

SOUR TASTE



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Jamarr Malcolm and Conroy Whittaker Appointed to Lead National Student Council

A new chapter in youth leadership begins as Jamarr Malcolm of A. Louise Garland Thomas High School and Conroy Whittaker of Clement Howell High School take on their roles as President and Vice President, respectively, of the Turks and Caicos Islands National Student Council. The Department of Youth Affairs proudly celebrates these two young men, whose hard work, discipline, and commitment to their peers have earned them this national honour.

Their appointments bring an opportunity to represent students, champion their ideas, and help shape a brighter future for young people across the Turks and Caicos Islands. As they step into these roles, we are confident they will lead with purpose and ensure their peers' voices are heard. Congratulations, Jamarr and Conroy! Continue to lead with integrity, courage, and vision. We are proud of you both and look forward to the difference you will make.



Nixon Dickenson (right), National Youth Director, shares a photo moment with Jamarr Malcolm (centre) of A. Louise Garland Thomas High School, who was voted President of the Turks and Caicos Islands National Student Council and Conroy Whittaker of Clement Howell High School, who was voted Vice President.

Tickets On Sale for 16th Caribbean Food & Wine Festival

November 3–8, 2026 | Six Days of Food, Wine, Culture & Caribbean Flavour

The table is set, the wines are ready and tickets are officially on sale for the 16th Annual Caribbean Food & Wine Festival (CFWF), taking place November 3–8, 2026. Co-founded by Nikheel Advani of Grace Bay Resorts and Tony Garland of Wine Cellars, CFWF has become one of Turks and Caicos' most anticipated annual celebrations, bringing together exceptional chefs, celebrated winemakers, local culinary talent and food lovers from around the world. And while food and wine take centre stage, CFWF is a charity event at heart, created to give back to the Turks and Caicos community. "This festival has always been about bringing people together around great food, exceptional wine and our incredible Caribbean community," said Nikheel Advani, Co-Founder of CFWF, COO and Co-Founder of Grace Bay Resorts. "This year's lineup is incredibly exciting, and we can't wait to welcome everyone back to the table."

SIX DAYS. ONE BIG TASTE OF THE CARIBBEAN.

Tuesday, November 3 — Taste of Turks
We kick things off with local chefs, local dishes and plenty of island flavour, as the love of food and the spirit of Turks and Caicos come together at KRAVE.

Wednesday, November 4 — Meet the Winemakers
Napa Valley comes to Turks and Caicos! Meet Jesse Fox of Sequoia Grove and Niki Williams of Cakebread Cellars at an intimate wine experience at The Ritz-Carlton. "Joining us from Napa Valley are Niki Williams of Cakebread Cellars, known for its celebrated, food-friendly wines, and Jesse Fox of Sequoia Grove, a Rutherford estate renowned for its Cabernet Sauvignon. Together, they bring decades of winemaking expertise and two distinctive Napa Valley perspectives straight to Turks and Caicos,"



The local media launch of the Caribbean Food and Wine Festival, at the Lua Restaurant at South Bank

said Tony Garland, Co-Founder of CFWF and Operations Manager of Wine Cellars.

Thursday, November 5 — Culinary Symposium & Starlight Dinners
An invite-only Culinary Symposium explores the future and continued expansion of food and wine in Turks and Caicos, followed by two extraordinary Starlight Dinner experiences — one at Rock House and one at The Ritz-Carlton. Sequoia Groove will be featured at Rock House's Dinner and Cakebread Cellars at the Ritz Carlton Dinner.

Friday, November 6 — Women of Wine & Gourmet Safari
The always-anticipated Women of Wine returns at Shore Club, bringing leading ladies of wine together for conversation, fellowship and fabulous wine, featuring Niki Williams of Cakebread Cellars. Then, the Gourmet Safari gets an upgrade — by sea! Guests will journey between culinary destinations including Anchorage, Offshore, Palms and Wymara for an unforgettable progressive dining adventure.

Saturday, November 7 — Wine, Jerk & Fire
Saturday is a full day of exquisite food and

wine, starting with The Wine Experience at Marine Room, pairing the wines of our visiting winemakers with locally inspired dishes. Then it's time to turn up the island energy at the Turks Head Jerk Festival, celebrating Caribbean food, music and culture at Turks Head Brewery. And later that evening, everything touches the smoke at Salt, Sand & Fire on Grace Bay Beach, where international chef India brings her extraordinary culinary journey to Turks and Caicos.

A London-born British chef who has called New York home for more than a decade, Chef India's career spans some of the most respected kitchens on both sides of the Atlantic. She trained and worked at La Trompette and Bibendum in London, cooked in France and Spain, and later joined New York's The NoMad and Crown Shy, before becoming Executive Sous Chef at the two-Michelin-starred SAGA. Today, she is Co-Owner and Executive Chef of Markette in Chelsea, where European technique meets the flavours and traditions of her Caribbean heritage. Her talent was

recognized with the 2025 Michelin Guide Northeast Cities Young Chef Award, while Markette is featured in the Michelin Guide. Her Caribbean connection is personal. Raised in London by a Jamaican mother and Scottish father, Chef India draws inspiration from her grandmother's Jamaican cooking — making her appearance at CFWF a particularly fitting celebration of the connection between global culinary excellence and Caribbean heritage.

At Salt, Sand & Fire, that journey comes to the beach, where fire, smoke, sand and sea meet Chef India's distinctive culinary perspective for one unforgettable night.

Sunday, November 8 — Veuve Clicquot Brunch
The festival goes out in style with the Veuve Clicquot Brunch at South Bank, featuring award-winning chefs, Veuve Clicquot Champagne and an unforgettable Sunday celebration.

A CELEBRATION BUILT ON PARTNERSHIP
The 2026 festival proud participating partners Grace Bay Resorts, The Wine Cellar, The Palms, Shore Club, The Ritz Carlton, Marine Room, Wymara, Blue Haven (Anchorage), Veuve Clicquot, ARBIKE, Macallan and Graceway Supermarkets. "The Caribbean Food & Wine Festival is only possible because of the incredible people and partners who continue to believe in what we are creating," said Nikheel Advani. "We are excited to welcome new partners this year while celebrating those who have been part of the festival's journey. We cannot wait to see you all at the 16th Annual Caribbean Food and Wine Festival." Tickets are on sale now, with individual experiences available and the Full Festival Experience priced at \$1,145 per person. For tickets and the full schedule, visit www.winecellar.tc or www.caribbeanfoodandwinefestivaltci.com, or call 649.232.1594.

Governor Calls for Affordable Homes as Growth Squeezes Working Residents

Working residents must have a realistic opportunity to secure a safe, affordable home in the Turks and Caicos Islands, Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam has said, warning that access to housing has not always kept pace with the territory's economic and population growth.

In remarks for the Informal Settlements Unit roundtable marking World Habitat Day 2026, the Governor said the housing challenge extends beyond unlawful settlements to people who are employed, contributing to the economy and struggling to take their first step onto the home ownership ladder.

"Our rapid economic growth has brought tremendous opportunity, but prosperity has also created pressures," she said.

High living costs, finite land and strained infrastructure are among those pressures. The cost of land and housing, she said, can make the aspiration of owning a home increasingly difficult to realise.

Speaking under the theme "Adequate Housing for All," the Governor called for affordable housing to form part of the response, alongside planning that provides the services and infrastructure needed to sustain communities.

"But our ambition cannot simply be to build more homes. We must build communities."

That means ensuring housing has access to schools, roads, utilities, transport and essential public services. The Governor said adequate housing requires authorities to consider how an entire commu-



GOVERNOR: Good government must both protect the integrity of our communities and widen access to safe, lawful and affordable housing.

nity functions, rather than treating each home as an isolated development.

"If we are serious about adequate housing for all, we must plan for the whole community, not simply the individual home."

Her remarks connected the wider affordability challenge with the emergence of informal settlements, where some residents cannot meet the cost of formal accommodation.

She said those settlements reflect a combination of domestic economic and housing pressures and the islands'

geographic position in a region where prolonged instability in Haiti continues to drive displacement and irregular migration.

The Governor cautioned against seeing settlements solely as unauthorised buildings on unlawfully occupied land. They also house families, children, people in insecure employment and others with differing needs and vulnerabilities. However, she stressed that recognising those circumstances does not remove the obligation to uphold the law or address unsafe conditions.

Unplanned settlements can create sanitation and public health concerns, fire and environmental hazards, overcrowding, unsafe construction and difficulties for emergency services. They can also leave vulnerable residents outside the view of agencies responsible for their protection.

The Governor warned that weak authority within settlements can create opportunities for exploitation and organised criminality.

"This is therefore not a choice between humanity and enforcement."

Authorities, she said, must protect people at risk while maintaining the meaning of land, planning, immigration and public safety laws. Regularisation cannot simply legitimise existing development, and enforcement cannot merely relocate the problem.

An effective response requires evidence about who lives in each settlement, the circumstances that brought them there and the risks involved. It must also con-

sider which situations require protection, enforcement or responsible regularisation.

The Governor called for coordinated action across Housing, Planning, Immigration, Police, Health and Social Development, saying none of those agencies can resolve the challenge independently.

Government also needs partners outside the public sector. Investors, developers and utility providers help shape how and where communities grow, making their involvement necessary to wider housing and infrastructure solutions.

She said the state must both respond firmly and humanely to existing vulnerability and illegality and create opportunities for people seeking to establish homes lawfully.

"Good government must both protect the integrity of our communities and widen access to safe, lawful and affordable housing."

Removing informal settlements alone should not be the ambition, she added. Authorities must reduce the conditions that allow them to take root without allowing informality to become a route around the law.

Commending the agencies that convened the roundtable, the Governor urged an ambitious discussion grounded in evidence.

Ultimately, she said, the goal is a society where lawful residents can live with dignity and security, and where the aspiration of a safe, affordable home is within reach.

SENS Highlights Progress in Inclusive Education Across TCI

The Department of Special Education Needs Services (SENS) is highlighting progress in inclusive education through programmes aimed at strengthening student support, developing practical skills and preparing learners for greater independence.

The initiatives, featured in the Department's latest quarterly newsletter, include Summer Speech Camps, student internships, teacher development and the launch of SNAP Forward.

The Summer Speech Camps provided targeted opportunities for learners to strengthen their communication and language skills during the summer break. Student internships offered workplace exposure and practical experience, helping participants build confidence as they prepare for life

beyond the classroom.

The Department also highlighted ongoing professional learning for teachers, recognising their role in creating inclusive classrooms and supporting students with a range of learning needs.

A key development is the launch of SNAP Forward, an initiative designed to build on the success of the SNAP Center. It aims to expand opportunities for learners as they transition towards greater independence, further education, employment and meaningful participation in their communities.

The latest edition also introduces the new SNAP Principal and recognises the work of educators and support teams serving learners and their families.

Looking ahead, SENS is preparing for Special Education Needs Month in November. The observance will provide an opportunity to raise awareness, celebrate the abilities and achievements of people with special educational needs, and encourage inclusion across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The Department reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring every learner has access to the support, opportunities and resources needed to reach their full potential.

The Ministry is encouraging parents, educators, families, community partners and the wider public to explore the latest SENS newsletter and learn more about the programmes supporting inclusive education throughout the islands.



The front page of the SENS July to September Newsletter



A notice placed on a wooden structure in Five Cays



A notice placed on a concrete structure in Five Cays

40 Notices Served in Five Cays Crown Land Enforcement Exercise

The Crown Land Unit served 40 notices of unauthorised occupation during a multi-agency enforcement exercise in Five Cays on Thursday, September 17, 2026. The operation, coordinated with support from the Informal Settlements Unit (ISU), targeted several parcels of Crown land where illegal occupation and unau-

thorised use had been identified. Representatives from the Crown Land Unit, ISU and the Turks and Caicos Islands Border Force participated, with security provided by the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force. The Section 22 notices, issued under the Crown Land Ordinance, covered incomplete structures, shipping containers, derelict vehicles, trailer chassis, build-

ing materials and other items occupying Crown land without authorisation. Where no one was present, officers affixed notices to the relevant structures or items. The Crown Land Unit said the exercise formed part of its continuing efforts to prevent squatting and encroachment and address unauthorised occupation of Crown land.

The Government reminded the public that Crown land must not be occupied, developed or otherwise used without lawful authority. Officials said enforcement efforts would continue across the Turks and Caicos Islands. Those served with notices were urged to comply with the requirements outlined and seek guidance from the relevant authorities where necessary.

Two men jailed for life for murder of Evason ‘Archie’ Walkin

Two men have been sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of 28-year-old Evason “Archie” Walkin, nearly two years after he was shot dead in Five Cays, Providenciales. Jevano Arthur, 23, and Archley Forbes, 23, both of Residence Yard, Five Cays, were sentenced by Mr Justice Tunde Bakre at the Supreme Court in Grand Turk on Wednesday, 7 October. Each must serve a minimum of 28 years before becoming eligible for parole consideration. The pair were found guilty on 7 July 2026 following a three-week trial at the Grand Turk Supreme Court. Walkin was killed on 10 October 2024 in the Club Med Yard area of Five Cays. Police received multiple reports of gunfire around 9 p.m. Officers responding to the scene found a man lying motionless with apparent gunshot wounds, who was subsequently identified as Walkin. Arthur and Forbes were arrested during a police-led, multi-agency operation in Five Cays in the early hours of 13



Archley Forbes



Jevano Arthur

February 2025. They appeared before the Magistrate’s Court on 18 February, charged with Walkin’s murder, and were denied bail and remanded in custody. Following the guilty verdicts in July, then Acting Commissioner of Police Rodney Adams said he hoped the outcome would provide some measure of justice for Walkin’s family, while acknowledging that it could not erase their pain. He also commended the investigators,

prosecutors, witnesses and others who contributed to the prosecution. The sentencing comes against a backdrop of sharp declines in recorded crime reported by Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey. In a statement issued on 4 September, Bailey reported three murders during the first eight months of 2026, compared with 27 for the whole of 2025 and 48 in 2024. The full-year murder total

fell by approximately 44 per cent between 2024 and 2025; the 2026 figure covers only January through August. Police also recorded 210 serious offences during the first eight months of 2026, compared with annual totals of 502 in 2025 and 551 in 2024. Based on that trend, the force projected approximately 315 serious offences by the end of 2026, about 43 per cent fewer than in 2024. Bailey credited officers’ dedication, community cooperation, intelligence-led policing, targeted enforcement and partnerships with other agencies for the reductions. He said the force’s wider modernisation efforts were intended to sustain those gains over the long term. In its announcement of Arthur and Forbes’ sentences, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force described the murder investigation as lengthy and complex. It acknowledged the personnel involved and reaffirmed its commitment to pursuing justice for victims of violent crime.

