carried or repeated it. Someone announced a meeting, found transportation or returned to another island and explained what had occurred. This is one reason the political awakening cannot be understood only through speeches by recognised leaders. It also depended upon messengers, boat crews, clerks, typists, shopkeepers and community organisers whose names were seldom recorded. The Black Power Movement and the Turks and Caicos Youth Organisation must remain historically distinct, and political organising existed before the Junkanoo Club Incident of 5 and 6 June 1975. Across the different organisations and political positions, however, one practical challenge remained: how could people spread ideas across separate islands with limited means? They used what they had. They travelled, wrote, telephoned where possible, sent messages through trusted people, gathered around radios and met in homes, shops, churches and community spaces. Political change moved through those networks before it entered the Constitution.

The People Who Closed the Distance

The first Ministerial Government inherited responsibility for improving communications while also depending upon the systems already in place. Radio could carry government news, but the government still needed district officers and local representatives who understood conditions beyond Grand Turk. Mail could carry official papers, but transportation determined how quickly they arrived. Aircraft could shorten a journey, but cost and schedules limited access. Boats remained essential even as aviation developed. The challenge was to build a country in which the islands could communicate with one another and participate meaningfully in national life. That principle remains important. Technology has changed communication, but reliable transport, affordable internet, trustworthy broadcasting and access to government information remain questions of national inclusion. The story of Ministerial Government naturally turns to the Chief Minister, ministers and elected representatives. But the country also depended upon people whose names seldom appeared in constitutional documents. The announcer carried news from abroad. The postman joined households to a wider world. Boat captains transported people and information across difficult water, while pilots shortened journeys that once consumed days. Telegraph operators, clerks and ordinary travellers kept messages moving. Together, they reduced the distance between the Islands. They allowed the country to hear itself. In 1976, the Turks and Caicos Islands did not become connected simply because a Constitution declared it one political territory. It became connected through the daily work of people who moved voices, letters, news and human beings across the sea. Before fibre-optic cables, smartphones and instant messages, connection had a human face. It spoke through the radio, arrived in an envelope, stepped from a small aircraft and came ashore from a boat. That is how separate islands became more fully one country.

This article is dedicated to the radio operators, postal workers, telegraph personnel, boat crews, pilots, public officers and ordinary citizens whose service kept the Turks and Caicos Islands connected during the beginning of Ministerial Government.



Graceway Communities and Ministry of Health Promote Healthier Living at Caribbean Wellness Health Fair

Graceway Communities, the charitable arm of Graceway Supermarkets, collaborated with the Ministry of Health and Human Services for the Caribbean Wellness Health Fair, held on September 18 at Graceway IGA, Leeward Highway. Held as part of Caribbean Wellness Week, the Fair brought health services, education, nutrition and physical activity directly to the community, giving attendees an opportunity to learn more about their health and make healthier lifestyle choices.

The Health Promotion and Advocacy Unit within the Ministry of Health and Human Services conducted health screenings for 22 individuals, offering checks for blood pressure, cholesterol,

ol, blood sugar and weight, as well as STI testing. An additional 15 individuals received health education and informational materials. The Turks and Caicos Islands National Blood Bank completed 13 blood groupings, while 3 individuals registered as blood donors during the Fair. The event also featured cooking demonstrations, with 20 samples distributed to promote healthier food choices. Janelle Ambrister and Let's Move TCI led fitness activities, with 13 participants taking part. Other participating government departments included the TCI Dental Department and Department of Behavioural Health Services, providing attendees with additional health infor-

mation, resources and services. Local businesses Alkalight Nutrition and Island Sprout also supported the healthy-living focus, providing samples and educating attendees about healthier food and lifestyle choices. Graceway Communities hosted a hydration and juicing station and encouraged attendees to engage with the different services available throughout the Fair. Participants who completed activities at three or more booths were entered into a raffle for wellness-focused prizes, including air fryers, blenders and juicers, helping extend the message of healthier living into the home. "We are grateful to the Ministry of Health and Human Services for extending the invitation to Graceway Commu-

nities to collaborate on this year's Caribbean Wellness Health Fair. Bringing health screenings, education, nutrition and physical activity together in one space gave members of our community an opportunity to take practical steps toward healthier living," said Rukine Pierre, Outreach Coordinator for Graceway Communities. Graceway Communities extends its appreciation to the Ministry of Health and Human Services, Health Promotion and Advocacy Unit, participating government departments and initiatives, Alkalight Nutrition, Island Sprout, Janelle Ambrister, the Graceway Communities volunteer team, and everyone who participated in making the Fair a success.



JUDICIARY STUDENTS' OPEN DAY

For the first time in its history, the Turks and Caicos Islands Judiciary gave High School students an insight into court proceedings through an Open Day Tour, entitled: ‘An Insight to Justice’. On Wednesday, 23 September 2026, Chief Justice Hon. Yonette Cummings -Cummings Edwards welcomed dozens of students into the courthouses in Providenciales and Grand Turk. Prior to a tour and mock session, an opening ceremony was held. The Providenciales session, held at the Supreme Court Annex along Providenciales, was attended by Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam, and Deputy Director of Education Edgar Howell, who both addressed the gathering. The following are photo highlights the Providenciales event.







A cheerful newborn baby girl lying on her mother's lap and hands.

