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**TCI Records
Strongest First Half
of Tourism Growth in
2026 PG2**



**Remain Faithful to
God Amid Prosperity –
Bahamas GG Warns
PG8**

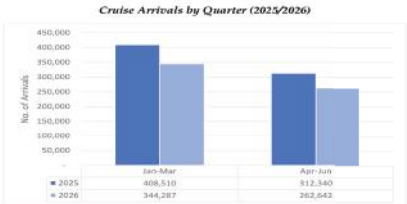


CARIBBEAN'S
BEST

Local Schools Top Region in Wizdom CRM
Virtual Stock Market Game

Turks and Caicos Islands Records Strongest First Half of Tourism Growth in 2026

The Turks and Caicos Islands has recorded its strongest first half on record, welcoming 384,590 stayover visitors between January and June 2026, a six percent increase over the same period last year, according to records from the Ministry of Tourism. The Tourism Ministry not that the record performance reflects sustained demand across the destination’s key source markets and reinforces the Turks and Caicos Islands’ position as one of the Caribbean’s leading luxury destinations. Growth continues to be driven by strategic investments in destination marketing, expanded airlift, and strong partnerships with airlines, tour operators and travel advisors. The destination, according to the ministry, also recorded its highest-ever second-quarter performance, with stayover arrivals increasing by five percent despite the period traditionally experiencing lower visitor volumes than the first quarter.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly, welcomed the continued growth, attributing the strong performance to strategic

investments in destination marketing and industry partnerships. “These results reflect the strength of the Turks and Caicos Islands as a world-class destination and are a testament to what we can achieve when government and industry work together with a shared vision. I want to commend our team at Experience Turks and Caicos, our tourism partners, airline partners, travel advisors, hoteliers, small businesses and everyone across the tourism industry whose dedication continues to elevate our destination on the global stage,” the Minister said. “As we transition to the new Tourism Authority, we will build on this momentum through even stronger destination marketing, deeper engagement in our key source markets and a continued focus on attracting high-value visitors. Our strategy is not simply to grow arrivals, but to increase visitor spending, expand opportunities for Turks and Caicos Islanders, create new opportunities across our family islands, and further diversify our tourism product through sectors such as yachting, sports tourism, bone fishing, birdwatching and other world-class experiences. These record results give us confidence that we are on the right path, and we remain committed to building a tourism industry that delivers lasting benefits for our people.”

Cruise Tourism
The Ministry also pointed out that Cruise arrivals returned to more typical operating levels during the second quarter following an exceptional performance in 2025, when several cruise lines temporarily added Grand Turk to their itineraries. Between January and June 2026, the Grand Turk Cruise Port welcomed 606,929 cruise passengers, representing a 16 percent decrease compared with the same period last year. However, the gap narrowed significantly during the second quarter, with arrivals declining by just six percent in May and four percent in June compared with the corresponding months in 2025.



Outlook
In the meantime, Ministry of Tourism said that the outlook for the remainder of 2026 remains positive, supported by expanded airlift from key source markets in the United

States and Canada. Porter Airlines will introduce new nonstop services from Toronto in November and Ottawa in December, while BermudAir will launch new services from gateways in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean in December. United Airlines will also commence weekly nonstop service between Denver and Providenciales in December. Combined with continued investment in destination marketing and product development, the expanded airlift positions the Turks and Caicos Islands for sustained tourism growth through the remainder of 2026 and beyond.



Minister of Tourism, Hon. Zhavargo Jolly

Privacy Concerns Raised Over \$500 Relief Payment Application

The People’s Democratic Movement (PDM) is questioning why Turks and Caicos Islanders are being asked to provide extensive personal and financial information to qualify for the Government’s \$500 cost-of-living payment, calling on the Hon. Washington Misick Administration to explain how the information will be used and whether it will be shared with other agencies. The Opposition says applicants are now being required to disclose their annual income, employment status, employment sector, voter registration number, National Insurance number, home address and how they intend to spend the payment. According to the PDM, the Government must explain why citizens are receiving less financial assistance while being required to provide significantly more personal information. The party noted that many of the same recipients were paid \$1,000 before the last general election, twice the amount now being offered, and were subject to fewer application requirements. PDM Leader Hon. Douglas Parnell said the process raises serious concerns about both privacy and fairness.

“Half the payment, more questions and only seven days to apply. Our people should not receive less relief while giving up more of their privacy. Increase the payment, extend the deadline and explain exactly how this information will be used.” The PDM is demanding assurances on whether the information collected will be shared with the Revenue Authority or other government agencies, whether it could be used for taxation or enforcement purposes, and how long the data will be retained. It is also calling on the Government to publish clear privacy safeguards for applicants. In addition to its concerns over the application process, the Opposition is urging the Government to increase the \$500 payment, extend the seven-day application period and remove what it describes as unnecessary and intrusive questions from the application form. The party has also renewed its call for Premier Washington Misick to hold a full national press conference on constitutional negotiations with the United Kingdom, arguing that prepared speeches and recorded statements are no substitute for taking questions from



Our people should not receive less relief while giving up more of their privacy

the media and the public. The PDM further renewed its appeal for the Premier to support the Opposition’s call for the recall of the Governor, saying issues surrounding governance, policing, accountability and the advancement of qualified Turks and Caicos Islanders transcend party politics. The Opposition is calling on the Government to increase the relief payment,

extend the application period, remove unnecessary questions, publish clear privacy safeguards, provide a national update on constitutional negotiations and support the Opposition’s call for the Governor’s recall. The PDM noted that citizens deserve better, arguing that the current programme provides less money, more questions and less time to apply.