New Police Vessel Damaged in Refuelling Explosion at Turtle Tail Marina

Six days after it was commissioned into service, a Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force marine vessel sustained damage in an explosion during refuelling at Turtle Tail Marina.

The reported incident took place on Wednesday, October 7, six days after its commissioning on October 2, in a ceremony, which was attended by country's cabinet members, including the governor, premier, and the deputy prime minister and minister of national security for Jamaica, Horace Chang.

A police press release identified the vessel as the Sea Protector 2. The release said the incident occurred at approximately 2:29 p.m. while the vessel was being refuelled.

Preliminary information indicated that the explosion occurred near the vessel's stern deck. Police said damage was limited to that section of the boat and that no injuries had been reported.

Marine Branch personnel responded immediately, and an initial assessment was underway when the statement was issued. Officers from the Forensic Support Unit were also dispatched to examine the scene and assist with the investigation.

Police said there was no indication

of any threat to the public. The force described the matter as an active investigation and said further updates would be provided as additional information became available.

The statement did not identify the cause of the explosion or provide an estimate of repair costs. It also did not confirm whether Sea Protector 2 had been taken out of service or indicate when the vessel would be available for duties.

The incident comes shortly after the force announced the commissioning of Sea Guardian II and Sea Protector II. Police described their addition as a major investment in maritime law enforcement and border security.

The vessels are intended to strengthen patrols of territorial waters, combat illegal migration, disrupt transnational organised crime and improve search-and-rescue operations. They are also expected to help the force respond more effectively to incidents at sea.

Speaking at the commissioning ceremony, Commissioner of Police Fitz Bailey said the vessels significantly enhanced operational capability. He emphasised maritime security's importance in safeguarding the Turks and Caicos Islands and reaffirmed the responsible use of police mari-

time assets.

Senior government officials and regional police leaders attended the ceremony. Jamaica's Deputy Prime Minister, Dr. Horace Chang, highlighted regional partnerships and reaffirmed Jamaica's commitment to continued security cooperation.

The force thanked the Turks and Caicos Islands Government and its partners for supporting the acquisition. Its announcement did not provide vessel specifications or purchase prices.

The damage places attention on the assessment being undertaken by Marine Branch personnel and the examination involving forensic officers.

The police account distinguishes between the initial observations at the marina and the investigation that must establish the cause. Its description of damage confined to the stern area is preliminary information, rather than a completed technical assessment of the vessel.

Although the incident occurred during refuelling, the statement does not establish what triggered the explosion. It does not identify an equipment fault, describe a failure in the refuelling process or attribute responsibility to any individual.

The deployment of the Forensic Support Unit forms part of the examination of the scene. Police said those officers would assist the investigation, but did not release findings from their work in the initial statement.

Similarly, the report that nobody was injured does not resolve questions about the vessel's condition. The statement provides no detailed account of the affected components, the repairs that may be necessary or the implications for future patrols.

The force's assurance that there was no indication of a public threat accompanied its confirmation that inquiries were continuing. An assessment of the damage and an investigation into the cause are therefore central to the information still outstanding. Until police release further findings, the vessel's operational status and the circumstances leading to the explosion remain unconfirmed.

For now, the investigation at Turtle Tail Marina will determine what caused the explosion aboard Sea Protector 2. The preliminary account establishes that damage occurred near the stern and that nobody was reported injured, but further findings are needed to establish the circumstances.

Wilkie Arthur charged following investigation into document submitted to DPP

Local blogger and court reporter Wilkie Arthur, and owner of Eagle Legal News, said before he was charged that, that of all his arrests, this was the first time he had been held for something he had not done.

The Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force reported that Arthur, of Millennium Highway, Providenciales, was charged and cautioned on October 8, 2026. He appeared before the Magistrate's Court on October 9, where he was granted bail on his own reconnaissance.

According to police, the Serious Crime Unit investigated allegations that a document submitted to the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions purported

to indicate that a complainant wished to withdraw an ongoing criminal matter.

The underlying case concerns allegations involving letters threatening to kill the complainant in March 2026. Police said that matter remains before the Supreme Court.

The police statement did not identify the defendant in the underlying case or specify who allegedly prepared or submitted the document. It also provided no details of Arthur's plea or bail status. Arthur has reported on court proceedings in the territory, with work published by Magnetic Media and Eagle Legal News.

The blogger is represented by Lara Marroff Missick.



Eagle Legal News Owner Wilkie Arthur

A Modest Proposal III: Financial Instruments for Turks Islanders - Let's Break the Cycle

Article by Paladin

Turks and Caicos Islands stands at a moment of consequence. Billions of dollars in development are reshaping our skyline, our land, and our future. Yet the wealth created here does not stay here. It passes through our shores like a tide—touching us, but never lifting us. We have become spectators to our own prosperity. This is not because our people lack ambition. It is because our system lacks architecture. We have no national mechanism to capture long-term value from the development boom. We have no structure to convert today's construction into tomorrow's security. We have no legal vessel to hold the wealth of the nation.

That is the work. And the work begins **with a Sovereign Wealth Fund.**

What a Sovereign Wealth Fund Is — And Why It Matters

A Sovereign **Wealth Fund (SWF)** is simple: It is a **government-owned investment fund created by law**, designed to save and grow national wealth for future generations. In Turks and Caicos, the legal foundation already exists.

The National Wealth Fund Ordinance (2017) provides the framework for a government-controlled fund that can hold savings, invest them, and protect the country during economic shocks. A Sovereign Wealth Fund is not a political slush fund. It is not a pot for handouts. It is not a subsidy machine. It is a **national savings account**, protected by law, insulated from politics, and managed by professionals.

It is the difference between living year-to-year and building decade-to-decade.

How Turks and Caicos Can Fund Its Sovereign Wealth Fund

We do not have oil like Norway or Trinidad. But we have something powerful: **billion-dollar developments rising across our islands.**

A Sovereign Wealth Fund can be funded by taking a **small, predictable slice** of the value created by these projects.

Potential funding streams include:

- A fixed **percentage of stamp**

duty from large developments

- A **development impact fee** (1–3%) on projects over \$50M
- A share of **Crown land lease revenue**
- A portion of **tourism taxes** (hotel tax, departure tax)
- Fines and penalties collected by the **Financial Services Commission**

This is not radical. It is responsible. It is how small nations build big futures.

If \$3 billion in projects are approved, a 1–2% contribution yields:

- **1% = \$30 million**
- **2% = \$60 million**

Add tourism revenue and Crown land income, and the fund could surpass **\$100 million within five years.**

This is how you turn a development boom into national wealth.

The Citizen Wealth Fund — The People's Share

A Sovereign Wealth Fund protects the country. A **Citizen Wealth Fund** protects the people.

They are not the same.

Sovereign Wealth Fund (Government Wealth)

- Owned by the **government**
- Managed by professionals
- Invested globally
- Purpose: **national stability and long-term savings**

Citizen Wealth Fund (People's Wealth)

- Owned collectively by **citizens**
- Every citizen has a **share**
- Profits can support:

- o Housing
- o Education
- o Retirement
- o Annual dividends

- Government cannot raid it

Think of it this way:

The Sovereign Wealth Fund is the nation's vault. The Citizen Wealth Fund is the people's dividend.

One protects the country. One empowers the citizen.

Together, they create a future where prosperity is not observed—it is shared.

Why Turks and Caicos Needs Both

Right now, our system relies on:

- One-off relief payments
- Utility subsidies
- Temporary cost-of-living sup-

port

These are patches. They are political bandages. They do not build wealth. They do not create stability. They do not empower citizens. A Sovereign Wealth Fund + Citizen Wealth Fund is structural reform. It is architecture. It is permanence.

It is the difference between charity and justice.

Caribbean Models That Prove This Works

We are not inventing something new. We are joining a proven path.

1. Trinidad & Tobago – Heritage and Stabilization Fund

- Funded by oil and gas
- Over **US\$5 billion** in assets
- Used to stabilize the economy during downturns
- Strong legal protection

2. Bermuda – Sovereign Wealth Fund (2023)

- Funded by tourism and financial services
- Built to reduce national debt and protect future generations
- Similar economic profile to TCI

3. Cayman Islands – National Reserve Fund

- Built from development fees and budget surpluses
- Helps maintain strong credit ratings
- Shows how disciplined savings strengthen small economies

These examples prove that small island nations can build powerful national funds without oil.

The Moral Imperative

Governance is not charity. Governance is justice.

When a government substitutes subsidies for wages, it admits failure. When a government refuses to define a living wage, it hides the truth. When a government allows wealth to pass through the country without capturing it, it abandons its people.

A Sovereign Wealth Fund is not a luxury. It is a duty.

A Citizen Wealth Fund is not a gift. It is a right.

Our people do not ask for handouts. They ask for fairness. They ask for wages that match the cost of living. They ask for a share of the prosperity built on their land. This is the essence of good governance: To define the work. To be-

gin the work. To protect the people. To build the future.

The Courage to Govern

Politicians must recognize the work, define it, and begin it—even if they cannot complete it in one term.

Rabbi Tarfon said it best: “We do not have to complete the work, but we absolutely cannot ignore it.”

The courage to govern is the courage to build something that lasts beyond you. The courage to govern is the courage to say no to political convenience. The courage to govern is the courage to create structures that outlive elections. Turks and Caicos deserves a government that comes for this work.

The Future We Choose

We stand at a crossroads.

One path continues the cycle of subsidies, handouts, and temporary relief. The other path builds permanent national wealth and permanent citizen wealth.

One path keeps us spectators. The other makes us owners.

A Sovereign Wealth Fund captures the value of our land. A Citizen Wealth Fund shares that value with our people.

This is not ideology. This is architecture. This is justice. This is courage. This is good governance at its best.

The time for patches is over. The time for structure is now. The time for courage is now.

Turks and Caicos must build both funds—one for the nation, one for the people. We do not have to complete the work. But we cannot ignore it.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

Rock House Resort's Third Quarter Staff Awards

Rock House celebrated staff achievements at its quarterly Staff Awards ceremony, held on the property on October 9, 2026. Judson Joly was named Front-of-House

Employee of the Quarter, while Anne-Rose Delphine received the Back-of-House Employee of the Quarter award. Gizele Antinore earned the Supervisor of the Quarter award, and Derron

Campbell was named Leader of the Quarter. The ceremony also introduced a new category, the Impact Award, with Francesca Lockhart named its inaugural

recipient. The awards recognised team members across the property's front-of-house, back-of-house, supervisory and leadership roles.



Walk for the Cure Draws Hundreds

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

This year’s Walk for the Cure has been hailed as a tremendous success, with organisers reporting strong corporate support, an estimated turnout of at least 500 people and the sale of 1,500 shirts to support cancer awareness and fundraising in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

A throng of individuals flocked to the Graceway Gourmet parking lot on Saturday, October 3, to participate in the event. Leading the walk were Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams, and Minister of Public Safety, Gender and Religious Affairs and Social Welfare, Hon. Shaun Malcolm.

Ladesa Williams, Senior Director of CIBC Caribbean’s Country and Corporate Management Office, said the event demonstrated the community’s commitment to supporting people affected by cancer.

“We actually sold 1,500 shirts, which is tremendous. I’m very pleased and happy with the support from corporate TCI,” Williams said.

“We ran out of shirts. So we ended up having to print some shirts locally.”

Williams said this marked CIBC Caribbean’s 15th staging of Walk for the Cure, a cancer awareness and fundraising initiative conducted across its 10 jurisdictions.

“This is the first year that we have partnered in a significant way with the TCI National

Cancer Society,” she said. “The aim really was to increase the number of walkers, and to also increase the fundraising efforts.”

She said participation doubled, based on the assessment shared by National Cancer Society President Vivian Rigby.

Rigby welcomed the turnout, describing it as the largest in recent years.

“We had, I think this is our largest crowd for the past few years,” she said. “I am hoping we had at least 500 people here.”

Demand for shirts also required the society to place repeated orders.

“We had to repeat orders so many times, so we lost count,” Rigby said. “But we are happy that we had this turnout.”

Williams said the desire to contribute extended beyond those physically attending the walk.

“Whether or not they were able to come physically to the walk, people want to wear the shirts,” she said. “And we could not have asked for anything better.”

She stressed that all donated funds would be handed over to the National Cancer Society, while CIBC would cover the administrative costs.

“Every single dollar that’s donated is handed over to the National Cancer Society,” Williams said. “So every single dollar goes to fighting cancer and raising awareness.”

Williams thanked the platinum, gold and bronze sponsors, along with the organising committee and walk managers.

“They do a full-time job at the bank, but



Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam (left) share a finish line photo moment with Her Excellency Deputy Governor Anya Williams.

they were able to execute this event seamlessly,” she said.

Malcolm described the morning as “a phenomenal, phenomenal turnout” and spoke about his personal connection to the cause.

“I’ve lost an aunt, and one year later I lost a daughter to cancer, so it’s very personal to me,” he said.

“I understand the difficulties that not just the patient, but the families go through dealing with cancer.”

He thanked the society for supporting his family during his daughter’s illness and urged businesses and individuals to continue contributing financially.

“Cancer has no class. Cancer is everybody’s business,” Malcolm said.

Organisers are already looking towards 2027, with plans to increase participation and fundraising.

“The plan next year is to sell 3,000 shirts,

and to double the fundraising amount,” Williams said.

Rigby said additional sponsors had expressed interest, encouraging hopes for further expansion.

“Last year was big, but this year was a lot bigger and we intend to extend this next year,” she said.

The society’s October activities continue with In the Pink at the Palms Hotel on October 10, an All Island Walk on October 17, and the Breast Cancer Awareness Luncheon at Beaches Resort on October 24 at 1 p.m.

A final fundraising total was not announced in the interviews. Organisers nevertheless expressed confidence that this year’s support would help build an even larger event next year.

SEE RELATED PHOTO SPREAD ON PAGES 16-17

◆

Sous Chef

Job Specification:

- Oversee the preparation of food items according to recipes and established standards.
- Maintain high standards of food quality, presentation, and hygiene.
- Monitor food costs and minimize waste.
- Contribute to menu planning and recipe development.
- Supervise and train line cooks, kitchen assistants, and other kitchen staff.
- Assign tasks and monitor performance.
- Provide constructive feedback and coaching.
- Assist in managing food inventory, ensuring sufficient stock levels.
- Place orders for food and supplies as needed, working with the purchasing manager or chef.
- Maintain proper equipment maintenance and report any issues.
- Schedule kitchen staff effectively, ensuring adequate coverage during peak hours.
- May assist in menu costing and pricing.
- May participate in recipe testing and development.
- May represent the kitchen at meetings or events.
- May assist with special events or catering functions.