Baby girls tend to be more people-focused than baby boys from the first hours of their lives, a study has found. The research also found that newborn boys on average showed more interest than newborn girls in objects. The findings suggest that some differences between the sexes are partly innate, rather than being influenced solely by how children are brought up or the expectations of society. Differences in genes and hormones may explain the results, the research team said. Previous studies have shown that girls tend to learn to talk earlier than boys and tend to develop some social skills faster. Scientists have long debated to what degree these differences are shaped by biology and how much they result from the way boys and girls are treated as they grow up. One way of teasing the two apart is to look at newborn babies before exposure to the different toys, expectations and treatment that may come from being raised as a boy or a girl. The University of Cambridge researchers tested 130 infants a few hours after birth to see what captured their attention. Parenting newsletter Join our community receiving professional advice and sharing personal stories. Each baby was shown two videos side by side. One featured a human face while the

other showed a Newton's cradle, an executive desk toy that has a row of suspended metal balls that swing back and forth creating rhythmic collisions. Newborns of both sexes generally preferred to look at the face. However, the baby girls spent a greater share of their time watching the face than the boys did. The boys spent more time looking at the moving metal balls than the girls. Yumnah Khan, who led the study by the Autism Research Centre in Cambridge, said: "Recent research has also shown that on-average sex differences are present in brain structure at birth and emerge prenatally. "This new study tells us that there are not only on-average sex differences in the brain, but also in attention and behaviour." Professor Sir Simon Baron-Cohen, director of the Autism Research Centre, who oversaw the research, said: "This study addresses the age-old question of whether nature plays any role at all in shaping sex differences in the human mind and brain." He said the fact that the differences could be observed within hours of birth, before extensive experience outside the womb, suggested that "prenatal factors play a role". Those factors, he said, could include "sex hormones and/or genes", which then interact with children's experiences after birth.

Baby girls are more sociable than boys from birth, study finds

The findings suggest that certain differences between the sexes are partly innate, rather than being influenced solely by the expectations of society

"In other words, it's nature and nurture, not nature or nurture," he said. Dr Alex Tsompanidis, another member of the research team, said: "Sex differences at birth are important as starting points, but we need to remember that they don't fully determine how children learn and develop in later life." Professor Carrie Allison, deputy director of the Autism Research Centre, cautioned

against treating the findings as rules about individual children. "The differences we see don't apply to all male or all female infants, and are only seen when you compare groups of male and female infants, on average," she said. "There's a lot of variation within, and overlap between each sex." The study is published in the journal *Biology of Sex Differences*.



A baby boy plays with colorful building blocks on a wooden floor.

Study identifies patients with obesity most likely to benefit from GLP-1-based treatment

Why do some people lose substantial weight with GLP-1-based medications while others see more modest results? A Mayo Clinic study offers a potential answer by identifying a distinct biological subtype of obesity that responds especially well to tirzepatide, a medication that mimics two naturally occurring hormones involved in appetite and blood sugar regulation, moving the field closer to precision medicine for obesity. The research, published in *Gastroenterology*, identified a subgroup of patients with obesity who produce lower levels of natural appetite-regulating hormones, experience faster stomach emptying and report greater hunger after meals. This is a subtype of the "hungry gut" obesity phenotype, characterized by an abnormal duration of fullness. People with hungry-gut obesity may eat normal portion sizes but snack more frequently. These patients lost nearly twice as much weight after six months of tirzepatide treatment as patients with other obesity subtypes. "Obesity is a complex disease driven by different biological mechanisms," says senior

author Andres Acosta, M.D., Ph.D., a gastroenterologist and obesity researcher at Mayo Clinic in Minnesota. "Our findings suggest we can begin identifying which patients are most likely to respond to specific therapies rather than treating obesity as a single disease." Researchers studied 483 adults with obesity and found three different biological types of the disease. About 1 in 4 participants produced lower levels of GLP-1 and other hormones that help people feel full after eating. Patients in this group lost an average of 21.5% of their body weight after six months of treatment with tirzepatide, compared with 11.7% for patients in the other groups. The findings support growing efforts to personalize obesity treatment using an individual's underlying biology rather than relying on a one-size-fits-all approach. Because obesity increases the risk of diabetes, heart disease, certain cancers and many other serious chronic conditions, identifying the right therapy sooner could improve long-term health outcomes. The researchers also found that the reduced hormone levels were associated

with decreased hormone production in the intestine rather than differences in the gut microbiome, providing new insight into the biology underlying this subtype of obesity. The authors caution that prospective stud-

ies are needed before this approach can be incorporated into routine clinical practice, but these findings represent an important step toward more precise, individualized treatment for obesity.



Tearful Ed Sheeran 'listening and learning'

Ed Sheeran cried on stage and declared he was "so sorry" as he addressed the row over Palestine which led to Macklemore being removed from his tour. The Shape Of You hitmaker has attracted criticism after his support act was dropped from the Loop live shows after declaring his support for the people of Palestine, and, at his first concert back since the row broke out, Sheeran kicked off the evening with a speech for Saturday's crowd in Philadelphia. He said: "This is not usually how I would open the show but, before I play some songs tonight, I hope it's okay if I say a few words. "I'm used to my music being criticised ... This week, the criticism was about something much more important ... I am making mistakes and I am so so sorry." "I don't want to disappoint fans, and I've never wanted to be an activist musician, but this has put me in the middle of an important, compassionate argument about freedom of speech and the most complex political issue on the

planet. "But this is a humanitarian issue, and I cannot hide how I feel about it anymore. "What happened in Israel, and at the Nova music festival on October 7, it was horrific and compounded centuries of Jewish pain. "What is happening in Gaza is catastrophic and unjustifiable and disproportionate. My heart has been broken by the scale of devastation, loss of civilians' lives. Children's lives. At this systemic injustice, (what) we're seeing unfolding in the West Bank cannot be overlooked." Making a rollercoaster motion with his hand, Sheeran noted the last week had been "like this". He added: "I've had a week of learning." The 35-year-old singer had previously insisted the decision to cut Macklemore from the tour hadn't been his, and, in his speech, he appeared to lay the blame at wealthy venue owners. He said: "I am deeply worried about the idea that venues pre-approved content



Ed Sheeran

forms It should never happen in the free world." He then grew tearful as he said: "I am already speaking to people across the spectrum to work out how to make a contribution that helps victims". Ed's backing band, Beoga, and all his opening acts, pulled out of the Loop tour in the wake of Macklemore's removal. And he joked he hoped fans "enjoyed my support acts". The Castle on the Hill hitmaker stressed

he is listening and learning "because I do not know enough" and told the crowd he was "so grateful" they were there. He added: "This concert is still a place where everyone is welcome, and everyone here can stand beside people that have opposing views, and everyone here can stand beside people that they don't agree with on everything, but they can all agree on singing these songs."