TURKS AND CAICOS ISLANDS

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



PUBLIC NOTICE

CONTROL YOUR ANIMALS

Roaming livestock is illegal. You can be fined.



\$2000
MAX FINE



AND / OR
PER OFFENCE



12 MNTHS
IMPRISONMENT

YOUR DUTIES AS AN ANIMAL OWNER



SECURE YOUR ANIMALS

All livestock must be properly fenced or restrained at all times. Goats, sheep, pigs, cattle and other animals must NOT roam freely.

Control of Animals Ordinance, Cap. 8.12, s. 7(1)(c)



REGISTER & LICENCE YOUR ESTABLISHMENT

All animal farming operations must be registered and licensed with the Department of Agriculture. Operating without a licence is a criminal offence.

Animal Health Ordinance 38/2012, s. 46(1)



REPORT DISEASED ANIMALS

Any animal suspected of illness must be reported immediately and kept secured. Permitting a sick animal to roam is a serious offence.

Animal Health Ordinance 38/2012, s. 29(1)

CONSEQUENCES OF NON-COMPLIANCE



YOUR ANIMAL WILL BE IMPOUNDED

Stray animals will be seized and taken to the pound immediately. You must pay all fees before reclaiming your animal.

Cap. 8.12, s. 5(1) & L.N. 44/1993



UNCLAIMED ANIMALS MAY BE SOLD

If your animal is not claimed and fees paid within 14 days, the Poundkeeper may sell or dispose of the animal. No further notice will be given.

Cap. 8.12, s. 6(1)-(2)



YOU MAY BE CRIMINALLY PROSECUTED

Repeat offenders and those operating without a licence face criminal prosecution before a court.

Fines up to

\$10,000

apply for diseased animal offences.

COMPENSATION PAYABLE TO LANDOWNERS WHEN ANIMALS STRAY ONTO PRIVATE PROPERTY

1ST

1ST OCCASION
\$100

PER ANIMAL-PER STRAYING EVENT

2ND+

2ND & SUBSEQUENT OCCASIONS
\$200

PER ANIMAL-PER STRAYING EVENT



ACTUAL DAMAGE CAUSED
ASSESSED
BY ONSITE POUND KEEPER

Payable by the animal owner to the landowner · Public & Environmental Health (Pound Fees & Forms) Regulations, Legal Notice 44/1993, s. 3



COMPLY NOW – AVOID PROSECUTION!

Animal owners are urged to immediately secure their animals, obtain proper identification where required, and register commercial establishments with the Department of Agriculture. Enforcement officers are actively patrolling all islands of the Turks and Caicos. Animals found roaming will be impounded and, if unclaimed within 14 days, may be sold or disposed of without further notice.



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Friday: 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM
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ADDRESS

Holy Gospel School, Spindrift Way
Turtle Cove, Providenciales
Turks & Caicos Islands

FSC Warns Public About Fraudulent Phone Calls Impersonating Officials

The Turks and Caicos Islands Financial Services Commission (FSC) is warning residents and businesses to be on high alert following reports of scammers posing as Commission representatives in an attempt to obtain sensitive financial information.

According to the FSC, fraudsters are making telephone calls while falsely claiming to represent the Commission. In some cases, the callers are using spoofed caller ID technology to display what appears to be official Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force (RTCIPF) or Turks and Caicos Islands Government logos, making the calls appear legitimate.

The Commission stressed that it will never contact members of the public or businesses by telephone to request personal banking information, passwords, PINs, account credentials, money transfers, or payments. Any call claiming to be from the FSC and requesting such information should be treated as fraudulent.

Anyone who receives a suspicious call is advised to hang up immediately and avoid sharing any personal, business, or banking information. The FSC also warns the public not to call back numbers provided by the caller, but instead to use only the official contact information published on the Commission's



Kenisha Bacchus, Acting Managing Director

website or through their financial institution. Individuals who receive these calls

should contact their bank immediately to alert them to the incident and ask that their accounts be monitored for

suspicious activity. They are also encouraged to document details of the call, including the date, time, the telephone number displayed, and the nature of the conversation. Where possible, screenshots should also be taken. The incidents should be reported to the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force by calling +1 (649) 941-8067 or +1 (649) 941-5891. Reports can also be made to the Financial Services Commission by calling +1 (649) 946-5314 or emailing fsc@tcifsc.tc.

Anyone who has already disclosed banking details or transferred funds is urged to contact their financial institution immediately and report the matter to the Police without delay.

The FSC is also reminding the public never to share passwords, PINs, one-time passcodes (OTPs), full account numbers, or online banking credentials with anyone claiming to represent the Commission. Residents are further advised to be aware that caller ID can be manipulated and should never be relied upon as proof that a caller is genuine.