Job Requirements:

- Associate's or Bachelor's degree in Culinary Arts or related field, or equivalent experience.
- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience as a line cook or in a similar kitchen role, with at least 1-2 years of supervisory experience.
- Strong knowledge of culinary techniques and food preparation methods.
- Ability to manage a team and delegate tasks effectively.
- Excellent organizational and time-management skills.
- Strong attention to detail and commitment to quality.

Salary expectation - \$38,000 - \$48,000 per annum

◆

Maintenance Technician

Job Specification:

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

Job Requirements:

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

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

◆

Bar Manager

Job Specification:

- Overseeing daily bar operations to ensure efficient service and an excellent guest experience.
- Supervising, training, and motivating bar staff to maintain high service standards.
- Developing seasonal cocktails, signature drinks, and beverage promotions to increase sales.
- Managing inventory, ordering supplies, controlling beverage costs, and minimizing waste.
- Monitoring sales, managing cash handling procedures, and ensuring accurate billing.
- Maintaining cleanliness, organization, and compliance with health, safety, and hygiene standards.
- Ensuring responsible alcohol service and compliance with licensing requirements and company policies.
- Handling guest feedback and resolving complaints professionally.
- Coordinating with restaurant management to ensure smooth operations and consistent service quality.

Job Requirements:

- Must be able to speak and write English proficiently.
- Minimum of 3-5 years of experience in bartending, mixology, or beverage operations.
- Previous bar supervisory or management experience is preferred.
- Strong knowledge of cocktails, spirits, wines, and beverage preparation.
- Experience in inventory management, cost control, and sales reporting.
- Ability to work efficiently under pressure and stand for extended periods.
- Flexibility to work evenings, weekends, and public holidays.
- Relevant hospitality or beverage certifications are an asset.

Salary expectations - \$40,000 - \$42,000 per annum

◆

APPLY NOW!

Send your resume to: careers@thestrandtci.com

Interested applicants for this position listed on this ad, should also send a copy of your resume to the Labour Department located Downtown, Airport Road, Providenciales

Salary expectation - \$38,000 - \$48,000 per annum

Grace Bay Resorts Celebrates Big Wins: Two MICHELIN Keys and Condé Nast Traveler Honors

Grace Bay Resorts is celebrating a series of notable international accolades, with Grace Bay Club named to the Condé Nast Traveler 2026 Readers' Choice Awards and both Grace Bay Club and Rock House receiving a 2026 MICHELIN Key from the MICHELIN Guide.

Grace Bay Club ranked #13 in the "Best Resorts in the Atlantic Islands" category in the 2026 Condé Nast Traveler Readers' Choice Awards, further reinforcing the resort's reputation among discerning travelers and its position as one of the Caribbean's leading luxury properties.

The recognition follows Grace Bay Club's second consecutive MICHELIN Key, while Rock House has earned its first MICHELIN Key, highlighting two distinct approaches to luxury hospitality within the Grace Bay Resorts portfolio.

As the first luxury all-suite resort on Grace Bay Beach, Grace Bay Club continues to be recognized for its beachfront setting, spacious oceanfront accommodations, dining experiences, personalized service and strong connection to the Turks & Caicos experience.

For Rock House, the first MICHELIN Key recognizes its intimate, design-led approach to island hospitality. Set along the coastline of Providenciales, the resort combines architecture and Amalfi Coast-inspired design with ocean views, secluded spaces, a private beach and a strong sense of place.

The MICHELIN Key is awarded to hotels that demonstrate excellence across areas including architecture and design, service, personality, value and their connection to their surroundings.

"We're incredibly proud to celebrate



Grace Bay Club's second consecutive MICHELIN Key and Rock House's first." Said Emma Wilks Vice President, Head of Marketing, Communications & Digital, "These recognitions celebrate two very different resorts, each offering guests a distinctive way to experience Turks & Caicos. Most importantly, they are a reflection of the passion, care and dedication of the teams behind Grace Bay Resorts."

Commenting on Grace Bay Club's recognition by Condé Nast Traveler, Chief

Operating Officer and CO- Founder of Grace Bay Resorts Nikheel Advani said, "Being recognized by Condé Nast Traveler is a tremendous honor and a reflection of the experience our guests have come to expect from Grace Bay Club. The Readers' Choice Awards are shaped by travelers so this recognition belongs to our entire team, whose commitment to thoughtful service, genuine hospitality and creating memorable experiences continues to set Grace Bay Club apart." Together, the latest accolades celebrate

the local teams whose commitment to service, creativity and hospitality continues to shape the guest experience across the portfolio and underscores the continued international recognition of Grace Bay Resorts and the growing profile of Turks & Caicos as a destination for exceptional luxury travel. In Condé Nast Traveller UK, Turks and Caicos was named the #6 Best Island in the Caribbean and Atlantic. In Condé Nast Traveler US, Grace Bay Beach was named the #5 Best Beach in the World.

Ministry of Education Rolls Out its National School Inspection Programme

The Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, through its Quality Assurance Unit (QAU), will begin the roll-out of the National School Inspection Programme in October 2026. The Programme is a core part of the Unit's quality assurance function and aims to raise standards and outcomes for every learner in the Turks and Caicos Islands. From the outset, the QAU has been very clear in its function as it relates to the programme, inspection is not something done to schools, but a partnership with schools. Each inspection will give schools an honest, evidence-based picture of where they stand, recognise what is working well, and identify clearly what must improve so that every child benefits from a quality education. The Ministry has equally invested in the readiness of the Unit to effectively carry out this important role, by coordinating

extensive training with a cadre of educators in the Principles and Practices of School Inspection.

Schools are currently intentionally engaged in preparing themselves for their notification of inspection through examining their record management, systems and procedures in the schools. This comes after two years of sensitization and training sessions conducted by the QAU introducing school leaders and staff to the School Inspection Framework: its five-phase inspection process, the eight inspection areas and the five-point judgement scale.

Training sessions focused on documentation, record keeping, school financial management, and the Ministry's Integrated Approach to School Improvement, emphasizing the importance of school self-evaluation and school improvement planning and linking them

with inspection and reporting in one continuous cycle. The QAU also developed brochures to inform all stakeholders of school inspections and what happens in the process.

The Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, the Honourable Rachel Taylor commenting on the roll out emphasized that "The National School Inspection Programme is a firm commitment by the Ministry and this Government to raising standards and accountability in our schools, so that every child has the opportunity to succeed." She also added that "as the Ministry seeks to improve the overall quality of education and the learning environment, we are mindful that our efforts are about the students and student learning; the main clients in this process. Our role is to enhance the quality of education they receive every day."



TAYLOR: "...Our efforts are about the students and student learning..."

International Labour Organization to help Turks and Caicos build \$2.1 million labour market system

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

The Turks and Caicos Islands Government is turning to the International Labour Organization (ILO) to develop a \$2.1 million Labour Market Information System aimed at identifying available skills, improving employment opportunities for Islanders and providing better evidence for decisions on foreign labour.

Deputy Premier Jamell Robinson announced the initiative during an appearance on This Is What's Up 3.0, explaining that Cabinet had agreed to the signing of a memorandum of understanding with the international organisation.

The partnership will also include a skills audit to establish what expertise already exists in the country and where shortages remain. Robinson said he hoped the system would be delivered within approximately 12 months.

The project forms part of a broader overhaul of employment administration accompanying the proposed Immigration Bill 2026. Robinson said the government was restructuring the Employment Services Department, commonly called the Labour Department, and strengthening its ability to enforce business staffing plans.

Those plans are intended to help Turks and Caicos Islanders progress from entry-level positions into supervisory, middle-management and senior-management roles.

"We have to make sure that we are the leaders of our own destiny," Robinson said, arguing that economic and population growth must translate into



ROBINSON: "We have to make sure that we are the leaders of our own destiny,"

greater opportunities for Islanders. A central feature of the proposed information system will be wider registration of workers, including people already employed. Robinson said the existing registration arrangements had largely attracted people seeking immediate employment, leaving the department without a comprehensive picture of the workforce.

Under the planned approach, he said, registration would be mandatory for people already in the country and those entering its labour market. That would allow the department to identify qualified candidates who might otherwise miss opportunities because they are employed elsewhere and do not appear on its register.

Robinson illustrated the problem with a hotel manager responsible for hundreds of employees at a large property who could possess the experience needed to lead a smaller hotel. Without information connecting that work-

er to a vacancy, an employer could seek a foreign recruit while a suitable Islander remained unaware of the opening.

The system, he said, would give officials a better understanding of workers' qualifications, transferable experience and potential for advancement. The accompanying skills audit will also examine whether the foreign workforce matches the country's actual economic needs.

Robinson said Turks and Caicos had more than 24,000 active work permit holders, while emphasising that the figure fluctuates as permits expire, applications are processed and workers leave.

He questioned whether all those workers were recorded under categories accurately reflecting the jobs they perform. Some people listed as labourers, he suggested, could possess or be using specialist construction skills.

The audit would help establish how

many workers are needed in particular occupations and whether individuals should be placed in different permit categories.

Information could be collected through work permit applications and renewals, Robinson said, making those processes an important source of workforce data.

He also outlined plans to reintroduce National Insurance Board and National Health Insurance Board clearance letters. Contribution records, he explained, would help officials assess declared earnings and whether employment arrangements support applications.

Beyond workers currently living in the islands, the interview explored how the system could eventually connect employers with skilled Turks and Caicos Islanders overseas.

Robinson said the initial priority would be registering people already in the country, but an online portal could also allow Islanders abroad to submit their qualifications and express interest in returning for suitable jobs.

He suggested that matching returning Islanders with vacancies could help reduce dependence on imported labour while bringing local talent into the economy.

For Robinson, the intended outcome is a department equipped to make better-informed decisions about recruitment, promotion and work permits.

He said his priorities were securing opportunities for the Turks and Caicos Islander worker and ensuring local employers had access to the skills their businesses genuinely needed.

Victoria Public Library Historical and Cultural Division Opens to the Public

The Department of Library Services is pleased to announce the full opening of the Victoria Public Library Historical and Cultural Division located on Front Street, Grand Turk.

The Historical and Cultural Division serves as a dedicated research hub for the community and visitors by providing access to a growing collection of materials that document and highlight the history, heritage, culture and literature of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Visitors and members of the commu-

nity are welcome to use the collection for research and educational purposes. Materials within the Historical and Cultural Division are available for in-library use only and are not available for loan.

This measure helps to ensure their preservation and continued availability for future generations.

The Department of Library Services welcomes residents, researchers, students, educators and visitors to explore and engage with this valuable collection.



Victoria Public Library Historical and Cultural Division

THE PEOPLE’S PURSE: WHY TURKS & CAICOS NEEDS RADICAL TRANSPARENCY NOW

An Op-Ed Paladin

There are moments in the life of a nation when a single headline reveals more than the story beneath it. It exposes a pattern, a habit, a way of governing that has gone on too long without correction. The headline that did this for the Turks and Caicos Islands appeared last week:

“Cabinet approved projects worth \$1.18 billion advancing across TCI – Gov’t.”

A billion dollar pipeline. Five major developments. Sixteen projects under construction. Cruise port expansions. Hotel developments. Retail complexes. A national investment strategy. A promise of transformation.

And yet — **not one of these projects has a publicly accessible timeline, budget breakdown, procurement record, or progress report.** Not one has been presented to the People in a Town Hall. Not one has been explained in detail. Not one has been justified with transparent accounting.

The Government is asking the People to trust a billion dollar promise without providing a billion dollar explanation. This is not good governance. This is not transparency. This is not accountability. This is a pattern — and it must end.

The Billion Dollar Announcement Without a Billion Dollar Explanation

The Throne Speech delivered by Her Excellency Governor Dileeni Daniel Selvaratnam listed five major developments:

- Royal Reef
 - Dellis Cay
 - Janu
 - Corinthia
 - Grace Retail & Residences
- It also referenced:
- \$1.28 billion in development agreements last year
 - \$2.57 billion in projects under construction
 - \$89.3 million Salterra expansion
 - \$177.3 million cruise development for Grand Turk

These numbers are staggering. They represent the largest investment pipeline in the history of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

But numbers without transparency are not progress. They are not accountability. They are not governance. They are **announcements** — and announcements alone do not build nations.

The Transparency Gap: What the People Still Cannot See

Despite the size of this pipeline, the Government has not provided:

- Project start dates
- Expected completion dates
- Procurement documents
- Contractor names
- Environmental impact assessments

- Community consultations
- Budget allocations
- Actual spending to date
- Cost overruns
- Cabinet minutes
- Change orders
- Progress reports
- Public dashboards
- Roadway expansion plans
- Infrastructure master plans

The People’s purse is being used without the People’s visibility. This is not a minor oversight. This is a structural failure.

When billions are being committed, transparency is not optional — it is mandatory.

Even Government Supporters Are Now Asking Hard Questions

One of the most striking developments is that even those who traditionally support the Government are now raising concerns.

Drexwell Seymour — accountant, commentator, and often a defender of the administration — published a detailed analysis of the 2026/2027 Budget. His words should give every citizen pause:

“The Budget itself is acceptable; the real measure will be visible outcomes.”

Visible outcomes. Not promises. Not headlines. Not speeches. Outcomes. He continued:

“My overall view is that this is a credible but fragile budget... heavily dependent on a narrow revenue base.”

A fragile budget cannot support a billion dollar pipeline without transparency.

And most damning:

“The clearest weakness is the tiny operating surplus... On a budget of this size, that is effectively no fiscal buffer at all.”

No fiscal buffer — yet billions committed. No transparency — yet billions allocated. No Town Halls — yet billions announced.

When even supporters begin to question the numbers, the Government should listen.

The \$13 Million Building: A Case Study in Silence

The Government purchased a building for **\$13 million** — with no public justification.

No valuation report. No cost benefit analysis. No explanation of purpose. No renovation plan. No timeline for use. No public consultation.

This is not how public money should be spent. This is not how trust is built. This is not how nations grow.

The People deserve answers — not silence.

Healthcare Financing: A System Under Strain

The issues with healthcare financing and the hospital contract are well known:

- Unclear payment structures
- Contract disputes
- Rising costs

- Lack of transparency
 - No public accounting of hospital expenditures
 - No published performance metrics
- Healthcare is not a luxury. It is not a political tool. It is not a line item to be hidden.