The Valkyries of Arcadia from left: Ziala 'Zuri' Taylor, Aheisha 'Ani' Grant, Rhea 'Silver N3ko' Rampair, Sashaun 'Empr3ss Nile' Bailey, Daina 'Quani' Fletcher and Natasha 'Alethia' Jefferson.

The Valkyries of Arcadia, an all-female gaming and content-creation group that is expanding into modern pop entertainment such as anime and cosplay, has added recording artistes to their résumés with the recent release of a song titled Candy Rush. "Candy Rush was done as a 'thank you' to one of our sponsors as we thought we needed to give them something for their continuous support. We had originally planned to do music, and this was a good start as it wasn't supposed to be something too serious but fun and catchy and sweet like candy," group member Quani explained.

"The song is rated 'E' for everyone. We want to show that artistes can infuse their personal interest into music and make it fun," she added. Earlier this month, the group performed Candy Rush at an outdoor event in Montego Bay and used the opportunity to promote another track titled V.O.A. "We also hosted our Just Dance Along video game exhibition at our booth, and patrons got a chance to dance along with the Valkyries by following the dance moves in the game," Quani said. The group is led by managing director Sashaun 'Empre33 Nile' Bailey and

Girl group Valkyries of Arcadia drops 'Candy Rush'

assistant director Rhea Rampair. Other core members are Zuri San, Quani, and Buggie. "From anime to cosplay, modelling and dancing, we are now entering the music scene with JAM-Pop," Empress Nile said. JAM-Pop is an original sound that the group is establishing to represent Jamaica's pop music. "It mixes dancehall and hip hop with modern pop culture. This includes influences from gaming, anime, film, and other elements of pop culture, sounds to blend Jamaican identity with global entertainment styles," the group's managing director explained. The Valkyries of Arcadia said that as they continue to promote their JAM-Pop culture, they often leave their audience wanting more. "Whenever we perform, everyone is so excited as they never see so much synchronisation on stage. We have routines to go with our songs, and in Jamaica, the artistes sometimes just focus on delivering the lyrics, but what we are doing is making use of

the stage and formations," Empre33 Nile said. They revealed that their anime and cosplay audience continues to grow by the thousands yearly, with the convention being one of the most highly anticipated on the calendar. "The music that we do is global and more international, but this is Jamaica's take on it. Anime is a big and growing movement in Jamaica. There is a convention every year that is one of the biggest in the region, and next year will be the 10th anniversary. The event itself draws over 7,000 patrons each year at the National Arena," Quani shared. The group pointed out that conventions like these create a space that explores the pop culture that young people are interested in, while having a business element as well. "All of them can come together in one space and not only celebrate what Jamaicans can put forward in the artistic space but facilitate business and investment," Quani added. "It's a win-win."

Shaggy raises stake with star-studded remix

Grammy Award-winning entertainer Shaggy is raising the stakes with the official remix of Lottery, enlisting R&B star Jeremih, rapper Rick Ross, and Jamaican dancehall artiste Skillibeng for a cross-genre collaboration. Set for release on September 18 through Ranch Entertainment and VP Records, the remix brings together four-distinctive voices spanning reggae, dancehall, hip hop, and R&B. The original Lottery, featuring Jeremih, serves as the title track of Shaggy’s 13-track studio album, re-released on May 15, 2026. The project is rooted in the philosophy of betting on yourself, trusting your instincts, and embracing creative risks. The remix builds on that concept while retaining the chemistry between Shaggy and Jeremih. Rick Ross adds his commanding hip hop presence, while Skillibeng brings the raw energy of contemporary Jamaican dancehall. Shaggy remains at

the centre, connecting the different sounds through his unmistakable voice and Caribbean identity. “Lottery has always been about taking a chance and believing in your own hand. Jeremih brought a smooth energy to the original, and bringing Rick Ross and Skillibeng onto the remix takes it to another level. Everybody comes from a different lane, but the chemistry works,” Shaggy said. The collaboration is also in keeping with Shaggy’s decades-long approach to making music without rigid genre boundaries. Throughout his career, the Jamaican entertainer has consistently fused reggae and dancehall with pop, R&B, hip hop, and electronic music, helping to introduce Jamaican sounds to wider international audiences. Beyond his hugely successful work with Sting, Shaggy has amassed a diverse catalogue of international col-

laborations. He has worked with R&B and pop acts, including Akon, Robin Thicke, and Jason Derulo, while venturing into electronic music through collaborations with French DJ Bob Sinclar and British group Clean Bandit. His collaborative reach has also extended across European and Latin markets, with artistes including Mohombi, Faydee, Costi, and Nicky Jam among those with whom he has joined forces over the years. The partnerships have reinforced Shaggy’s reputation as one of Jamaican music’s most enduring crossover acts. With Rick Ross and Skillibeng now joining Shaggy and Jeremih on Lottery, the remix adds another high-profile collaboration to that catalogue while connecting different generations and corners of contemporary music. The Lottery remix featuring Jeremih,



Grammy Award-winning entertainer Shaggy

Rick Ross, and Skillibeng will be available across major digital streaming platforms on September 18.