The Commission is encouraging everyone in the Turks and Caicos Islands to remain vigilant, verify any suspicious communication using official contact details, and report any suspected fraud as soon as possible.

CIBC Awards Top Business Student Award at Raymond Gardiner

Academic excellence took center stage at The Raymond Gardiner High School's graduation ceremony as CIBC Caribbean introduced a new academic award recognizing exceptional achievement in Business Studies.

As part of its commitment to education, CIBC Caribbean has donated \$750 towards the school's graduation activities and established the inaugural CIBC Caribbean Top Business Student Award.

The first recipient of this award was presented to Valedictorian Tania Herrera in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement in business studies. To commemorate her achievement, Herrera received a CIBC Sure Start Account with an opening balance of \$500, courtesy of CIBC Caribbean.

The introduction of the CIBC Top

Business Student Award and CIBC Sure Star Account donation reflects the bank's belief in the value of education and intends to continue annually as part of its ongoing investment in the future success of young people within the community.

Especially, recognizing outstanding students who excel in business studies and reinforcing the importance of financial literacy. By celebrating academic achievement, CIBC Caribbean hopes to inspire more young people to pursue careers in business and finance while striving for excellence in their studies.

CIBC Caribbean congratulates Tania Herrera and the entire graduating class of The Raymond Gardiner High School and wishes them every success in their future academic and career pursuits.



Hon. Arlington Musgrove (right), presents a trophy to Tania Herrera, the Valedictorian for the Raymond Gardiner High School in North Caicos. Sharing in the moment is



Permanent Secretary James Astwood (left), Deputy Permanent Secretary Edgar Howell (right) and Zaneta Burton (second from right), Managing Director for Rubis TCI celebrate with the TCI Students who dominated the Wizdom CRM Virtual Stock Market, at the Blue Haven Resort on Thursday, July 17.

Turks and Caicos Tops Caribbean in Wizdom CRM Virtual Stock Market Competition

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Marc Roubentz-Perceus of the TCIPS Comprehensive High School has been crowned the Caribbean's top student in the Wizdom CRM Virtual Stock Market Competition after growing a virtual investment portfolio from \$25,000 to \$370,336.63, leading the Turks and Caicos Islands to an unprecedented regional victory.

The country's students dominated the competition, capturing the top six positions in the Caribbean and placing 14 students among the regional Top 20 during the Wizdom CRM Cycle 13 National Awards Ceremony held Thursday at the Blue Haven Resort in Providenciales.

Joining Roubentz-Perceus among the regional winners were Joshua Creese of Raymond Gardiner High School, who finished second with a portfolio valued at \$264,841.31; Stendro Chalas of TCIPS Comprehensive High School, who secured third place with \$247,738.09; and Oled'harle Jolisaint of Wesley Methodist School, who placed fourth with \$227,389.60. Raymond Gardiner High School students Tyshawn Wright and Jah'keem Missick rounded out the regional top six with portfolios valued at \$189,064.18 and \$173,654.58, respectively.

The historic achievement saw Turks and Caicos students outperform com-

petitors from Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Guyana and Suriname, earning the country the title of Caribbean Regional Champion in the financial literacy and artificial intelligence-powered investment competition.

The awards ceremony celebrated the accomplishments of students who successfully navigated real-time stock market simulations while applying principles of budgeting, saving, investing, risk management and strategic decision-making through the Wizdom CRM digital learning platform.

Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Education James Astwood described the achievement as a defining moment for education in the Turks and Caicos Islands.

"This cycle, the Turks and Caicos Islands claimed the top spots in the region," he said. "We didn't only claim number one, number two, number three, but we claimed the top six spots in the region, as well as 14 of the top 20 positions."

Astwood said the results demonstrated what could be achieved when technology, education and innovation were brought together to prepare students for the future.

He praised the dedication of students, teachers, principals and parents while commending Wizdom CRM for its

continued partnership in advancing financial literacy, entrepreneurship and digital learning throughout the Caribbean.

An AI-generated presenter, AI Isabella, welcomed attendees under the theme "Champions Today, AI Leaders Tomorrow," describing the occasion as more than an awards ceremony.

"Today is more than an award ceremony. It is a celebration of vision, innovation and national achievement," she said.

She noted that the Turks and Caicos Islands had dethroned Barbados as regional champions and said the victory reflected the Ministry of Education's commitment to integrating artificial intelligence, financial literacy and digital innovation into classrooms.

Minister of Education, Youth, Sports and Social Services Rachel Taylor, who addressed the ceremony virtually, congratulated the students for demonstrating that Turks and Caicos could compete with, and outperform, the best students in the Caribbean.

"Our students demonstrated discipline, strategic thinking, financial intelligence, resilience and the confidence to compete with the very best students across the Caribbean," she said. Taylor said the competition was about far more than buying and selling stocks.

She explained that participants developed critical life skills, including risk assessment, data interpretation, strategic thinking, problem-solving, resource management and informed decision-making, skills that will prepare them for careers in an increasingly technology-driven economy.

Second-place finisher Joshua Creese reflected on the experience during the ceremony, saying success required discipline and calculated decision-making.

"My strategy came down to one thing, momentum," he said. "I wasn't trying to predict the future. I was calculating the risk, riding the wave and getting out before it crashed."