It is the foundation of national well being — and it must be transparent.

The Infrastructure Question: Where Are the Roadway Plans?

The Throne Speech acknowledged that rapid development is placing pressure on:

- Roads
- Utilities
- Housing
- Beaches
- Public infrastructure

Yet it did not provide:

- A roadway master plan
- New bypass routes
- Traffic alleviation strategies
- Utility corridor upgrades
- Public transportation plans

How can a Government announce billions in development without explaining how people will move, live, and work within that development?

Infrastructure is not an afterthought. It is the backbone of progress.

Good Governance Requires Radical Transparency

Good governance is not measured by the size of subsidies or the scale of announcements. It is measured by:

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Public participation
- Fiscal responsibility
- Measurable outcomes
- Clear timelines
- Honest reporting

The Government must adopt a modern, transparent, public facing system.

The Turks & Caicos Online Project Transparency Portal (TCOPT)

A national website containing:

- 1. Project Dashboard**
- 2. Development Fund Ledger**
- 3. Procurement & Contracts Database**
- 4. Environmental Approvals Archive**
- 5. Public Consultation Calendar**
- 6. Quarterly Progress Reports**
- 7. Infrastructure Master Plan**

This is not radical. This is standard practice in modern governance.

Barbados does it. Cayman does it. Bermuda does it. New Zealand does it.

Turks and Caicos must do it.

The People’s Purse: The Moral Argument

Every dollar spent by the Government belongs to the People. Every project announced by the Government is funded by the People. Every loan taken by the Government is repaid by the People. Every mistake made by the Government is borne by the People.

The People’s purse is not a political tool. It is not a private account. It is not a Cabinet resource.

It is a sacred trust.

And trust requires transparency.

Courage: The Missing Ingredient

The Government speaks often of transformation, progress, and development. But transformation requires courage. Progress requires honesty. Development requires accountability.

Courage is not announcing billion dollar projects. Courage is showing the People exactly how those billions will be spent. Courage is not pausing development in Providenciales. Courage is explaining why it was necessary.

Courage is not promising value for Islanders. Courage is proving it.

Courage is not declaring that “growth must leave value at home.” Courage is demonstrating how.

Courage is transparency. Courage is accountability. Courage is governance.

THE TREE WE MUST PLANT TODAY

The Turks and Caicos Islands are not beyond repair. We are not too far gone. We are not condemned to repeat the mistakes of secrecy, silence, and unaccountable spending. Nations do not fail because they make errors; nations fail because they refuse to correct them.

There is an old proverb: **“The best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago. The second best time is today.”**

Twenty years ago, we should have planted the tree of transparency. Twenty years ago, we should have built the habit of public accounting. Twenty years ago, we should have insisted on project dashboards, procurement clarity, and fiscal honesty.

But we did not.

And yet — **today remains the second best time.** Today is still available. Today is still possible. Today is still ours.

If the Government chooses transparency now, the future can still be secured. If the People demand accountability now, the purse can still be protected. If we plant the tree today, our children will sit under its shade tomorrow.

It is not too late — but it soon will be.

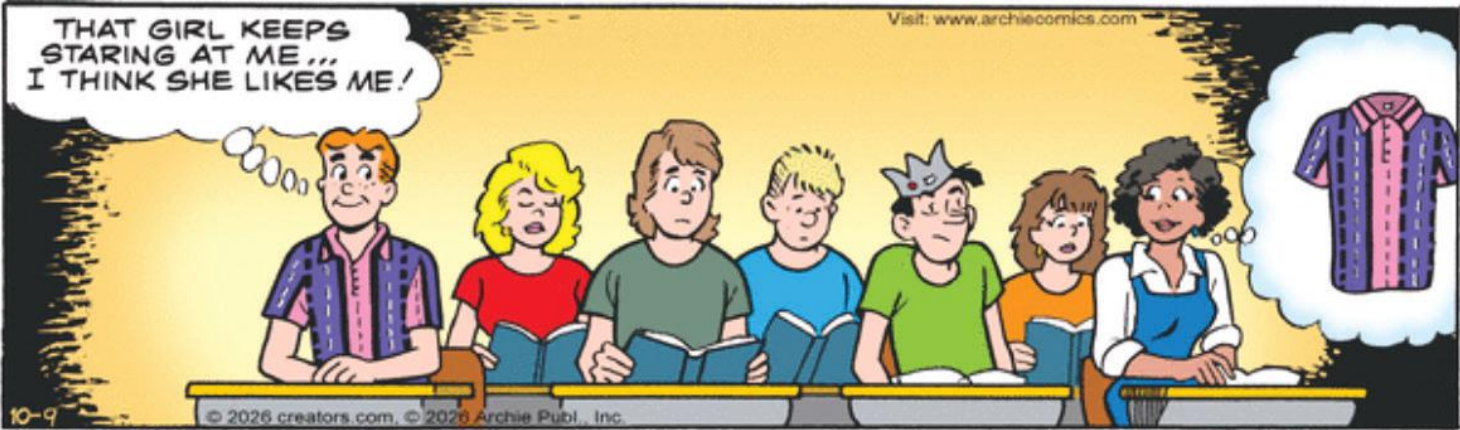
The billion dollar pipeline demands billion dollar courage. The People’s purse demands the People’s oversight. The future demands action, not announcements.

We cannot undo the years of opacity, but we can end them. We cannot reclaim the money already spent, but we can account for it. We cannot rewrite the past, but we can govern the future. The choice is simple: Transparency or decline. Courage or comfort. Accountability or erosion. Nation building or nation drifting.

The Turks and Caicos Islands deserve the first path. The People deserve the first path. History will honor the first path.

The best time to plant the tree was long ago. **The second best time is today.** Let us plant it — openly, bravely, and together.

This is good governance at its best.



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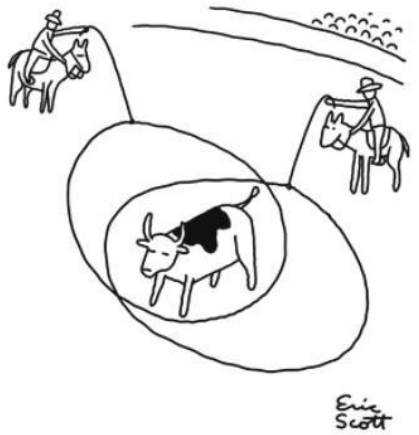
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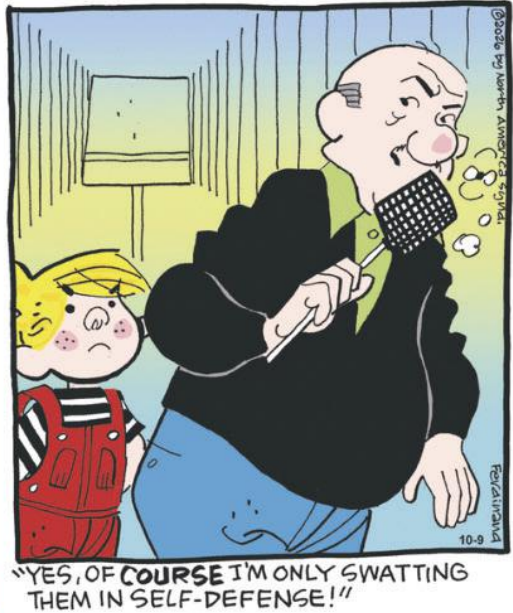
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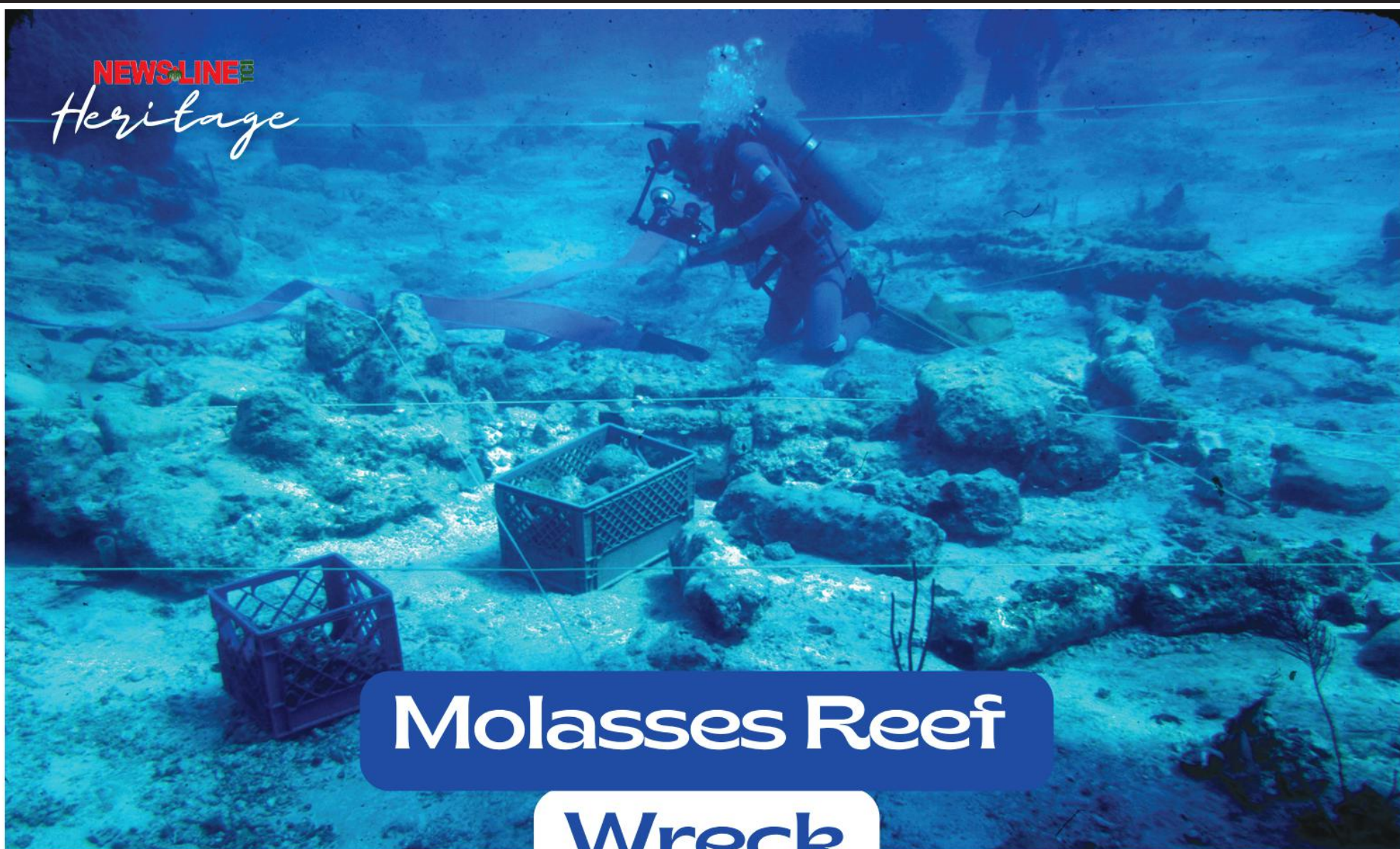
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Venn Rodeo.





Molasses Reef

Wreck

The Molasses Reef Wreck is one of the Turks and Caicos Islands' greatest archaeological treasures. Lying beneath the waters south of the Caicos islands, it is believed to be the oldest European shipwreck ever scientifically excavated in the Americas, dating to the early sixteenth century.

Discovered in 1976 and excavated by the Institute of Nautical Archaeology during the early 1980s, the wreck provided historians with a remarkable glimpse into the Age of Discovery. Although the ship's name has never been identified, archaeological evidence suggests it was probably a Portuguese vessel built in Lisbon around 1505.

Unlike many Caribbean wrecks that have been heavily disturbed by storms or treasure hunters, the Molasses Reef site has remained unusually well preserved. Archaeologists have been able to carefully map the hull timbers, ballast stones, anchors, bronze cannons and hundreds of smaller artifacts exactly where they rested on the seabed. This painstaking work allowed researchers to reconstruct the ship's size, cargo and even the circumstances of its loss.

One of the most fascinating discoveries came from the ship's ballast—the stones carried to stabilize the vessel. Geological analysis showed that these rocks likely originated from Portugal, Spain and Atlantic islands, providing clues about the ship's previous voyages before it met its fate on the reefs of the Turks and Caicos islands.

Today, the Molasses Reef Wreck is recognized as a landmark in underwater archaeology. Rather than searching for treasure, researchers focused on preserving the site's historical value, setting new standards for the scientific study of shipwrecks around the world.

Although its crew, destination and official name remain unknown, the wreck tells an extraordinary story of courage, exploration and the hazards faced by the first European sailors crossing the Atlantic. More than five centuries later, the Molasses Reef Wreck continues to reveal new insights into one of history's most important periods of maritime exploration.

Keith, D.H., Duff, J.A., James, S.R., Oertling, T.J. & Simmons, J.J. (1984) *The Molasses Reef Wreck, Turks and Caicos Islands, B.W.I.: A Preliminary Report. International Journal of Nautical Archaeology*, 13(1), pp.45–63.
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 Lamb, W.R., Keith, D.H. & Judy, S.A. (1990) *Analysis of the Ballast of the Molasses Reef Wreck. National Geographic Research*, 6(3), pp.291–305.
 Keith, D.H. (1989) *The Molasses Reef Wreck Project. INA Newsletter*, 16(3).
 Institute of Nautical Archaeology (1989) *The Molasses Reef Wreck Project. Available in INA Newsletter, Vol. 16, No. 3.*



Graceway Shoppers Turn Small Change into \$6,727.43 for National Cancer Society

Through their generous contributions, Graceway Supermarkets customers raised \$6,727.43 for the National Cancer Society of TCI through the Charity of the Month initiative. Graceway Communities proudly presented the check on their behalf at the Breast Cancer Walkathon on Saturday, October 3, at Graceway Gourmet. The initiative gives customers the opportunity to support a local

charity by donating their spare change at checkout. The National Cancer Society of TCI was the selected charity for July to September 2026, with contributions collected across all Graceway stores. Each donation helped turn everyday acts of kindness into meaningful community support. Graceway Communities staff volunteers also managed a hydration station, providing water and fresh

fruit, including watermelon, oranges, apples and bananas, to walkers and runners. Graceway Supermarkets covered registration fees for participating staff, who joined the walk in support of breast cancer awareness. “Every small contribution reflects the kindness of our customers. We are grateful to everyone who donated, and to our Graceway Communities team who gave their time

to volunteer and participate in the walk. Together, they made this support for the National Cancer Society possible,” said Edith Cox, Group Director, Finance & HR” Graceway Communities extends its sincere thanks to the National Cancer Society of TCI for organizing the walkathon, to customers for their generosity, and to staff volunteers and participants for their time and support.