Italian-American artiste JoZee

Gospel artiste JoZee grew up in Chicago with Sicily in her blood—but Jamaica has been beating in her heart for decades. Now the Italian-American is turning a childhood obsession with reggae into a full-circle musical moment with Who God Says I Am, her first reggae gospel album, produced by veteran Jamaican hitmaker Danny Brownie for Main Street Records. The 15-track project, due October 6, 2026, explores faith, identity and the deceptively simple question at its core: Who does God say

JoZee finds her reggae calling with ‘Who God Says I Am’

I am? For JoZee, reggae isn’t a new experiment. “I have loved reggae music since I was a little girl,” she said, recalling Third World’s 96 Degrees In The Shade as one of the first Jamaican records to capture her imagination. That discovery sent her down a musical rabbit hole. Bob Marley, Peter Tosh, Jimmy Cliff, Jacob Miller and Marcia Griffiths became part of her education, followed by Eek-A-Mouse, Barrington Levy, Yellowman, Super Cat and Shabba Ranks. “It’s been my favourite genre of music and I’ve always dreamt about recording reggae music,” she said. Her own musical journey began early. JoZee was performing by age nine, later studied music at DePaul University and eventually landed a recording deal with Quincy Jones’ Qwest Records. Her childhood soundtrack was just as diverse. Growing up around her parents’ Sicilian restaurant, she

heard everything from Frank Sinatra and Pavarotti to Stevie Wonder, Led Zeppelin, Barbra Streisand and Bob Marley. JoZee sees similarities between her Sicilian heritage and the Jamaican culture she has embraced. “Sicilians are very proud and passionate people just like Jamaicans,” she said, pointing to the importance both cultures place on food, family, respect and hard work. But one ingredient was missing from her reggae dream: the right Jamaican producer. Everything changed during a Christmas visit to Jamaica in 2023. Danny Brownie, a longtime friend of JoZee’s husband, invited her into his studio while the couple was staying at his home. What began as an informal musical idea quickly became something more serious. “Before we knew it, we had written and recorded the very first song for my album,” she recalled. Brownie subsequently became a major influence on her reggae approach, repeatedly reminding her to “stick to the melody” and “ride

the rhythms”. “Danny always knows what to do to get a heartfelt performance out of you,” JoZee said. “He’s a perfectionist, and his ear is impeccable.” That chemistry ultimately produced Who God Says I Am. At a time when entertainers are routinely measured by streams, followers, views, likes and chart positions, JoZee’s album searches for validation somewhere algorithms cannot provide it. Its answer is God. The project also connects the seemingly scattered pieces of her story—the Chicago girl raised around a Sicilian restaurant, the formally trained musician, the Qwest Records signee, the Christian singer and the reggae fanatic who spent years dreaming of making authentic Jamaican music. Now, decades after reggae first grabbed her as a little girl, JoZee is finally getting her wish. She came searching for a reggae sound. With Who God Says I Am, JoZee says she found her identity too.

Lua Beach House at South Bank Named a Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Awards Winner, Among the Top 10% of Restaurants Worldwide

Lua Beach House, South Bank Resort's signature beachfront destination, has earned a 2026 Tripadvisor Travelers' Choice Award, placing it among the top 10% of restaurants worldwide. Tripadvisor awards Travelers' Choice status to businesses that earn consistently strong reviews, based on the quality and quantity of diner ratings gathered over a 12-month period. Lua Beach House holds a 4.8 rating on Tripadvisor.

Lua Beach House sits beachfront on the South Bank Lagoon, the iconic ocean-fed resort swimming lagoon situated picturesquely at the heart of the resort property, made for days with nowhere else to be. Your day can start there peacefully with yoga, followed by a wholesome wellness breakfast with a super green smoothie. Lunch could include a whipped feta with Dominican wild honey in the shade of a beach-cabana, a steak sandwich at The Beach Bar, or a signature truffle pizza from the feature pizza oven with sand between your toes. The afternoon belongs to The Lagoon's five acres of calm turquoise water, to swim, paddleboard, or float for as long as you like.

As the sun sets over the water, you cross the boardwalk to The Island Bar for the golden hour paired with The Arc, a signature cocktail of lemongrass tequila with a spicy agave edge. Dinner might be line-caught local grouper or grilled local lobster tail, concluded with a delightful yuzu cheesecake, at a waterside table you are in no hurry to leave.

"Lua Beach House was built for everyone," said Ingo Reckhorn, Co-Founder of Windward. "A family spending the whole day by the water, a couple marking an anniversary over dinner, friends who came for lunch and are still at the table at sunset. Whether you are staying at South Bank or coming for the day, there is a version of Lua Beach House that fits."

In February 2026, the Turks and Caicos Hotel and Tourism Associ-



Cocktails at The Beach Bar



Lunch by The Lagoon Beach



Private Beach Cabanas at Lua Beach House

ation (TCHTA) named Lua Beach House the Turks and Caicos Islands' Restaurant of the Year

2025 at its Star Awards, a distinction earned within the restaurant's first full year of service.

Wine Spectator has also recognized Lua Beach House with an Award of Excellence in both 2025 and 2026.

Lua Beach House has been part of the Caribbean Food & Wine Festival since opening in 2024 and has hosted the festival's Veuve Clicquot Brunch since 2025. It also hosted the Jadot Cup Dinner in 2025 and again in 2026.