He added that the competition taught him one of investing's most valuable lessons.

"You have to live with uncertainty. Every trade is a gamble. The goal is to make sure the odds are heavily in your favour."

Organisers said preparations are already underway for the next cohort of students entering the programme in September, as the Ministry of Education and Wizdom CRM continue expanding the initiative to equip young people with the financial literacy, digital competencies and artificial intelligence skills needed to thrive in the future economy.

A Health System at the Crossroads II: Why TCI Must Finally Confront the Truth About Healthcare

An Op-Ed By Paladin

Every country reaches a moment when it must stop, take a breath, and look honestly at the systems that carry its people. Healthcare is one of those systems. It is not a luxury, not a political football, not a line item on a budget. It is the quiet foundation that allows a society to work, to grow, and to hope. In the Turks and Caicos Islands, we are now standing at that moment. And the truth is simple: **our health system has been under strain for a very long time.**

This is not new. This is not sudden. This is not the fault of any one administration. More than a decade ago, the Government publicly acknowledged that the cost of healthcare was rising faster than the country could sustain, that the financing model was fragile, and that the system needed structural reform. Those concerns were real then, and they are even more real now. But the years passed. Governments changed. Economies rose and fell. And the system remained largely the same.

Today, we are living with the consequences.

The System We Built — and the System We Never Finished

When the National Health Insurance Plan (NHIP) and the two hospitals were introduced, they were meant to be part of a five pillar national health strategy. Only two pillars were ever completed. The others — primary care renewal, healthy lifestyles, and a full regulatory framework — were left behind.

The result is a system that delivers modern hospital care, but without the strong primary care foundation needed to keep people healthier and reduce the pressure on emergency rooms and overseas referrals.

We built the roof. We built the walls. But we never finished the foundation.

And when a foundation is weak, the whole structure feels the strain.

The Cost Problem We Have Known About for Years

As far back as 2011, the Government publicly stated that healthcare costs were rising at an unsustainable rate. The numbers were stark even then:

- A national healthcare bill exceeding \$60 million
- NHIP contributions covering only a fraction of total costs
- Overseas treatment consuming a large share of the budget
- Primary care underfunded
- Pharmaceuticals ballooning
- Migrant care unfunded
- A contract structure that limited flexibility

None of this is new information. None of it is controversial. It was all said openly.

And yet, the structure of the system remained unchanged.

This is not about blame. This is about reality.

Successive administrations inherited the same contract, the same financing model, the same demographic pressures, and the same gaps in primary care. Each government faced the same difficult choices, and each chose to defer the hardest decisions.

That is how we arrived here — not through malice, but through momentum.

The TAP Decision: A Small Change with Big Consequences

Recently, the decision to remove a number of people from the **Treatment Abroad Programme (TAP)** has added a new layer of pressure to an already strained system.

This is not a political point. It is a mathematical one.

TAP exists because some treatments simply cannot be provided on island. When people are removed from TAP, they do not disappear from the healthcare system — they simply lose access to the mechanism that spreads the cost across the entire insured population.

And here is the part the public needs to understand:

Insurance only works when the pool is large.

When fewer people are covered:

- the pool shrinks
- the risk per person rises
- the cost per person rises
- and premiums eventually rise

This is not ideology. This is arithmetic.

And the man on the street feels it first.

Removing people from TAP may reduce government expenditure in the short term, but it also **shrinks the insured population**, which in-

creases the cost burden on everyone who remains in the system. It also increases the likelihood that untreated conditions will worsen — leading to even more expensive care later.

This is how a small administrative change becomes a big national problem

The Human Side of a System Under Strain

When healthcare becomes unpredictable, families become anxious. When the system is stretched, the people feel it long before the policymakers do.

A mother waiting too long for a referral.

A diabetic struggling to get medication.

A senior unsure whether their coverage will hold.

A young worker wondering why their contributions keep rising.

A family praying that an emergency doesn't become a financial disaster.

These are not abstract policy issues. These are real lives.

And the truth is that our people are not asking for miracles. They are asking for a system that works.

What We Need Now: Courage, Not Blame

This is not the time to point fingers. This is not the time to shame past governments.

This is not the time to pretend the problem began yesterday.

This is the time to act.

We need:

- A modernized NHIP financing model
 - A stronger primary care system
 - A clear policy on migrant healthcare
 - A rational approach to overseas treatment
 - A sustainable drug procurement system
 - A renegotiation strategy for long term contractual obligations
 - A health information system that supports evidence based decisions
 - A national prevention strategy that reduces chronic disease
- None of these require political warfare. All of them require political courage.

The truth is that the Turks and Caicos Islands of 2026 is not the Turks and Caicos Islands of 2010. Our population is larger. Our disease burden is heavier. Our economy is more complex. Our expectations are higher.

We cannot keep using yesterday's tools to solve today's problems.

A Moment for Leadership

The good news is that we are not starting from zero.

We have hospitals.

We have trained professionals.

We have a population that wants solutions.

We have a government that has acknowledged the challenges.

We have a public that is ready for an honest conversation.

What we need now is leadership — not in the sense of personalities, but in the sense of direction.