Life Line

FEATURED CHURCH

Christ Is The Answer Ministries

This week on NEWSLINE’s Life-Line Featured Church, we turn the spotlight on Christ is the Answer Ministries. Christ is the Answer Ministries, located at George Alley off Aviation Drive (the Street Opposite Mackey’s Tires), Providenciales, is pastored by Bishop Dr. Sherlock Padmore.

The church has provided weekly opportunities for worship. On Sunday at 7p.m. Sunday Service. Bible Study is held on Tuesdays at 7pm. For further information on how to attend church services, contact 241-8030.



Life line Church Directory

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

Firm Foundation Ministries International Lee Street, South Caicos. Telephone: 649-348-3581 Christ is the Answer Ministry, George Alley Off Aviation Drive, Providenciales Tel: 241-8030 One Nation Empowerment Center Church Ministry, Suite #12 Alliance Business Center, Princess Drive, Grace Bay, Providenciales. Tel: (649) 244-6194. Email: apostleyoung1952@yahoo.com. Touch of Love Ministries International Center Industrial Park, Five Cays, Providenciales Tel: 941-4903 Fax: 941-7731 Abundant Life Ministries International P.O. Box 696 Christian City, Leeward Highway, Providenciales Tel:941-941-4750 Fax: 941-4755 Anglican Church Rectory Grant Turk, Front Street, Grand Turk. Tel:946-2289 Bethany Baptist Church, Blue Hills, Providenciales Tel:941-4803 / 941-5632 / 941-5118 Church of God of Prophecy, Lower Bight, Providenciales Tel: 941-8854 Bible Study Ministries, Grand Turk Tel:946-1866 Calvary Baptist Church, South Caicos. Tel:946-3212 Harvest Bible Chapel TCI, Leeward Highway, Long Bay, Providenciales. Tel: 1649 333-2009 Email: hbctciinfo@gmail.com. https://www.harvesttci.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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WALK FOR THE CURE HIGHLIGHTS

The Graceway Gourmet Supermarket Parking Lot was transformed into a sea of pink on Saturday, October 3, as residents gathered to participate in the event National Cancer Society’s Walk for the Cure, which was primarily sponsored by CIBC Caribbean. An estimated 500-plus persons, including Governor Her Excellency Dileeni Daniel-Selvaratnam, Deputy Governor Her Excellency Anya Williams, Minister of Public Safety and Gender Affairs Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Minister of Education, Youth and Spor Hon. Rachel Taylor and Minister of Physical Planning and Infrastructure Development Hon. Arlington Musgrove. The following are photo highlights of the event.







Youth HELP Foundation, Hamilton Education Community Foundation Support Science Education at H.J. Robinson

The Youth HELP Foundation, in collaboration with the Hamilton Education Community Foundation (HECF), has donated laboratory equipment and supplies to Helena J. Robinson High School to strengthen practical science teaching and learning.

The donation holds special significance for foundation co-founder Dr. Rufus Ewing, who attended the school and subsequently served as its laboratory technician after completing high school.

Dr. Ewing and his wife, Dr. Dawn Perry-Ewing, co-founders of both foundations, presented the equipment to Principal Mr. Williams, science teacher Mr. Caesar, and students. The presentation was supported by the Minister of Education, Hon. Rachel Taylor, the Permanent Secretary of Education, and the Deputy Permanent Secretary.

The donation included:

- * One 85-inch electronic smart board;
- * Five compound microscopes and one demonstration microscope; and
- * Twenty anatomical dissection sets and trays.

These resources will support interactive instruction and practical laboratory activities, giving students more opportunities to explore science through observation, experimentation, and hands-on learning.

The Youth HELP Foundation, a United States-based nonprofit organisation, and HECF, a registered charitable foundation in the Turks and Caicos Islands,



share a mandate to empower young people through literacy and science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) programmes.

Speaking at the presentation, Dr. Ewing affirmed the foundations' intention to strengthen STEM programmes and support science laboratory development at Helena J. Robinson High School and across all high schools in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The donation reflects that commitment and the founders' belief in expanding educational opportunities for young people. For Dr. Ewing, it also represents a meaningful opportunity to give back to the school where his own journey in science began.



Healthcare in TCI: A Blessing We Can No Longer Take for Granted

Op-Ed by Ed Forbes

For the better part of almost two decades, the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands have enjoyed something that many residents of other countries can only dream about: relatively affordable access to a healthcare system that can provide everything from routine medical care to major surgery and, when necessary, treatment overseas.

But there is a question we can no longer avoid: Can we afford to continue providing healthcare the way we have been providing it?

I have lived abroad and experienced firsthand what healthcare can cost. Believe me, the Turks and Caicos Islands have a lot to be thankful for.

For NHIP beneficiaries, a \$10 copayment can provide access to a doctor, while many hospital services and surgical procedures carry little or no patient copayment. An emergency-room visit can be just \$10 when covered under NHIP, while out-of-hours urgent care for a non-emergency carries a \$50 copayment. Think about that for a moment.

We have people complaining about a \$10 medical visit while, in other countries, simply walking through the doors of an emergency department can result in a bill of hundreds or even thousands of dollars.

And when something cannot be treated here, NHIP can send patients abroad.

That can mean treatment in the Caribbean, the United States or increasingly Colombia. NHIP also covers medically necessary air ambulance transportation for approved cases.

A private air ambulance can cost tens of thousands of dollars.

So yes, we have it good. But good does not necessarily mean sustainable.

The InterHealth Canada public-private partnership has provided the TCI with modern hospital facilities, equipment and secondary-care services since the hospitals opened in 2010. Yet today, that relationship is under serious strain. Government says InterHealth's clinical costs have been paid and that disputed amounts relate to contractual performance issues. InterHealth has disputed the Government's position. Whatever the legal and contractual outcome, the public deserves more than statements after the fact.

And I think it's important to highlight one thing: Although the Honourable Knowles currently sits in the driver's seat on this matter, this issue did not begin with him. It preceded his tenure and has been in the making for quite some time. Whatever decisions are made now will ultimately have to address problems that have been developing for years.

So where is the contingency plan?

How long has Government been preparing for the possibility that In-

terHealth would no longer operate the hospitals?

Why wasn't the public given greater transparency when negotiations began to deteriorate?

What will the new arrangement cost? And perhaps the biggest question of all: Are we getting value for the money we are spending?

Government has historically budgeted more than \$30 million annually for InterHealth clinical services. That is only one component of the healthcare bill. Treatment abroad, medications, primary care, staffing, utilities and other healthcare costs add considerably more.

At some point, we have to stop pretending that healthcare is free. It isn't. Someone pays.

And if the number of people using the system continues to grow faster than the number contributing to it, the mathematics eventually become impossible to ignore.

That doesn't mean abandoning universal access. It means having an honest conversation about what we can afford.

Perhaps some copayments need to increase. Perhaps there should be greater cost-sharing for certain services. Perhaps we need to invest more aggressively in preventative medicine and local specialists so that fewer patients need to be sent abroad.

The expansion of polyclinics could be a major part of that solution to

include eye care services. If people can receive appropriate treatment closer to home, emergency departments can concentrate on genuine emergencies rather than becoming the default entry point into the healthcare system.

But there is another uncomfortable reality.

As our population ages, healthcare demand will increase. An aging population requires more chronic-care management, more diagnostics, more medication and more specialist services.

We cannot simply keep adding costs and assume tomorrow's taxpayers will somehow figure it out.

The InterHealth situation should therefore be viewed as more than a contract dispute.

It is an opportunity to ask whether the entire model needs to evolve.

I don't want to see the people of the Turks and Caicos lose the healthcare benefits they have come to depend on.

But I also don't want us to wake up one morning and discover that the system we assumed would always be there is financially broken.

Healthcare in the TCI has been both a blessing and, potentially, a dilemma. The blessing is what we have built over the years. The dilemma is whether we can afford to maintain it. The time to have that conversation is before the crisis and not after it.

TCI Observe National Heritage Month 2026 Under the Theme "Rooted in Culture, United by Progress"

The Department of Culture within the Ministry of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture wishes to inform the public that the Turks and Caicos Islands is observing National Heritage Month during the month of October under the theme "Rooted in Culture, United by Progress".

Over the course of the observance, communities across the Islands will come together to celebrate the traditions, stories, people and places that have shaped our national identity, from our oral histories and dialect, traditional music and dance, to boatbuilding and maritime traditions, bush medicine, straw work,

ring games, cuisine and the distinctive heritage of each island.

Speaking on the significance of this year's observance, the Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Culture, Hon. Rachel M. Taylor stated:

"This year's theme reflects an important truth: progress and cultural preservation are not opposing ambitions. As the Turks and Caicos Islands continue to grow and embrace new opportunities, we must remain firmly connected to the roots from which we have grown. Our culture is not simply a reflection of our past; it is a living inheritance that gives us our sense of belonging and must be

intentionally preserved and passed on to the next generation."

The month will feature a diverse programme of educational, cultural, community and commemorative activities across all islands, with particular emphasis on engaging young people through schools and community initiatives. Director of Culture, Odessa Forbes, noted: "Traditions can be lost when they are no longer practised, and stories can disappear when they are no longer told. National Heritage Month is therefore a national call to cultural stewardship. We encourage elders to share their knowledge, young

people to ask questions and learn traditional skills, and every family to see themselves as custodians of our heritage."

The Department invites residents and visitors alike to participate in Heritage Month activities, support local cultural practitioners, visit historic sites, prepare traditional foods, record the stories of elders and engage children in cultural activities throughout the month. The full calendar of events is attached. The Department extends an invitation to the entire Turks and Caicos community to remember, to participate, to preserve and to pass it on.

Robotics and Reading Bring Learning to Life at Ianthe Pratt Primary School

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Robotics, a drone demonstration and reading activities centred on car trunks brought learning to life at Ianthe Pratt Primary School in the Bight on Monday, October 5, and Tuesday, October 6, as students celebrated the Week of the Young Child.

The activities reflected this year's theme, "Building a Love for STEM through Everyday Exploration," while also highlighting the role of literacy in early childhood development.

Principal Neekimo King said the annual initiative, held across public primary schools under the guidance of Early Childhood Education Officer Heidi Williams, provides an opportunity to celebrate young learners and offer meaningful, hands-on experiences.

King said the school's early childhood teachers and students embraced the theme through engaging activities in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.

Monday's programme featured a robotics competition, giving children an opportunity to explore how familiar materials, including Lego toys, could be used to build robots.

The school also welcomed representatives from DECR, who explained how STEM supports their work and introduced students to drones and their uses. A flight demonstration allowed the children to see the technology in action.

Math Specialist Renae Reed said teachers also demonstrated how learning through play works at different class levels.



"We decided to give the kids an adventure," Reed said. Tuesday's activities shifted

the focus to literacy with a "Reading a Trunk" day. Each class's theme was presented

through a car trunk, creating spaces where older students could read to younger children.

King said the school continues to seek innovative ways to make reading enjoyable, particularly amid concerns about literacy and numeracy performance across the islands.

The principal added that the appeal of shared reading extends beyond the youngest pupils, with upper-school students also enjoying the experience.

Reed said the decision to include reading alongside STEM reflected the connection between literacy and numeracy.

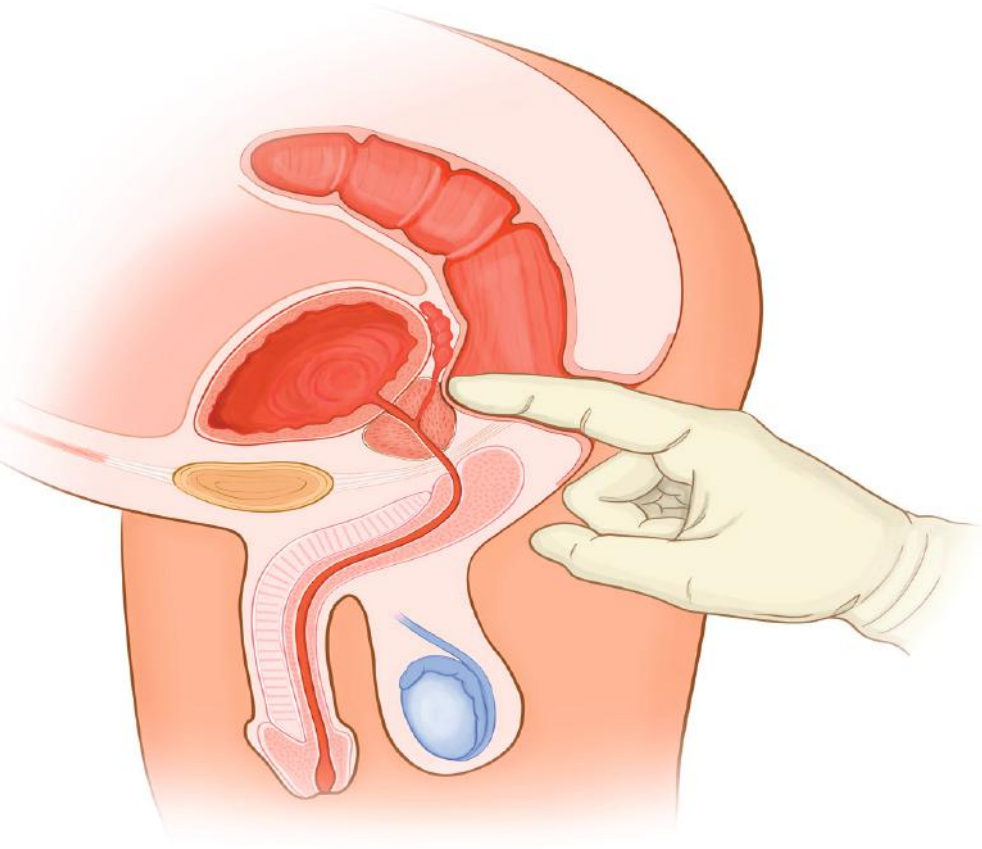
"We decided to explore literacy as well, because it is very important and they don't work in isolation," she said.

The programme also sought to broaden children's ideas about future careers, with particular attention to encouraging girls to see themselves in STEM fields.

Reed said female presenters were deliberately selected for Monday's activities to provide examples of women working in areas that young girls might not otherwise consider.