Being an ideal location for events of different atmospheres and sizes, this summer, Lua Beach House served as a Founding Partner of the 2026 Trevor Ariza Celebrity Impact Weekend, hosting both the Welcome Reception and the Charity Gala Dinner & Auction. The weekend raised \$50,000 for the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission's Athlete Development Fund (ADF). Lua Beach House is home to the Caribbean Sunset Party, held on The Lagoon Islands. What began as the Italian Sunset Party and the French Riviera Sunset Party has grown into a series that brings residence owners, guests, and Turks and Caicos residents together from sunset into the evening. The next Caribbean Sunset Party takes place on Sunday, September 27.

"I am deeply grateful to our team, whose service and care earned this recognition," said Tracey Oliver, General Manager of South Bank Resort. "Thank you as well to every guest who chose Lua Beach House and took the time to share their experience. The Lagoon anchors the setting, but it is the people here who turn a visit into an island moment worth remembering."

Lua Beach House sits within South Bank Resort, a luxury residential resort and marina community developed by Windward and expertly managed by Grace Bay Resorts. In December 2026, the food and beverage offering at South Bank will be further enhanced with the opening of Sora, a beachfront lunch spot adjacent to Arc by Piero Lissoni that will transform into an exclusive Japanese omakase tasting experience in the evenings.

UHWI chief Carl Bruce acquitted in neurosurgeon assault case

Dr Carl Bruce, medical chief of staff at the University Hospital of the West Indies (UHWI), was on Monday found not guilty of assaulting fellow neurosurgeon Dr Roger Hunter nearly two decades ago. The verdict was handed down by Parish Court Judge Alwayne Smith in the Kingston and St Andrew Parish Court. Bruce was found not guilty on two counts: malicious destruction of property and assault at common law. The allegations are that on January 31, 2007, Dr Hunter was in the planning room at the UHWI preparing for surgery when the accused burst inside and said to him, “What the f**k are you do-

ing in the planning room? Get the f**k out of the planning room.” Bruce reportedly rushed towards Hunter and grabbed him by his tie and shirt and pushed him away. He reportedly then hit Hunter in his head, face, neck and chest before threatening to spit in his face. Hunter alleged that Bruce damaged his shirt and tie, which were valued at \$8,000. The matter was reported to the police in November 2024 and was first mentioned in court last April. Judge Alwayne Smith, in handing down the judgement, explained that the defendant waited 18 years to make a complaint to the police with no explanation



Consultant neurosurgeon Dr Carl Bruce

for the delay, which places the accused at a disadvantage of recounting the events of the incident. Additionally, the judge noted that there was no human resources record or medical evidence to support Dr Hunter’s claims.



A Bengal tiger (*Panthera tigris*) bares its teeth at the National Zoo of Havana in Havana on September 15, 2026.

Every day, veterinarians and zookeepers make their way to Cuba’s National Zoo by whatever means they can, determined to not abandon the nearly 1,000 animals in their care and help save species at risk of extinction. Their dedication and food donations are vital to keeping alive an array of rhinos, jaguars and tigers — including an extremely rare white tiger — in the midst of a severe crisis that has left many Cubans struggling to feed themselves. Just getting to the reserve situated 20 kilometres (12 miles) from central Havana is a headache for staff, as public transportation has come to a near standstill nine months into a US fuel blockade. “The workers come by bicycle, pedal scooter or electric motorbike to ensure the animals have food and water every day,” said Yoel Machado, the zoo’s animal welfare manager. Their efforts are about more than keep-

ing the animals fed. The 345-hectare (850-acre) park serves as a genetic reserve of international conservation importance, housing breeding populations of vulnerable or endangered species, including black and white rhinos, hippos and jaguars. Yet the same crisis that has left workers scrambling to source meat, medicine and water has forced the zoo to curb reproduction programs and increasingly rely on handouts to sustain its animals. During a recent visit by AFP, two Bengal tiger cubs, one an extremely rare white specimen, frolicked in their enclosure beneath the watchful gaze of their mother, oblivious to the strenuous efforts made to keep them alive. AFP did not see any animals that appeared malnourished or ill, but Angel Cordero, the veterinarian in charge of big cats, said the tiger cubs “could be in better shape.” He revealed he needed to ration their

A Cuban zoo, and its animals, in epic battle for survival

food to prevent it from running out. “It’s no use giving them plenty if it only lasts three days,” he said. Big cats need about seven kilograms (15 pounds) of meat per day per adult, but such quantities are hard to come by. Even when it is available, recurring blackouts of up to 30 hours at a stretch make it difficult to preserve. With fuel extremely scarce, there’s also the issue of how to distribute food in a nature reserve the size of New York’s Central Park. For now, private donors have come to the rescue for the zoo’s various needs. Every Monday, Ana Fernandez, a Cuban-American woman born in Tennessee who has been living in Cuba for nine years, donates meat. “The animals shouldn’t have to suffer,” the 50-year-old said, though she added that “some days it’s not enough for all of them.” Recently, the reserve went 23 days without electricity, which meant it also lacked running water. The staff “didn’t just sit around waiting for things to fall from the sky,” the zoo’s director Juan Carlos Corella said. “We looked for solutions, water trucks were brought in, and we found food for the animals almost daily,” he said, while admitting that keeping the park open has become “very difficult.”