Leadership that says:

- “We will finish the pillars we started.”
- “We will modernize the system.”
- “We will protect the vulnerable.”
- “We will build a health system worthy of our people.”

This is not a partisan project.

This is a national project.

The Path Forward

If we want a healthier country, we must build a healthier system.

If we want a healthier system, we must confront the truths we have avoided.

If we want to confront those truths, we must do so together.

The time for delay has passed.

The time for courage has arrived.

The Turks and Caicos Islands deserves a health system built for the future — not patched together from the past.

And if we choose to act now, with clarity and unity, we can build it.

Not for politics.

Not for headlines.

But for the people who depend on it every single day.



Journalism of Accuracy, Balance & Courage

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Vivian Tyson – Editorial Department

Who Will Answer the Call?

The officers who came here didn't create the vacancies. They filled them.

An Op-Ed By Audley A. Astwood

Every country needs police officers. That isn't a political statement. It's a practical one. A police force cannot protect a nation with empty uniforms and vacant posts. If there are not enough qualified citizens willing to answer the call, those positions do not simply disappear. They must be filled. That's exactly why the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force has recruited officers from across the Caribbean and beyond.

Some people speak about foreign officers as though their very presence is the problem. I see it differently. I see men and women who left their own homes, families and countries to help keep ours safe. They put on the same uniform. They answer the same emergency calls. They run toward the same danger. They investigate the same murders. For that alone, they deserve our gratitude.

Without them, where would our police force be today? More importantly, where would we be? The conversation should not begin and end with where

an officer was born. It should begin with whether that officer is doing the job with integrity, professionalism and courage.

By most measures, the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force is in a far stronger position today than it has been in years. Serious crime has declined. Murders have fallen. More people say they feel safe walking through their communities. That does not happen by accident.

It happens because police officers, local and foreign alike, have gone to work every single day determined to make a difference. That deserves recognition. Not resentment. None of this means the force is perfect. It isn't.

The controversy surrounding promotions has prompted public debate. That's healthy in any democracy. Questions about promotions should be answered openly. That's how confidence in public institutions is maintained. Yes, but shouldn't criticism also be grounded in evidence? Unfortunately, accusations have raced ahead of the facts. Now what



remains resemble political theatre more than a genuine search for truth.

There's another uncomfortable truth we should be willing to confront. If we want more Turks and Caicos Islanders wearing the badge, then more Turks and Caicos Islanders must decide to wear it. It's easy to complain about who fills the vacancies. It's much harder to fill one.

Parents should encourage sons and daughters to consider policing as an honourable profession. Young people looking for purpose should see it as more than a job. It's public service in one of its highest forms. Every local recruit means one more citizen helping to build our own institutions from within. That's how nations grow stronger.

Some of today's loudest critics were once in government themselves. They had every platform, every ministry and every public resource available to promote policing as a career. There wasn't a sustained national effort to recruit more Turks and Caicos Islanders into the force during those years. I certainly don't remember it. Others may remember differently. By all means, they're free to say so.

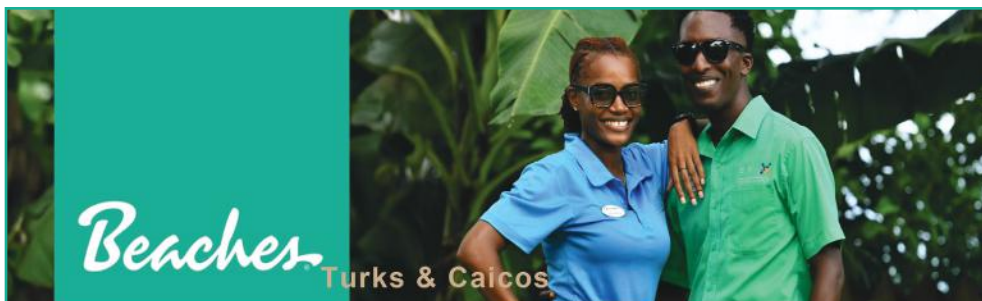
We need to be serious about changing the future. Based on that, we should spend less time assigning blame for the past. Building a police force isn't the responsibility of government alone. It belongs to all of us.

We cannot demand a force made up primarily of Turks and Caicos Islanders while discouraging our own young people from joining it. We cannot criticize overseas recruitment while leaving re-

cruitment offices empty. When we don't step forward, someone else must. That's not a failure of those who answered the call from overseas. It's a reminder that nations are built by the people willing to serve them.

The officers who came here didn't create the vacancies. They filled them. For that, they deserve our thanks. Perhaps the greatest answer to those who question why so many foreign officers serve in our police force is not another political argument. It's a young Turks and Caicos Islander deciding to put on the uniform. Because in the end, the strongest police force will never be built by the loudest voices. It will be built by the people willing to answer the call.

Audley A. Astwood is a former police officer who served as Press Officer for the Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Police Force.