She explained that introducing children to possibilities such as marine biology and civil engineering can help them look beyond traditional expectations and begin imagining a wider range of futures. Through robotics, practical demonstrations, play and shared reading, Ianthe Pratt Primary School used the two days to connect classroom learning with everyday discovery and future opportunities.





For a man who has been putting off a prostate check because he fears “the finger”, there is something worth knowing: prostate cancer screening can begin with a blood test. You do not have to agree to a rectal examination before having a prostate-specific antigen, or PSA, test. But, does that make the blood test better? And does it mean the rectal examination is no longer useful? The answer could help more Jamaican men take that first step towards protecting their health.

Why this matters in Caribbean

Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer among Jamaican men and their leading cause of cancer death. The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) estimates

that Jamaica had 1,394 new prostate cancer cases and 809 deaths from the disease in 2024. Prostate cancer accounted for approximately 38.5 per cent of new cancers among men. These are population estimates, rather than a count from every local clinic. Behind those numbers are fathers, brothers, partners and friends. For Caribbean men of African ancestry, the conversation deserves particular attention because black men are at increased risk. A father or brother with prostate cancer adds another reason to discuss screening early.

Is PSA testing better for screening?

As an initial screening test, PSA is generally more useful than a rectal examination alone. The American Cancer Society states that the rectal

Blood test or rectal exam?

examination is less effective than PSA testing at finding prostate cancer, although it can sometimes identify abnormalities when PSA is normal. PSA is a protein made by the prostate. The blood test measures how much is circulating in your bloodstream. It can flag a potential problem before symptoms appear. However, a raised result does not automatically mean cancer, and a low result cannot completely rule it out. Think of PSA as information that helps guide the next decision. It is not a diagnosis.

Does the finger examination still have a role?

During a digital rectal examination, or DRE, a doctor gently inserts a gloved, lubricated finger into the rectum to feel the prostate for suspicious hardness, lumps or irregularities. It provides information that a blood test cannot provide, but it cannot feel every part of the gland or detect every cancer. A normal examination does not give an all clear. Your doctor may recommend it alongside PSA or during further assessment, particularly if there are symptoms or concerning findings. The examination should be explained and performed with your consent. (American Cancer Society)

The practical message is simple: fear of the examination should not stop you from discussing screening or having an appropriate PSA test.

When should Jamaican men start the conversation?

For black Caribbean men, ages 40–45 are a reasonable time to begin discussing personal risk and whether to have a baseline PSA test. Some guidelines recommend starting screening discussions earlier for men with strong family histo-

ries or inherited cancer-risk mutations.(National Cancer Institute)

For average-risk men, the American Cancer Society recommends discussing screening at 50, provided they are expected to live at least another 10 years. Testing frequency should depend on your PSA result, risk and overall health. Every man does not automatically need an annual test. In older men or those with serious health conditions, the possible benefit may be smaller.

A high PSA needs follow-up, not panic

An enlarged prostate, inflammation or infection can raise PSA. Recent ejaculation can temporarily affect the result, while medicines such as finasteride can lower it. Depending on the circumstances, your doctor may repeat the test, arrange a urology review, request an MRI or recommend a biopsy. Screening also has potential downsides: false alarms, unnecessary investigations, and detection of slow-growing cancers that might never cause harm. Unnecessary treatment can affect urinary control and sexual function. That is why testing should involve an informed discussion and a follow-up plan. If you have blood in your urine, persistent urinary changes or unexplained pain, seek medical assessment. Investigating symptoms is different from routine screening.

Take the first step

Your prostate health deserves more than a conversation about “the finger”. Start with your risk, discuss your options and make sure your results are followed up.

Dr Ché Bowen is a medical doctor, digital health entrepreneur, and CEO of MDLink (Diagnostic Laboratory | Digital Health).

Learn the reasons why sudden back pain can occur

One minute you’re reaching for an item on a shelf, picking up a child or simply getting out of bed. The next, a sudden stab of pain in your lower back leaves you wondering what just happened. Many people call it “throwing out” their back. The phrase generally describes low back pain that starts suddenly, says Min Yoo, M.D., a physical medicine and rehabilitation specialist at Mayo Clinic in Arizona who has subspecialty training in pain medicine. The good news is that although the pain can be severe, most episodes of low back pain improve with time, gentle activity and simple at-home treatment.

Causes

One of the most common causes is a muscle strain, which occurs when muscles are stretched or torn, Dr. Yoo says. Ligaments, the tough bands of tissue that stabilize the spine, also can be injured. Other possible causes of low back pain include an irritated or herniated spinal disk, arthritis in the small joints of the spine, or irritation of the sacroiliac joint, where the spine meets the pelvis. In rarer cases, a fracture of one or more vertebrae may cause sudden back pain. Because these conditions can cause similar symptoms, determining the exact cause of low back pain usually requires a medical history and physical examination. Imaging tests may be needed in some cases but aren’t necessary for everyone. Not everyone’s back pain feels the same. Some people experience a sharp, stabbing pain. Others describe a dull ache, muscle tightness or pain that worsens with certain movements. The movements that make your pain worse sometimes can provide clues about the cause. “If the pain is worse with bending your back for-

ward, that could indicate there might be a disk issue, such as a disk herniation,” Dr. Yoo says. Pain that becomes worse when arching backward, on the other hand, may suggest irritation involving the facet joints, which are small joints between each bone in the spine.

Treatment

If your first instinct when low back pain strikes is to crawl into bed and stay there, think again. “Relative rest is recommended. However, it doesn’t mean bed rest, because bed rest doesn’t always make things better,” Dr. Yoo says. Instead, he recommends temporarily avoiding activities that make your pain worse but continuing to move gently as much as is comfortable. For example, if your symptoms began while playing a sport, take a break from that activity until your back begins to recover. For most people, applying ice may help during the first few days because it helps reduce inflammation. After that, heat may feel more soothing. Dr. Yoo notes that people with certain medical conditions, such as multiple sclerosis, may need to avoid heat therapy. Nonprescription pain relievers, such as acetaminophen, ibuprofen or naproxen sodium may help. The best choice depends on your health history and other medications you take. You may be able to take these medications together or alternate them, but check with your healthcare team first, Dr. Yoo advises. People with kidney disease, stomach ulcers, significant cardiovascular disease or liver disease should talk with their healthcare professional before taking these medications.

When sudden back pain is an emergency

Certain symptoms require immediate medical evaluation, Dr. Yoo says. Seek immediate medical care if you have sudden back pain with:

Loss of bladder or bowel control. If you physically cannot control your bowel or bladder, it could indicate that there’s severe compression or pressure on the nerves in your spine, which could lead to lasting damage, Dr. Yoo says. Severe weakness in both legs or numbness in the saddle area. This is the area of the buttocks and inner thighs that would contact a saddle while riding a horse. These symptoms may indicate severe compression of the spinal cord.

Back pain risk factors

Although sudden back pain can affect almost anyone, some people are more susceptible than others. One of the biggest risk factors, according to Dr. Yoo, is weakness in the muscles that sup-

port the spine. People who regularly lift heavy objects or do physically demanding work also may be at higher risk, especially if they don’t use proper lifting techniques. Older adults face some additional concerns. Postmenopausal women with osteoporosis have a higher risk of compression fractures in the spine. For that reason, Dr. Yoo recommends seeking prompt medical evaluation if sudden, severe back pain develops. While not every episode of back pain can be prevented, maintaining a strong, flexible core and using proper body mechanics can go a long way toward reducing the risk of future injuries.



Four KIDZ BOP Performers Delight Beaches Audience, Connect With Young Fans

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

KIDZ BOP performers Cliff, John, Shaila and Aaliyah, brought an energetic evening of family entertainment to the grounds of Beaches Resort and Spa on Monday, October 5, with local young talent from the Edward Gartland Youth Centre sharing the stage and audience members singing along to familiar songs.

The evening also featured a sing-off between mothers, adding to the family entertainment.

The performers praised the enthusiastic reception in the Turks and Caicos Islands, while a visit with local schoolchildren provided a memorable connection beyond the concert.

Shaila said the audience's energy helped lift the group's performance.

"The energy was so high," she said, explaining that the crowd's response made performing even more rewarding.

For fellow performer Cliff, the trip also offered an opportunity to enjoy the destination with loved ones.

"We came out here to put on a show for everybody, but at the same time, we were able to bring our families," he said.

John praised the islands' beautiful waters and the hospitality of the Beaches staff, describing the visit as an unforgettable experience for the performers and their families.

Beyond the stage, Aaliyah and Cliff spent time with children at a local school, signing autographs, taking photographs, reading and colouring with students.

Aaliyah described the visit as "life-changing" and said the children's excitement gave her a new appreciation of how far KIDZ BOP's music reaches.

"All these kids were just so excited to meet us and they just had the biggest smiles on their faces," she said. "It just warmed my heart so much."

Cliff, who said he had been with KIDZ BOP for four years, described the school visit as one of his most meaningful experienc-



Kidz Bop Kids performing at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa.



John Paul of the Edward Gartland Youth Centre serenading the audience at the Kidz Bop Concert at Beaches Turks and Caicos



Valentina Charlot of the Edward Gartland Youth Centre performing a dance at the KIDZ BOP Concert



Taylor Mehaffy, a guest at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort and Spa performs an acrobatic dance at the Kidz Bop Concert on Monday, October 5.



Jaleiyah Eustache and Stessy Lolo of the Edward Gartland Youth Centre performing a choreographic dance at the Kidz Bop Concert

enthusiastically singing along to the concert and said an exchange of heart gestures with Cliff was a highlight.

"I gave a heart to Cliff and he gave it back," she said. "I was so excited."

Hon. Shaun Malcolm, Minister of Public Safety, Gender Affairs and Religious Affairs, commended Beaches for providing a platform for local young performers and for its contribution to promoting the Turks and Caicos Islands.

He said featuring local talent on the main stage offered valuable exposure for young people while showcasing the country's culture.

"When they bring shows like this, they're not just promoting the Sandals and Beaches brand, but they're also promoting brand Turks and Caicos," Malcolm said.

The minister described the concert as fantastic and said the children clearly enjoyed the experience. He also reported that more than 200 local residents had attended an earlier concert on Friday night.

Although Monday's attendance was lower, which he attributed to children having school the following day, Malcolm said the evening remained a success.

"It still was a blowout, and I enjoyed it," he said.

es.

"I think it might be one of the best things that I've ever done," he said.

The performers also spoke about encouraging young fans to pursue their ambitions, describing KIDZ BOP as a family-oriented brand that gives children inspiration to dream big.

Local talent had an opportunity to shine during the evening's opening performance. Jaleiyah, a student at the Edward Gartland Youth Centre, said her initial nerves eased as she continued performing.

"I was nervous at first, but then I got into the song as I kept playing," she said. "It was so much fun."

She later joined her cousin in

WEST BAY CLUB

GRACE BAY RESORTS

OPEN JOB POSITION

DATE OPEN: September 23, 2026

START DATE: ASAP

POSITION: Bartender

PROPERTY: West Bay Club

Job Overview: Prepare alcohol or non-alcohol beverages for bar and restaurant patrons. Interact with guests, take orders and serve snacks and drinks. Assess guests needs and preferences, and make recommendations. Mix ingredients to prepare cocktails.

Job Requirements:

- Minimum of 5 years’ experience
- At least 5 years’ experience working in a five-star hotel
- Mixology training certification preferred
- Hospitality training certification/certificate

This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2

Salary Range: \$10.00 per hour

DATE OPEN: September 23, 2026

START DATE: ASAP

POSITION: Server

PROPERTY: West Bay Club

Job Overview: The server is responsible for delivering exceptional service and ensuring a positive dining experience for guests. Strong communication, multitasking, and problem-solving skills are essential, as servers must efficiently manage multiple tables and anticipate customer needs.

Main duties:

- Welcome guests as they arrive, escort them to their table, and provide them with menus.
- Collect payment on all sold items and operate a cash register.
- Serve guests in a friendly and helpful manner.
- Keep tables, chairs, and dining areas clean and organized. Clear dirty dishes promptly and reset tables for new guests.

This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2

Salary Range: \$8.00 per hour

DATE OPEN: September 23, 2026

START DATE: ASAP

POSITION: Housekeeper (2)

PROPERTY: West Bay Club

We are looking for a professional Housekeeper able of attending to our facilities with integrity and attention to detail. The goal is to create a clean and orderly environment for our guests that will become a critical factor in maintaining and strengthening our reputation.

Main Duties:

- Perform a variety of cleaning activities such as sweeping, mopping, dusting and polishing
- Protect equipment and make sure there are no inadequacies
- Ensure all rooms are cared for and inspected according to standards
- Notify superiors on any damages, deficits and disturbances

This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2

Salary Range: \$8.00 per hour

DATE OPEN: September 23, 2026

START DATE: ASAP

POSITION: Houseman

PROPERTY: West Bay Club

We are looking for a professional Houseman able of attending to our facilities with integrity and attention to detail. The goal is to create a clean and orderly environment for our guests that will become a critical factor in maintaining and strengthening our reputation.

Main duties:

- Perform a variety of cleaning activities such as sweeping, mopping, dusting and polishing
- Ensure the common areas are cared for and inspected according to standards
- Protect equipment and make sure there are no inadequacies
- Check stocking levels of all consumables and replace when appropriate

This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2

Salary Range: \$8.00 per hour

DATE OPEN: September 23, 2026

START DATE: ASAP

POSITION: Financial Controller

PROPERTY: West Bay Club

Requirements: The Financial Controller is responsible for the overall management of all finance, accounting, purchasing, and MIS (Management Information Systems) functions at the property. This position plays a critical leadership role in safeguarding company assets, strategic financial planning and budgeting, and ensuring strict compliance with internal controls, policies, and procedures.

Key Responsibilities:

Financial Management & Compliance

- Oversee daily finance operations including accounting, budgeting, payroll, procurement, and IT.
- Ensure compliance with internal controls and established company procedures.
- Safeguard all assets and monitor financial risk.
- Coordinate internal and external audits and ensure timely submission of statutory reports.

Strategic Planning & Budgeting

- Lead the preparation of the annual operating budget and monthly forecasts.
- Provide financial analysis and strategic recommendations to senior leadership.
- Monitor financial performance against budget and provide variance analysis.

Team Leadership & Collaboration

- Lead and manage the Finance, Purchasing, and IT departments.
- Coordinate with department heads to align accounting procedures with operational requirements.
- Coach and develop team members to enhance performance and maintain service standards.