An exodus of vets has added to the zoo’s woes. More than a third have left for better-paying jobs elsewhere, mostly in Cuba’s burgeoning private sector. Some wait tables in cafes while others work for private veterinary clinics. The zoo is home to the only breeding group of black rhinos outside of Africa, as well as a large population of white rhinos, the largest herd of Grant’s zebras in the Americas and hippos that regularly bear calves. “Here we have a high genetic value, and one of immense international importance,” Machado, the animal welfare manager, explained. However, the crisis has forced the park to slow down its breeding programs. The reason is simple: each new offspring requires more food, medicine, and staff. “We can’t keep increasing the number of animals,” Machado said, adding that he preferred to ensure the current population was “as well cared for as possible.” And yet life keeps renewing itself, regardless. In recent months, the zoo has welcomed baby tigers, hyenas, jackals, and a black dromedary named Esperanza (Spanish for “Hope”), the first of its kind born in Cuba in three decades.

Report offers rare insight into risks and challenges facing US deportees in Haiti

Human Rights Watch released a report on Monday detailing the hardships faced by hundreds of people deported by the United States to gang-ravaged Haiti.

The report is the first intimate look at the lives of deportees who have declined to speak at length with journalists because they fear for their safety. Gang violence is surging, and hunger and poverty are deepening.

The US has deported more than 470 people to Haiti since July, including people who lost Temporary Protected Status, which had allowed them to live and work legally in the US.

The main international airport in Port-au-Prince is considered too dangerous because of persistent gang violence, so deportation flights are landing in the northern city of Cap-Haïtien. Mayor Michel Saint-Croix told Human Rights Watch that the city's population has tripled to more than one million in the past two years as it receives deportees and Haitians fleeing violence elsewhere in the country.

The deportees' arrival has strained already limited resources. Haitian migration officials said the US government has told them it planned to send as many as two deportation flights a week, each carrying about 200 people, according to the report.

Human Rights Watch said it interviewed 44 deportees, as well as Haitian and international officials.

Deportees said they went for hours without food or water and days without bathing or changing clothes while held at US immigration detention facilities. The interviewees said their belongings, including official documents and money, were not returned to them when they



arrived in Haiti.

US Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the US Department of Homeland Security did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The rights group said it reviewed passenger manifests for two deportation flights in August. Neither contained information about the deportees' immigration status or the grounds for their removal.

Most of the 44 deportees interviewed said they had fled Haiti's worsening security and humanitarian crises and settled in US states, including Florida, New York, Indiana and Ohio. They found work in sectors such as construction, healthcare and manufacturing.

Many said they were from Port-au-Prince or surrounding areas, where armed men control an estimated 70% of the capital. Others said

they were from the Artibonite region, which is under assault by violent gangs.

The deportees lived in the US for anywhere from two to 14 years before being sent back to Haiti. Among them was a 38-year-old unidentified man who said he had lived in Florida since December 2019 and worked at the same hotel for more than six years.

His wife and 5-year-old son, who is a US citizen, remain in Florida, according to the report.

"I worked so that he could grow up without the fear, violence, and uncertainty that I had known in Haiti," the man was quoted as saying. He and several other deportees said they had Temporary Protected Status, although the rights group noted it could not independently verify those claims.

A 47-year-old woman said she had lived in Miami with her husband, a US citizen, and was

arrested when she attended an interview to apply for permanent residence.

"Once detained, most interviewees said authorities did not allow them to contact their lawyers or appear before an immigration judge, while many received little or no information about their pending asylum claims, the grounds for their detention, or how they could challenge their deportation," Human Rights Watch said.

Another deportee was a 24-year-old nursing assistant student who said she applied for asylum after fleeing Haiti in 2023 after gangs attacked her community.

At least 19,380 people were reported killed across Haiti between January 2023 and June 2026, according to the United Nations.

Hunger and poverty also are deepening as Haitian police and a UN-backed mission struggle to contain gang violence. More than 253,000 children aged six months to five years are expected to suffer acute malnutrition in upcoming months, according to a new report by Haiti's government and agencies including UNICEF. "The United States is returning people, some with pending asylum claims, to a country that doesn't have the capacity to protect them from violence, let alone help them find food and shelter," said Nathalie Cotrino, senior Americas researcher at Human Rights Watch. "The U.S. government should immediately halt these removals."

Deportees arriving in Haiti are given a simple meal, a drink and about \$77 in cash.

"After registering, deportees were left to fend for themselves, and many did not know what to do or where to go next," the report said.

CNN, MS NOW and Politico sue Trump administration over White House access

The three national news outlets President Donald Trump banned from the White House — CNN, MS NOW, and Politico — filed a critical First Amendment lawsuit to restore their access.

The emergency request is set to go before a federal judge in the DC District Court and could result in hearings and legal arguments from the administration as soon as this week.

"This ban could not be a more direct assault on the First Amendment nor a more blatant violation of our most fundamental constitutional principles," the outlets said in their lawsuit, which is asking the court to act immediately to revive their journalists' access to the White House.

The lawsuit will allege Trump's ban violates the First Amendment and the Constitution's due process protections.

"This morning, we notified the government that we are filing a lawsuit today to protect our First Amendment rights and defend the principle that the government does not decide what the press reports or publishes," the three news organizations said in a joint statement on Monday.

"Without notice or process, the White House revoked our journalists' credentials because it objected to our reporting," the news outlets said. "Left unchallenged, this threatens press freedom and the public's right to independent journalism free from government interference."

The standoff is one of the administration's most high-profile attacks on the press to date, with implications extending far beyond the

three banned news outlets. Trump said last Friday, when he announced the ban, that he might add others to the list.

"The White House is not instituting an assault on the Free Press, something which I cherish. It is instituting an assault on the FAKE NEWS, something that has grown like Cancer in our beloved United States of America," Trump posted to his social media account Monday morning. "It is corrupt, purposeful, pervasive, fully coordinated, and totally out of control. It is a threat to our National Security, and must be stopped, NOW!"