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| • Loyalty & Travel Manager* | • Houseman | • Stewards |
| • L&D Assistant Manager* | • Restaurant Servers | • Bar Supervisor |
| • Sales Executive* | • Bartender | • Landscapers |
| • Room Technicians | • Bar Porter | • Photo Shop Sales Agent |
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| | • Water Sports Attendant | |

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Governor General of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas Dame Cynthia Pratt

Bahamas Governor General Her Excellency Dame Cynthia A. Pratt has urged the people of the Turks and Caicos Islands not to turn away from God as the country continues to experience unprecedented growth and prosperity. Delivering the keynote address at the National Prayer Breakfast on Friday at the Shore Club Resort in Long Bay, Providenciales, Dame Cynthia said the nation's success is a testament to God's faithfulness and warned that continued blessings depend on remaining spiritually grounded. The annual event, held under the theme of celebrating 50 years of elected government in the Turks and Caicos Islands, brought together government officials, church leaders, members of the diplomatic corps, and representatives from across the community. Drawing from her own life story, Dame Cynthia recounted how she rose from humble beginnings in the inner city of Nassau to become one of The Bahamas' most respected political leaders, serving in Parliament, as Deputy Prime Minister, Minister of National Security, and ultimately Governor General. Throughout her address, she repeatedly emphasized that her achievements were not the result of personal ability but of God's

guidance. "God will set you in positions where you feel you're not qualified," she said. "But that's not what God says. God says, 'That's my man. He's going there.' No matter what obstacles they put in your way, you're going there." Turning her attention to the Turks and Caicos Islands, Dame Cynthia said she has witnessed firsthand the country's remarkable transformation over the years. "As I look at this country, the Turks and Caicos Islands, and I've seen where you've come from to where you are right now, you'd better be thankful. You'd better give God praise," she said. She noted the extensive construction and economic activity she observed upon arriving in Providenciales. "All I could see is construction going on everywhere, all around. I said, 'What a mighty God.' To God be the glory for the leaders of this nation." While acknowledging the country's rapid development, Dame Cynthia cautioned that material success should never replace dependence on God. "It is because you remain faithful," she said. "Remain faithful, even though you're criticized." Quoting from the Book of Habakkuk, she encouraged leaders and citizens alike to "write the vision

Bahamas Governor General Urges TCI to Remain Faithful to God Amid Prosperity

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

and make it plain," reminding attendees that God's plans unfold according to His timing rather than humanity's. "The vision is for an appointed time, not your time, not my time. God sets that time," she said. In the meantime, she encouraged the country to continue honouring God in both public life and governance. "When this island is lifting up Jesus, when you have the cour-

age to respect men and women of God, you cannot help but be blessed." Dame Cynthia also congratulated the country's leaders on the milestone of 50 years of elected government and commended their service to the people. Her address centered on gratitude, servant leadership, faith, and the importance of remembering God during times of national prosperity, warning that continued success should never lead to spiritual complacency.





Turks and Caicos Hosts First Deployment of Regional Marine Observation Network

The Turks and Caicos Islands has become the first Caribbean nation to host the deployment of a new regional marine observation network, marking a significant milestone in efforts to strengthen marine monitoring and forecasting across the region.

The installation, carried out during the week of July 6, is the first in a series of deployments being undertaken by the Regional Instruments Centre of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology (CIMH). The initiative will establish a regional marine observation network across Member States of the Caribbean Meteorological Organization (CMO).

The project forms part of CIMH's Strengthening Institutional Capacity for a Resilient Caribbean Coastal and Marine Environment (RCCAME) initiative. It is supported by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB) through the Caribbean Action for Resilience Enhancement (CARE) Programme, with financing provided by the European Union through the 11th European Development Fund (EDF) Intra-ACP Disaster Risk Reduction Programme.

The investment is aimed at strengthening marine observations, enhancing forecasting capabilities and improving climate resilience throughout the Caribbean.

The regional network will consist of So-far Spotter Buoys and Smart Mooring Monitoring Equipment, providing continuous, near real-time ocean observations. The systems will measure wave and swell conditions, along with other key ocean parameters.

Data collected from the network will be made publicly available to support marine forecasting, scientific research and evidence-based decision-making across the region.

The observations will also enhance the work of CIMH's Regional Marine Forecast Support Centre (RMFSC) by validating and improving marine forecast models used to generate daily forecasts of significant wave height, ocean currents, salinity, sea surface temperature and other marine products.

These services provide critical information for disaster preparedness and response, marine transportation, fisheries, tourism, coastal management and other weather- and climate-sensitive sectors.

CIMH Principal Dr. David Farrell described the deployment as a major investment in the Caribbean's marine observation capabilities.

"The establishment of this regional marine observation network represents a major investment in the region's ability to better understand and monitor its marine environment," Dr. Farrell said.

He noted that expanding access to



Selvyn Hawkins (second right), CEO of the Turks and Caicos Airports Authority, accepts the Marine Observation device from CIMH Principal Dr. David Farrell. Sharing in the moment are Dr. Holly Hamilton (right), Director of Meteorology at the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority, and other members of the Caribbean Institute for Meteorology and Hydrology.

high-quality ocean observations will strengthen marine forecasting, improve early warning systems and provide essential data to support research, informed decision-making and climate resilience across the Caribbean.

Dr. Farrell also emphasized that the initiative reinforces regional collaboration in the development and delivery of marine information and services on which CMO Member States increasingly rely.

Director of Meteorology at the Turks and Caicos Islands Airports Authority, Dr. Holly Hamilton, welcomed the territory's selection as the first deployment site.