**Qualifications & Requirements:**

- Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Finance, or Business Administration; equivalent experience may be considered.
- Minimum 7 years of hospitality accounting experience, with 3 years in international assignments preferred.
- At least 5 years as an Assistant Director of Finance or 2 years as Director of Finance in a luxury hotel, resort, or club of similar size or larger.
- Prior condo-hotel or residential accounting experience is a strong plus.
- Demonstrated experience managing purchasing and IT functions in a resort environment.
- Strong people management and leadership skills with the ability to motivate and guide cross-functional teams.

Core Competencies:

- Exceptional communication and interpersonal skills
- Advanced mathematical and accounting knowledge
- Strong analytical and critical thinking skills
- High computer literacy, especially in financial systems and hotel software
- Ability to interpret business regulations, professional publications, and develop staff through structured training
- Adaptable to change, comfortable with new challenges, and able to meet deadlines in a dynamic environment

This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2

Salary Range: Dependent upon experience

DATE OPEN: September 23, 2026

START DATE: ASAP

POSITION: Housekeeping Supervisor **PROPERTY:** West Bay Club

Job Overview: The Housekeeping Supervisor will assist and provide support in all areas of departmental operations. The Housekeeping Supervisor responsibilities include organizing team member's shifts, training and motivating team members and checking private and public areas for tidiness.

Main duties:

- Train Housekeepers and Housemen on cleaning and maintenance tasks and assist with overseeing staff daily.
- Check rooms and common areas, including stairways, elevators and guest areas, for cleanliness.
- Assist with scheduling shifts and arranging for replacements in case of absences.
- Assist with establishing and educating staff on cleanliness, tidiness, and hygiene standards
- Motivate team members and assist with resolving any issues that occur on the job.
- Participate in large cleaning projects as required.
- Ensure compliance with safety and sanitation policies in all areas.

This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2

Salary Range: \$13.00 per hour

DATE OPEN: September 23, 2026

START DATE: ASAP

POSITION: Accounts Manager

PROPERTY: West Bay Club

Job Overview: The **Accounts Manager** is responsible for overseeing and managing the financial operations of the resort, ensuring accuracy, transparency, and compliance with all financial policies and regulations. This role supports Financial Controller in maintaining effective financial controls, preparing reports, managing budgets, and ensuring timely and accurate processing of all financial transactions. The Accounts Manager also supervises accounting staff, assists with audits, and provides financial insights to support management decision-making and overall business performance.

Main duties:

- Oversee daily accounting operations, including accounts payable, accounts receivable, and payroll.
- Prepare and analyze financial statements, management reports, and forecasts.
- Support budgeting, cost control, and financial target monitoring.
- Ensure compliance with financial regulations, internal controls, and company policies.
- Supervise, train, and support the accounting team.
- Review financial transactions, reconciliations, and journal entries for accuracy.
- Provide financial insights to department heads to support operational efficiency.
- Assist with internal and external audits and maintain accurate documentation.
- Maintain confidential and accurate financial records.
- Support the Director of Finance in improving financial systems, policies, and procedures

Requirements:

- Bachelor's degree in Accounting, Finance, or a related field.
- Minimum of 3–5 years of accounting experience, preferably within the hospitality industry (hotel or resort experience is an asset).
- Proficiency in accounting software (e.g., QuickBooks, Opera PMS, or similar) and advanced knowledge of Microsoft Excel.
- Ability to manage multiple priorities and meet tight deadlines.
- Strong leadership and communication skills with the ability to work collaboratively across departments.
- High level of integrity and confidentiality when handling financial information.

This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2

Salary Range: \$48,000 per annum

DATE OPEN: September 23, 2026

START DATE: ASAP

POSITION: Strata Engineer

PROPERTY: West Bay Club

Job Overview: The Strata Engineer is responsible for overseeing the maintenance, safety, and efficient operation of the resort's buildings, facilities, equipment, and common areas. The position coordinates repairs, preventative maintenance, contractors, and engineering activities to ensure the property remains safe, functional, and well maintained while supporting the needs of owners, residents, and guests.

Main duties:

- Responsible for overseeing the maintenance, operation, and upkeep of the resort's buildings, infrastructure, and common areas.
- Coordinate preventative and corrective maintenance to ensure facilities, equipment, and systems remain safe, functional, and well maintained.

- Monitor engineering projects, repairs, contractors, and service providers to ensure work is completed efficiently and to required standards.
- Support compliance with health, safety, building, and environmental regulations.
- Manage engineering-related budgets, supplies, equipment, and maintenance records.
- Work closely with property management, owners, and other departments to address maintenance concerns and ensure effective communication.
- Lead and support the engineering team, providing guidance, training, and oversight of daily activities.
- Respond promptly to building or equipment issues and implement practical solutions to minimize disruption to residents and guests.

Requirements:

- Minimum 3–5 years of experience in engineering, facilities, or property maintenance, preferably within a resort or luxury hospitality environment.
- Strong knowledge of building systems, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and general maintenance.
- Experience supervising maintenance teams and coordinating contractors.
- Ability to respond to maintenance issues and emergencies in a timely and professional manner.

This position is currently held by an expatriate worker. Qualified Islanders need only to apply copying applications to the Commissioner of Labour & Work Permit Board Zone 2

Salary Range: \$46,000 per annum

DATE OPEN: September 23, 2026

START DATE: ASAP

POSITION: Training Manager

PROPERTY: West Bay Club

Job Overview: The Training Manager will be a part of the Human Resources team with responsibility for planning, supervising the efficiency and effectiveness of training held on property. The Training Manager will facilitate different training accreditations and examinations as needed to ensure that team members can get the required certification to perform at a higher standard. The Training Manager will also assist with Human Resources functions and initiatives as needed.

Main duties:

- Implement departmental strategies and action plans in accordance with the resort's vision.
- Assist with organizing and conducting interviews as needed.
- Monitor and evaluate training program's effectiveness, success and ROI periodically and report on them
- Manage training budget
- Provide opportunities for ongoing development
- Resolve any specific problems and tailor training programs as necessary
- Maintain a keen understanding of training trends, developments and best practices

Requirements

- Bachelor's Degree or equivalent certification in Human Resources or Hospitality Management
- Professional certification in Training & Development, Adult Learning, HR, or Hospitality is an advantage.
- Training certifications such as Train-the-Trainer, Facilitation, or instructional design are preferred
- A minimum of 5 years' experience in Human Resources, Training or any similar role
- Minimum 2–3 years of experience in employee training, learning & development, HR, or organizational development.
- Experience developing and delivering training programs for Guest Services, Housekeeping, Food & Beverage, Engineering, Pool & Beach and other hotel departments.

Belongers only need to apply

Salary Range: Dependent upon experience

Interested persons can contact our Human Resources Department no later than October 8th, 2026

@ (649) 946-8550 Ext. 7500

Email: humanresources@thewestbayclub.com

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos Islands, British West Indies

Fort Hood shooter to be executed by firing squad - a first for US military since World War Two

The Pentagon has announced it will execute a former US Army major by firing squad, the first such military execution in more than 60 years.

Nidal Hasan fatally shot 13 unarmed US soldiers at Fort Hood in 2009, injuring another 32.

Pentagon spokesperson Sean Parnell announced on social media on Monday that Secretary of War Pete Hegseth had made the recommendation and President Donald Trump approved it.

It will be the first military execution by firing squad since the end of World War Two. Parnell said the secretary of the US Army would set the time and place of the execution.

"Judgement day for Hasan has finally come," he wrote on X.

Hasan, a US Army psychiatrist from Virginia, killed 13 soldiers at the base in Texas in 2009 and later admitted in court he was the gunman and apologised for "any mistakes".

He said during his court-martial in 2013 that he believed he was protecting Muslims and the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The killings on 5 November 2009 were the



deadliest ever non-combat attack on an American military base.

The attack took place in a crowded medical building where deploying soldiers were awaiting check-ups and vaccines.

Watch: Why is America running out of execution drugs?

Hasan is currently one of four inmates on the US military's death row.

A military execution requires approval from

the US president, according to military law. It also requires appellate review and a final judgment on its legality to move forward.

The US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces deemed the military death penalty unconstitutional in 1983 but it was reinstated the following year by an executive order under then-President Ronald Reagan.

Military executions differ from those car-

ried out at the state level.

The majority of executions in the US are carried out on the state level, with 27 states, the military and the federal government still having capital punishment as a legally available option.

Death by firing squad is rather uncommon. There was an execution by firing squad carried out last year in South Carolina, a first for the state and the first time the method was used in the US in 15 years.

Four other states allow the use of a firing squad, including Idaho, Mississippi, Oklahoma and Utah.

Trump has been a proponent of the federal death penalty and re-instated it through an executive order on the first day of his administration in January 2025.

Under his predecessor, former President Joe Biden, the justice department had issued a moratorium on the federal use of the death penalty.

The executive order signed by Trump describes capital punishment as "an essential tool for deterring and punishing those who would commit the most heinous crimes and acts of lethal violence against American citizens".

'Ghost particles' from space telescope wins physics Nobel

Belgian-born physicist Prof Francis Halzen has won the Nobel Prize in Physics for his pioneering work on an observatory that detects particles from space, shedding light on the distant universe.

Halzen led the development of IceCube at the South Pole, which uses a cubic kilometre of Antarctic ice fitted with light sensors to detect particles called neutrinos. These carry information about violent, high-energy processes in the cosmos.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said "his vision and scientific leadership have been fundamental for the IceCube Neutrino Observatory".

He first presented his vision for detecting neutrinos at the South Pole in 1988.

Halzen, who is now a US citizen at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, told a news conference that he was surprised his idea worked so well.

"I have to emphasise how lucky I was. Because when we started this project, everybody realised this was maybe a good idea, but very few thought it would work, including myself."

Neutrinos are elusive subatomic particles. The Sun produces vast numbers of them: every second, billions pass harmlessly through an area the size of your fingernail. But IceCube is searching for much higher-energy neutrinos, those produced by violent processes far beyond our Solar System — in distant galaxies.

It is composed of thousands of sensors on long cables that are drilled and frozen into a 1km cubic block of ice.

Neutrinos can be thought of as astronomical messengers that point to those fundamental events.

At the observatory, most neutrinos pass straight through the ice, but occasionally



one interacts with it, producing particles that give off a telltale flash of light.

These rare signals carry clues to where the neutrinos came from and the extreme conditions that produced them — allowing scientists to investigate places that ordinary telescopes cannot easily see.

Diagram showing how the IceCube observatory detects neutrinos. Cables containing rows of light sensors extend deep into a large block of ice beneath a surface building. Red diagonal arrows show neutrinos passing through the ice, with one collision highlighted. Most neutrinos pass straight through, but sensors can detect light from rare collisions with atomic nuclei; the angle and direction of these events can help trace a neutrino's origin in the cosmos.

"Francis Halzen has led an international team of researchers and engineers who have provided us with a fantastic instru-

ment," said Prof Mark Pearce, Chair of the Nobel Committee for Physics.

"His tenacity and scientific vision has paved the way for a new kind of astronomy."

On the rare occasions when a neutrino strikes an atomic nucleus, it produces fast-moving charged particles. It is these racing through the ice, which give off a blue glow, which sensitive light detectors can pick up.

The pattern and timing of that light allow scientists to estimate the direction the neutrino came from — helping them trace its origins in the cosmos. But these interactions are so rare that the observatory needed an enormous volume of clear ice.

Halzen's idea was to use a vast natural ice sheet in Antarctica. So began an audacious plan to build a neutrino observatory at the geographic South Pole, with thousands of light sensors embedded deep in the ice.

The neutrino's ghostly nature, the very thing that makes it so hard to detect, also makes it a powerful messenger from the distant Universe.

Neutrinos rarely interact with material in its way, so they can go right through dense regions that light cannot easily penetrate.

And because they have no electric charge, magnetic fields do not bend their paths through space. That means their direction of arrival can point scientists back towards their source.

Their energies carry further insight into the processes that created them - helping scientists investigate how exploding stars and the environments around giant black holes accelerate particles to extraordinary energies. Louis Barson, director of science at the Institute of Physics in London, said the IceCube Observatory had enabled astronomers to investigate phenomena that conventional telescopes cannot see.

"The discoveries that have followed are helping us understand some of the most energetic and mysterious processes in the universe - and that's thanks to Professor Halzen's work," he added.

Prof Subir Sarkar, physicist from the University of Oxford, quoted the French novelist Marcel Proust in describing his assessment of Halzen's contribution to science:

"The only true voyage of discovery, the only fountain of Eternal Youth, would be not to visit strange lands but to possess other eyes, to behold the universe through the eyes of another, of a hundred others, to behold the hundred universes that each of them beholds, that each of them is'.

"Francis Halzen has led the IceCube collaboration on just such a voyage of discovery and opened a new window on to our Universe".

SOUR TASTE



***TCL Senior Men's Football
Coaching Head Feels Hard Done by
Concacaf Nations League Final Match Officiating***

SEE PG32

Messi caps Argentina farewell with penalty and 2 assists in a 3-0 win over Benin

Lionel Messi turned his official farewell to Argentina into a gala performance, contributing a penalty and two assists in a 3-0 win over Benin on Tuesday at the Monumental Stadium in Buenos Aires, where the crowd offered a deafening final ovation to the genius who defined the footballing pulse of a nation for two decades.

In front of 85,000 fans, the superstar capped off an international career spanning 21 years, 126 goals, a 2022 World Cup victory, and two Copa América titles.

"It was a source of great pride to wear this jersey for over 20 years," Messi told the crowd, speaking into a microphone from the centre of the pitch.

"I never stopped fighting, never stopped giving my all. I would love to keep coming back forever, because playing for the Argentine national team is the most beautiful thing that can happen to you."

His teammates — many of them overcome with emotion — along with the coaching staff led by Lionel Scaloni and the fans, gave him a standing ovation.

"I'm going to miss you all. Now I'll be on your side, supporting the national team and the guys who come next," Messi promised.

"When we're united, we're stronger than anyone and can overcome anything. Tough times lie ahead, because



Lionel Messi celebrates after scoring his side's third goal from the penalty spot during his final match for the national team, a soccer friendly against Benin, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Tuesday, October 6, 2026.

what this group achieved won't be easy to repeat."

Following a corner kick taken by Messi, defender Nicolás Otamendi connected with a header to open the scoring in

the 48th minute.

Messi then provided an assist to young talent Nicolás Paz, who paid tribute to the star with an exquisite left-foot finish in the 61st.

Ten minutes later, Messi buried a left-foot penalty into the top corner, adding to his tally as the Albiceleste's all-time leading scorer.

"Olé, olé, Messi," the crowd chanted in his honour.

Despite still playing at a high level at age 39, Messi announced on August 31 that the end of his time with Argentina was set.