A hearing on the motion for a temporary restraining order was scheduled for Wednesday. CNN, MS NOW and Politico reporters are unable to access their workspaces inside the White House. CNN and MS NOW are also blocked from using their television equipment and camera locations on the grounds.

CNN was removed Monday from pooled coverage responsibilities that are shared by major news outlets. CNN was scheduled to have TV pool duty and travel with the president to New York on Monday.

"The ban inflicts an injury on all news media organizations—which now risk a similar fate if they engage in fact-based, independent reporting the President deems insufficiently favorable," the outlets said in a request for a temporary restraining order that was filed on Monday.

"And the public at large suffers for however long the unconstitutional ban restricts access to current and complete information about the government."

CNN has reached out to the White House for comment on the lawsuit.

Some first amendment and legal experts have already widely called the ban unconstitutional and condemned it as abrupt, discriminatory and harmful to the media's ability to cover national issues.

The lawsuit from the outlets will rely heavily on the vague reasoning for revoking access that Trump gave on Friday, saying he didn't like "negative stories."

"If they want to write them, that's fine. I don't have to let them into the people's house," the President also said.

At least one Trump administration official said in a TV interview Sunday that he believed a Supreme Court opinion from 1965 about the government refusing to validate passports for travel to Cuba would support Trump's stance. After Trump announced he was barring the three outlets from the White House because he didn't like their coverage, reporters' press passes to access the White House grounds were deactivated.

On Saturday, MS NOW reporter Akayla Gardner, CNN reporter Betsy Klein and Politico reporter Cheyenne Haslett each tried to enter the White House grounds to cover news and were denied entry by the Secret Service, which seized their press passes.

The CNN booth at the White House after US President Donald J. Trump announced he would ban CNN, MS NOW, and Politico, from the White House in Washington, DC, on Friday, September 18.

The CNN booth at the White House after US

President Donald J. Trump announced he would ban CNN, MS NOW, and Politico, from the White House in Washington, DC, on Friday, September 18. Evan Vucci/Reuters

Similar prohibitions that Trump and other White House officials have attempted to put on individual reporters or outlets have been rejected by the courts, even recently. The courts have been clear that journalists cannot be prohibited from covering the White House because of what they say or publish in the coverage itself.

A fight over press freedom

The current dispute centers on a First Amendment legal concept known as viewpoint discrimination, since Trump has been explicit about his reasons for wanting to ban certain outlets over coverage he deems "negative." Courts have forbidden viewpoint discrimination and protected the rights of journalists in case after case.

said in a statement over the weekend.



11 Attain World Athletics Level 1 Certification



Dwight Myrie (second left), one of the coaches who attained World Athletics Level 1 Certification, go through the paces with local teen athletes, during the practical session.

SEE PG32



FIFA WOMEN'S DEVELOPMENT EXTRAVAGANZA

On Saturday, September 19, the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association (TCIFA) Field in Providenciales came alive with the FIFA Women's Development Under 8 and Under 10 competitions. The event attracted a number of private and public primary schools across the country, who had fun developing their football skills. NEWSLINE TCI was in attendance and captured the following photos.





TCI Versus Montserrat Nationals League Competition

On Wednesday, September 23, The Turks and Caicos Islands National Football Team opened their account in the Concacaf Nationals League return games against Montserrat on a losing note, despite a valiant effort. The TCI Team went down 0-2, conceding a goal in each half. The following are photo highlights of that game.



Road Dogs set January date for second Run of Nations

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Road Dogs Running Club is preparing to bring back its Run of Nations 5K and 10K on Saturday, January 23, 2027, with registration scheduled to open October 1. A new event flyer carries the slogan “It’s more than a run. It’s an experience” and shows runners gathered beneath an array of national flags. The image reflects the idea behind the race: bringing together people from the many communities represented in the Turks and Caicos Islands. The club is inviting sponsorship and collaboration inquiries as it prepares for the event.

The 2027 race will be the second Run of Nations. Road Dogs held the inaugural event in Grace Bay on January 17, 2026. More than 250 people attended, according to a report published by Newsline TCI, which described a race day with 5K and 10K courses, music and professional hosting.

Andres Davila won the men’s 10K in 44 minutes, 41 seconds, while Lynn Robinson led the women’s 10K. Daniel Redmond and Eunice Missick won the men’s and women’s 5K events.



The inaugural race also raised funds for Potcake Place K-9 Rescue.

Culture was part of the first race’s appeal. Ahead of the 2026 event, organizers encouraged participants to wear national colours, jerseys or flags to celebrate their heritage alongside their shared interest in fitness. They also offered a discounted entry rate for schoolchildren, though the club has not announced whether that rate will return in 2027.

Road Dogs is a relatively young

club with ambitions beyond this annual race. Founded in August 2024, it brings together runners around fitness and community under the motto “Every Dog Has Its Pace.” The club has said it is a registered nonprofit and a member of the Turks and Caicos Islands Sport Commission. In 2025, its members travelled to Florida for the A1A Half Marathon; their trip became the subject of a short film, *The Journey to 13.1*.

The club has also recently joined the Turks and Caicos Amateur

Athletic Association. Road Dogs says the affiliation will help it develop its road races and pursue recognition for the Run of Nations as a sanctioned event. Its stated goal is to align its events with World Athletics standards while supporting local runners who want to compete farther afield. Those are plans the club is working toward, rather than a sanctioning status already announced for the January race.

Organizers are aiming to attract more than 500 runners in 2027, including visitors to the islands. That target would represent a substantial increase from the attendance reported at the first event, although attendance and runner registrations are different measures.