"We are excited that the Turks and Caicos Islands has been selected as the first deployment site for this important regional project," Dr. Hamilton said.

She explained that the addition of three buoys to the territory's marine observation network will significantly enhance the ability to monitor sea conditions and improve marine forecasting.

Dr. Hamilton also acknowledged the contributions of the Department of Environmental and Coastal Resources and the TCI Reef Fund, whose partnership was instrumental in carrying out the deployment.

Minister responsible for Airports, Hon. Arlington Musgrove, described the deployment as a proud achievement for the Turks and Caicos Islands and reaffirmed the Airports Authority's commitment to advancing hydrometeorological services.

"This deployment is a proud milestone for the Turks and Caicos Islands and reflects the Airports Authority's ongoing commitment to advancing and maturing the hydrometeorological services on which our people, visitors and economy depend," Minister Musgrove said.

He also expressed gratitude to the Caribbean Development Bank and the Caribbean Meteorological Organization for their continued partnership and support.

Senior CARE Programme Manager at the Caribbean Development Bank, Dr. Yves Robert Personna, underscored the importance of sustained investment in marine observation systems.

He said strengthening marine observations is critical for a region of small island states whose communities and economies are closely tied to the ocean.

According to Dr. Personna, collaboration among CIMH, the European Union, the Caribbean Development Bank and other regional partners is improving the data, tools and technical expertise needed to strengthen marine forecasts and warnings.

He said this will enable more timely and informed decision-making in sectors including fisheries, tourism and marine transportation, while helping to better protect Caribbean commu-

nities, livelihoods and economies from climate and disaster risks.

The marine observation network is one component of the 27-month RCCAME project, which is designed to strengthen environmental monitoring, climate services, impact-based forecasting and institutional capacity throughout the Caribbean.

In addition to expanding marine observations, the project will enhance air quality monitoring, advance climate prediction and data analytics, support climate and health research, and improve the region's ability to anticipate, prepare for and respond to environmental hazards.

FANIA MOMPremier
of Providenciales

is seeking to employ a

BABYSITTER



- Supervising and ensuring the safety of my child
- Preparing healthy meals and snacks
- Organizing educational activities and playtime
- Maintaining a clean and safe environment in the child's living and play areas.

 **SALARY:**

\$8.00

 **CONTACT:**

247-2959

— BELONGERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO APPLY —

RENEWAL

Summer is Childhood's Greatest Opportunity—Let's Not Waste It

An Op-Ed By Dr. Sani Amatti

There is something special about summer in the Turks and Caicos Islands. Our turquoise waters sparkle a little brighter. Our beaches come alive with families. Children swap classrooms for sand, sea, football fields, bicycles, and adventures.

Visitors from around the world come to experience what we are fortunate enough to call home. For children, summer is a season of freedom and for paediatricians, however, summer is also a season of preventable injuries.

After many years caring for children across these Islands, I have come to recognize a pattern. Every summer we see children treated for dehydration, severe sunburn, near-drowning incidents, bicycle injuries, infections, asthma exacerbations, and accidents that, in many cases, could have been prevented.

The encouraging news is that prevention is often simple. It begins not in the hospital but at home, with informed parents, attentive caregivers, and communities that place children's safety at the centre of everyday life.

As a nation whose economy depends upon tourism, we rightly invest tremendous effort into ensuring visitors enjoy a safe and memorable experience. We should be equally committed to creating the safest possible environment for the children who represent the future of these Islands.

Water Is Our Greatest Treasure and Our Greatest Responsibility

Living surrounded by the ocean is one of life's greatest privileges. It also demands respect. Most children in Turks and Caicos grow up around beaches, swimming pools, boats, docks, and water sports.

Familiarity with water can sometimes create a false sense of security. Drowning remains one of the leading causes of accidental death among children worldwide. What many people do not realize is that drowning is often silent. There is no dramatic splashing or shouting for help.

It happens quickly, quietly, and often within arm's reach of adults who believed someone else was watching. No mobile phone, conversation, or household chore is more important than supervising a young child near water.

Swimming lessons are invaluable and should be encouraged whenever possible, but they never replace adult supervision. Life jackets—not inflatable toys—save lives when children are boating or participating in water activities.

Every child who returns safely from a day at the beach is not simply fortunate; they are protected by attentive adults who understand that vigilance saves lives.

Summer Sun Is Beautiful but It Can Also Be Dangerous

The Caribbean sun is one of our greatest natural assets. It can also become one of our greatest health hazards. Children become overheated much faster than adults. They lose fluids rapidly and may not recognize the early signs of dehydration or heat exhaustion.

Every year I meet children whose holiday excitement has ended with headaches, vomiting, dizziness, fatigue, or collapse after spending hours outdoors without adequate water or protection from the sun.

Parents should remember that sunscreen is only one part of sun protection.

Wide-brimmed hats, lightweight clothing, sunglasses, shaded play areas, and frequent water breaks are equally important. Outdoor activities are often safest during the cooler hours of the morning and late afternoon. Water—not sugary drinks—should remain every child's drink of choice.