Messi played his final match — his 208th for Argentina — amid a spectacular fireworks display.

He wore a special edition Albiceleste jersey featuring wider vertical stripes than the standard design, a giant sun, and a golden No. 10 on the back.

The back detail featured a goat's horns in the print — a nod to the "GOAT," referencing both the animal and his status as the "Greatest of All Time."

Ten minutes after kickoff in the international friendly, the referee paused the match to honor the Argentine captain. Rivals and teammates approached to greet him while fans rose for a standing ovation. Messi raised his hand in acknowledgment.

After the match ended, he thanked his teammates for the titles they had won and left them with a directive: "We need to build a strong, united group because there are people who want the national team to fail, and we shouldn't give them the satisfaction."

Matthews elevates to career-best ODI rankings

West Indies Women's Captain Hayley Matthews has achieved career-best rankings in the ICC's Women's ODI batting and all-rounder rankings, following her impressive performance in the just-concluded series against Zimbabwe Women.

Matthews scored an incredible 326 runs in the three-match series — inclusive of two centuries — at an astonishing average of 108.66 to claim the Player of the Series award, as West Indies emerged 2-1 winners.

Those performances have seen the 28-year-old climb to fourth in the batting rankings and second among all-rounders.

In the batting rankings, Matthews's 731 points leave her behind only Indian left-hander Smriti Mandhana (790

points), South Africa Captain Laura Wolvaardt (782), and Australia opener Beth Mooney (744).

Meanwhile, Matthews — the number one-ranked T20 all-rounder in the world — reached a new career-best mark of 467 rating points to close the gap on the number one-ranked Ash Gardner (497 points) to just 30 rating points among ODI all-rounders.

Several other West Indies Women also jumped in the rankings, following commendable performances in the series. Wicketkeeper/batter Shemaine Campbell moved up 15 spots to 74th in the batting rankings while Afy Fletcher (up two places to 17th), Aaliyah Alleyne (up eight rungs to 49th), and Ashmini Munisar (up 11 slots to 70th), all made ground on the charts for ODI bowlers.



In the batting rankings, Matthews's 731 points leave her behind only Indian left-hander Smriti Mandhana (790 points), South Africa Captain Laura Wolvaardt (782), and Australia opener Beth Mooney (744).

HJ Robinson and Clement Howell make strong starts in Inter-High football

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

HJ Robinson High School and Clement Howell High School have each recorded two wins from two matches to lead their respective boys’ groups in the Inter-High football competition, according to the supplied standings. HJ Robinson tops Boys’ Group B with six points, having scored 15 goals and conceded just two. A. Louise Garland Thomas High School follows with three points from one match, boasting an impressive 19 goals scored and none conceded. Raymond Gardiner High School remains without a point after one defeat, while International School has lost both of its matches, conceding 32 goals and scoring once. In Boys’ Group C, Clement Howell leads with six points after scoring seven goals without conceding. Maranatha Academy sits second with three points from its only match, with one goal scored and none conceded. Holy Family Academy and TCIPS are still seeking their



The Clement Howell High School Team

first points after two defeats and one defeat, respectively. The race is tighter in Boys’ Group A,

where British West Indies Collegiate holds a one-point advantage. Collegiate remains unbeaten with one win and

one draw, collecting four points while scoring three goals and conceding two. Elite High School and Precious Treasures International School each have three points from one win and one loss. Elite has scored six goals and conceded two, while Precious Treasures has scored twice and conceded six. Marjorie Basden High School has one point following a draw and a defeat.

Girls League
In Girls’ Group B, HJ Robinson also leads the standings, earning three points from one victory with four goals scored and none conceded. A. Louise Garland Thomas and Wesley Methodist High School each have one point. Garland Thomas has played twice, recording a draw and a loss, while Wesley Methodist’s only match ended in a draw. Elite High School has yet to play a match in the supplied standings. With several teams having played fewer matches than their group rivals, the standings leave room for movement as the competition progresses.

Jamaica will write to FIFA over DR Congo ineligibility for World Cup play-offs

President of the Jamaica Football Federation (JFF), Michael Ricketts, is poised to challenge football’s world governing body, FIFA, following reports that the Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) fielded an ineligible player in the Intercontinental Play-off that ended Jamaica’s World Cup hopes in March. That result not only ended the Reggae Boyz’ campaign, but also cost the country a potential windfall of more than \$1 billion that could have come from a second World Cup appearance. The timing of the revelation is also significant, coming less than two weeks after FIFA President Gianni Infantino’s high-profile visit to Jamaica. Speaking with The Gleaner, Ricketts confirmed that he is aware of the claims and intends to pursue the matter. “We have taken a decision that we will probably have some discussions with FIFA, trying to ensure that this article has some substance, and then we’ll take it from there,” Ricketts said.



Embattled FIFA President Gianni Infantino (left) with President of the Jamaica Football Federation, Michael Ricketts.

“...We are very aware, and again, it just underlines how unfortunate things went for us during this World Cup campaign,” Ricketts told The Gleaner. “We will be making FIFA aware that we are, in fact, aware and then we’ll

take it from there,” the JFF boss added. Jamaica is not alone in seeking answers. Nigeria’s football federation has already lodged its own complaint with FIFA, questioning whether ineli-

gible players featured in DR Congo’s November play-off victory over the Super Eagles, a match the Nigerians lost on penalties. FIFA rejected that complaint, citing insufficient evidence and a missed filing deadline. At the centre of the controversy is Congolese goalkeeper Lionel Mpasi, who previously represented France at the youth level. According to The New York Times, FIFA reportedly determined that Mpasi never completed the formal process required to switch his sporting nationality to DR Congo, a procedural issue that should have rendered him ineligible. Despite that, DR Congo was allowed to compete in the 2026 World Cup, even though FIFA’s own internal investigation reportedly raised concerns about Mpasi’s eligibility. Mpasi played the full 90 minutes against the Reggae Boyz in March as DR Congo secured a 1-0 victory to book their place at the World Cup, a qualification that is now under renewed scrutiny.

Road Dogs Running Club Issues Public Advisory on Road Safety for Runners and Cyclists

Our roads are getting busier with runners and cyclists. The Road Dogs Running Club is asking every runner, cyclist and driver in the Turks and Caicos Islands to help keep them safe.

The club has more than 100 active members, and fitness is catching on across the country. Early morning joggers, cyclists and weekend long-run groups are now a regular sight on our roads. The club welcomes this growth. It also brings a shared responsibility to make sure everyone who heads out to train gets home safely.

“Our members are the heart of this club. Protecting them is one of our most important responsibilities,” said Leo Lightbourne, President of the Road Dogs Running Club. “Every time one of our runners or cyclists steps onto the road, they are trusting that drivers will see them and give them space. We want to do our part by making sure our members and the wider public know the rules of the road.”

The club’s **Run of Nations** event is set for **January 23, 2027**, and we expect more people on the roads in the coming months. Many participants will be building their mileage in the early morning or after dark, when visibility is lowest and the risk is highest.

Over the years, there have been several incidents in the Turks and Caicos Islands where runners and cyclists were struck by vehicles. In some of these cases, the driver did not stop. Each incident is a reminder of how vulnerable people on foot and on bicycles are, and of the need for awareness on all sides.

The Rules of the Road

For Runners:

- **Wear bright colours and high-vis gear.** A high-vis green running vest or reflective



vest makes you visible from a distance.

- **Run against traffic.** Face oncoming vehicles so you can see them and react. Vehicles in the TCI drive on the left, so this means running on the right-hand side of the road.
- **Carry a personal alarm.** It’s small, light and can draw attention fast in an emergency.

cy.

- **Use a safety light and reflective gear.** This is essential before sunrise and after sunset.
- **Share live tracking with family or friends.** Someone should always know your route and when to expect you back.

For Cyclists:

- **Wear bright colours and high-vis gear.** A full, brightly coloured cycling kit helps drivers spot you early.
- **Ride with traffic.** Travel in the same direction as vehicles and stay predictable.
- **Fit front (white) and rear (red) lights.** Use them in low light, not just at night.
- **Always wear a helmet.** It is your most important piece of safety equipment.
- **Carry a personal alarm and your phone, and share live tracking** with family or friends.
- **Obey traffic signs and signals, and use hand signals** before turning.

Road safety is a shared responsibility. The club asks drivers to slow down, give runners and cyclists plenty of room when passing, and stay alert, especially in the early morning and evening. If you are ever involved in an incident, **stop, help and report it.** A few seconds of patience behind the wheel can save a life.

The club believes that as fitness grows across Providenciales, Grand Turk and our other islands, the country will need policies that protect these communities. That could include safer routes, better road markings and clear guidance for both road users and motorists. The Road Dogs Running Club plans to engage the Government on these issues in the future. For now, the priority is to make sure the public is informed and that everyone, whether on foot, on a bike or behind the wheel, knows how to share the road safely.

“Let’s train hard, but let’s train smart,” added Lightbourne. “Be seen, be aware and look out for one another. We want every runner and cyclist at the start line on January 23rd, and home safe after every training run.”

Asafa Powell opens coaching shop, offers speed secrets to world

Athletes across a range of sporting disciplines who rely on speed for success can now learn from the man who once owned it, former 100m world record holder Asafa Powell.

Four years after stepping away from competition, the two-time World Championships 100m bronze medallist is officially open for business.

Speaking with The Gleaner at the National Stadium, the eight-time national champion revealed that he is now accepting coaching enquiries from around the world, offering his services as a high-performance consultant.

“I’m going to share that knowledge. It doesn’t make sense I have all this knowledge and just keep it to myself when I can help people better their sport,” Powell told The Gleaner.

“I’m not focusing on just track and field. If a basketball player wants to get faster, or American football, or our type of football which is soccer, if they want to get faster as

well, I’m there to assist in that way,” he said. Powell said his approach will not be a one-size-fits-all operation.

“My approach is a little bit different, you know, more boutique-style, catering for various parts of sprinting,” Powell disclosed. “I’ve been approached numerous times, my DMs [are] filled with people wanting me to help them with their starts, wanting me to build their techniques,” he said.

“Anybody can coach somebody to be fit, but it takes a real good coach to work on the technical side of it, and that’s where I want to put my focus,” Powell added.

The credentials speak for themselves. Powell’s personal best of 9.72 seconds remains the fourth-fastest time in history, and he holds the Guinness World Record for the most sub-10-second 100m clockings, with 97 to his name.

The Sub-10 King, who spent two decades at the top of the sport, said his coaching will focus on four key areas, beginning with his trademark start and acceleration.

“The start, the first 60 metres, it always feels special, and I think every sprinter has always wanted to get that first 60 metres perfect. I think it’s one of the most important parts of the race,” he said.

Meanwhile, while the 43-year-old is considering the idea of starting his own track club, he has not ruled out a return to the camp that helped make him a star, MVP Track Club, where he rose to prominence under the late Stephen Francis.

“MVP is home, it’s where everything started, and coach created a system. A hundred per cent, if I’m called to go back to MVP to help with the coaching, I’ll definitely go, if it’s both me and Michael (Frater), because that’s where everything started, that’s how I became the Asafa Powell,” he reasoned, adding: “We have to make sure the coach’s legacy lives on”.

Powell closed out his career with five World Championships medals, including two sprint relay gold medals, as well as an Olympic sprint relay gold.

He said he is open to working with private athletes, colleges, universities, national federations and professional teams, while also hosting training camps and clinics.



Asafa Powell

Lawrence fumes over officiating as TCI fall 4-1 to Montserrat

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Turks and Caicos Islands head coach Aaron Lawrence was left fuming over the officiating after his side went down 4-1 to Montserrat in their final Concacaf Nations League, League C match at the TCIFA field on Tuesday.

Speaking after the defeat, Lawrence said he believed decisions by referee Alexi Perry had influenced the contest, while an injury to a key defender and three red cards forced the home team into repeated adjustments.

The result brought a frustrating finish to the campaign for Lawrence, who nevertheless praised his players for continuing to battle through the setbacks. His assessment combined disappointment over the referee's handling of the game with recognition of the effort his team had shown.

"A tough game, tough game this afternoon," Lawrence said. "I think the referee swung the game where we didn't want it to go."

The coach identified the loss of his leading centre-back to injury as a significant disruption. He said the defender's departure changed the team's shape and required players to take on different roles as the match unfolded.

"You know, and one of the things is when we get an injury, our best centre-back, Anthony Stewart came out of the game," he said. "You know, everything had to change."

Lawrence explained that the injury left his side having to reorganise, with players moved into different positions. That adjustment was followed by further difficulties when the team received its first red card.

According to the coach, the dismissal forced him to sacrifice another player to introduce a defender. He described the resulting changes as part of a difficult afternoon in which the team struggled to settle after successive setbacks.



Lyle Taylor (airborne) of Montserrat celebrates one of his two penalties against the TCI in their final Concacaf Nations League game at the TCIFA Field



The Montserrat Goalkeeper Trent Carter Rogers is beaten by a well taken freekick from the TCI Captain Billy Forbes

"We have to move around players in different positions," Lawrence said. "You know, and then we get the red card."

A second red card added to the home side's problems, leaving Lawrence to reflect on a match shaped, in his view, by both en-

forced changes and refereeing decisions.

"So it's been tough, and then we get another red card," he said.

Despite his criticism of the officiating, Lawrence was emphatic in his support for the players. He praised their willingness to

keep competing and said their response deserved recognition, even though the result had gone against them.

"They fight hard. They give it their all," he said.

For Lawrence, the players' determination was the positive to take from an otherwise disappointing encounter. He said they had shown guts and refused to give up as the difficulties mounted.

"They never give up," he said.

"We never say die, even though we lost the game so badly."

The coach said the task now was to learn from the defeat and prepare for the next challenge. Asked what lay ahead for the team, he pointed to World Cup qualifying next year as the focus of its work.

"We just have to build and look at that and focus on that now," Lawrence said.

His comments signalled a shift towards preparation, with the team needing to regroup following its final League C outing. While disappointed by Tuesday's result, he said the players would have to learn from the experience and come again.

For the coach, attention now turns to rebuilding after a match that tested his squad's ability to respond to injury and dismissals. Lawrence was also asked whether the Turks and Caicos Islands Football Association would lodge an appeal over the referee's decisions. He said that responsibility rested with the association's president and general secretary, rather than with him.

"I think we have to leave that to the president to do so and the general secretary," he said.

He did not confirm whether an appeal would be submitted, and expressed doubt that such a move would change the outcome.

"I don't know if they're going to lodge an appeal, but if they do lodge an appeal, they're not going to change anything," Lawrence said. "Nothing can be changed right now."