Road Dogs president Leonardo “Leo” Lightbourne has previously described a longer-term ambition to establish the Run of Nations on the national sporting calendar and eventually bring a full marathon to the Turks and Caicos Islands.

For more information on the 2027 run, contact can be made to RoadDogsTCI@gmail.com, +1 (649) 343-9582 and +1 (649) 245-5466 for sponsorship and collaboration inquiries.

Salt Rakers Aquatic Club Launches Charity Raffle Ahead of Kew Day Fest

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Salt Rakers Aquatic Club is inviting the community to support a charity raffle during the fifth anniversary of Kew Day Fest, scheduled for Saturday, October 17, 2026, at Bellefield Landing in Kew.

The free community festival will feature an “all white, all out”

theme. Proceeds from the raffle will support Kew Day Fest, the Salt Rakers Aquatic Club and construction of the Bight Community Pool.

Raffle tickets cost \$20 each, while booklets are available for \$200. The drawing will take place on November 28, 2026, with 10 prizes on offer.

The grand prize is a 2026 Kia Seltos. Other prizes include a private

yacht excursion for eight, two-night resort stays at Ocean Club Resorts and Grace Bay Club, and a Beaches Turks and Caicos day pass for two adults and two children.

Additional prizes include dinner for two at West Bay Club, a Big Blue Collective paddle eco-tour, a US\$500 IGA gift certificate, a US\$250 Pegasus VIP Transport gift certificate and one month of

swimming lessons for one child. Organizers are promoting the initiative under the message “Swim. Support. Build a brighter tomorrow,” highlighting the raffle’s focus on swimming opportunities and community development.

Kew Day Fest is free to attend, and community members are encouraged to participate in the celebration and support the fundraising effort.

Eleven coaches earn World Athletics Level 1 certification in TCI

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Eleven track and field coaches successfully completed the practical component of the World Athletics Coaches Education and Certification System Level 1 course at the National Stadium on September 19, strengthening the pool of qualified coaches in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The assessment was organised by the Turks and Caicos Amateur Athletic Association and conducted by World Athletics Coaches Council member and CECS instructor David Riley. Coach Randy Ford facilitated the two-day exercise, held on September 18 and 19.

The successful coaches were Roshano Cox, Acasia Downer, Alexander Ewing, Christopher Foster, Angelo Garland, Richardo Johnson, Dwight Myrie, Ronald Parker, Jody Pusey, Natanya Rodney and Kenesha Thompson.

Foster, Garland, Myrie, Parker, Pusey, Rodney and Thompson were also recommended to pursue Level 2 certification.

The practical assessment followed a 30-module online programme which candidates were required to complete. Seventeen coaches were actively engaged in the Level 1 programme by the first week of September, up from the 12 who initially expressed interest in August.

The certification drive followed a directive issued by the TCAAA Executive earlier in 2026. Under the directive, coaches must obtain at least Level 1 certification under the new CECS framework to operate a track club or serve as a head or assistant coach travelling with a national team. The requirement applies both to uncertified coaches and those who held qualifications under the previous system.

Riley said Level 1 coaches are expected to demonstrate competence across the major areas of track and field, including sprints and hurdles, middle- and long-distance running, throws, jumps and race walking. The qualification prepares coaches to work with athletes up to age 16, while specialization begins at Level 2.

During the assessment, each candidate conducted a practical session based on an assigned task. Candidates were evaluated individually



World Athletics Coaches Council member and CECS instructor David Riley (seated at right) discusses the training exercise with coaches who sat the exam, at the national in Providenciales on Saturday, September 19.

on their technical knowledge, communication, session organisation and ability to guide athletes through the required skills.

Riley was encouraged by the overall standard.

"They know what they're doing," he said. "It may just be a matter of implementation and having the right group of athletes motivated, but the coaches are knowledgeable."

He added that the candidates displayed more than a basic understanding of the course material and appeared capable of developing athletes.

Riley singled out Thompson and Downer for their ability to move athletes from simple to more complex skills. He praised the accuracy and logical progression of their coaching sequences and encouraged both women to expand their experience by working with teenage athletes as well as primary-school students.

His general feedback also focused on the need for coaches to reduce lengthy verbal explanations and give athletes more opportunities to perform.

"In coaching, you talk less and show

more," Riley advised.

He encouraged coaches to allow athletes to attempt skills, reinforce correct execution and intervene with corrections when necessary. Riley also urged participants to continue learning and to document their training methods, including during successful seasons, to support future planning and improvement.

Garland, head of sports performance at the TCI Sports Commission and one of the successful candidates, described the programme as demanding but valuable.

"The theory was intense—very intense," Garland said. "The theory is much different from the practical. I was a track and field athlete, so learning the more delicate parts of the field events was new. I'm grateful for the information and everything learned."

Garland believes the certification programme will benefit athletes and coaches throughout the territory by creating a consistent foundation for coaching.

"Everyone now has a standard from World Athletics that they have to follow," he said. "That will raise the

national standard of the Turks and Caicos. Even though each coach has their own philosophy, the fundamentals and foundations will be built on one worldwide standard."

Several TCI coaches have already progressed within the new CECS structure. Delano Williams, Randy Ford and Courtney Missick have attained Level 2 certification in sprints. Ford was also previously certified at Level 2 in middle-distance running, long-distance running and race walking.

Coaches who complete Level 1 can pursue Level 2 and Level 3 qualifications depending on their professional goals. The TCAAA determines how frequently the certification courses are conducted locally.

Riley's completed assessment sheets were left with Ford for the association's signature and submission to World Athletics.

The successful completion of the practical component represents another step in the TCAAA's effort to build a more qualified coaching workforce and establish consistent standards for athlete development across the Turks and Caicos Islands.