The Hidden Challenge: Childhood Obesity

While many children become more active during summer, others spend increasing amounts of time indoors using phones, tablets, computers, and gaming devices. This is a challenge not unique to Turks and Caicos but increasingly visible within our own communities. Childhood obesity has become one of the most important health issues of this generation. Children who develop obesity are more likely to experience hypertension, type 2 diabetes, sleep disorders, joint problems, low self-esteem, anxiety, and depression. Increasingly, we are seeing conditions once considered diseases of adulthood appearing much earlier in life. The solution is not dieting.

The solution is building healthy family lifestyles. Children should see adults exercising, preparing nutritious meals, eating together, limiting sugary beverages, and making physical activity enjoyable rather than a punishment. Our beaches, parks, sporting facilities, and neighbourhoods offer extraordinary opportunities for active living. We should use them.

Screens Should Never Replace Childhood

Technology has transformed education and communication, but it should never replace imagination, conversation, and physical activity. Some chil-

dren now spend more hours looking at screens than interacting face-to-face with family or friends. Summer offers parents a valuable opportunity to reset these habits.

Encourage children to read books, learn to swim, explore nature, help prepare meals, volunteer in community activities, visit grandparents, learn music, discover local history, or simply enjoy unstructured outdoor play. Childhood passes remarkably quickly. No child reaches adulthood wishing they had spent more hours scrolling through social media.

Mental Health Deserves Equal Attention

Not every childhood struggle is visible. Some children quietly carry anxiety, loneliness, grief, bullying, academic pressure, or family stress. In a tourism-dependent economy, many parents work long hours, evenings, weekends, and holidays.

These sacrifices help provide for families, but they may also reduce opportunities for shared family time. Children rarely remember the cost of their toys. They remember who attended their football match. Who listened when they were worried. Who read bedtime stories.

Who sat beside them during dinner. The greatest gift we can give children is not unlimited possessions but our consistent presence. Strong family relationships remain one of the most powerful forms of preventive medicine.

Preparing for School Starts Long Before the First Day

As August approaches, families naturally begin shopping for uniforms, books, backpacks, and stationery. These are important preparations. Equally important is preparing children's health. Back-to-school should include routine medical evaluations when indicated, ensuring immunizations are current, arranging vision and hearing assessments if concerns exist, reviewing asthma management plans, updating allergy medications where appropriate, and addressing any chronic medical conditions before classes begin.

Parents should also gradually restore school-year bedtimes at least two weeks before school resumes. Sleep is not a luxury. It is essential for learning, emotional regulation, memory, behaviour, growth, and immune function. Children who arrive at school well rested are far better equipped to learn.

Raising Healthy Children Is Everyone's Responsibility

Parents cannot do this alone. Teachers cannot do it alone. Doctors cannot do it alone. Government cannot do



Dr. Sani Amatti

it alone. Healthy childhood requires partnership. Schools promote education. Healthcare professionals promote wellness. Communities create safe environments. Parents provide guidance.

Together these influences shape the adults our children will become. Every child protected from drowning, every teenager who chooses exercise over drugs, every family that eats one more healthy meal together, every child whose vision problem is detected before school begins, and every young person who feels heard rather than ignored represents an investment in the future of our country.

Looking Beyond Summer

The children playing on our beaches today will become tomorrow's teachers, nurses, police officers, entrepreneurs, hospitality professionals, scientists, elected leaders, and parents. Our greatest national resource is not found beneath the sea or within our tourism industry. It is found in the health, character, resilience, and potential of our children.

If we genuinely aspire to build a healthier, stronger, and more prosperous Turks and Caicos Islands, then protecting childhood must become one of our highest national priorities. This summer, let us do more than keep our children entertained.

Let us keep them safe. Let us keep them healthy. Let us prepare them not only for another school year, but for a lifetime of opportunity. Because every healthy child represents hope—hope for one family, for one community, and ultimately for our nation.

Dr. Sani Amatti is the Deputy Chief of Medical Services and Head of Paediatrics at Interhealth Canada - Turks and Caicos Islands Hospital.

I'VE ONLY BEEN ON THIS DIET FOR 24 HOURS, AND IT'S ALREADY SO DIFFICULT!

DON'T WORRY! IT WILL BE EASIER TOMORROW!

HOW'S THAT?

BY THEN, YOU'LL BE OFF IT!

THE GRID IS STRAINING UNDER NEW ENERGY DEMANDS.

ELECTRIC VEHICLES COULD BE PART OF THE SOLUTION...

...ACTING AS GIANT BATTERIES TO SMOOTH OUT DEMAND.

HOW DID A THOUSAND EVS DRIVE THEMSELVES TO BLOCK THE NEW DATA CENTER? AND WHERE IS MY CAR?

HELGA, I BOUGHT A MAGIC MIRROR FOR YOU AT THE THRIFT STORE!

THANK YOU!

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL...WHO'S THE FAIREST OF THEM ALL?

YOU ARE!

I'LL BE DARNED IF I GO BACK TO THAT STINKING, MUSTY JUNK STORE!

A REAL LIVE THING! THERE AREN'T SUPPOSED TO BE ANY LEFT!!

THUNG!

THE SEA HAG GIVED IT TO US!!

THUNG!

IT'S THE MOST DEADLY, EVIL SCOURGE THAT EVER DEVASTATED THE EARTH!

THUNG?

PHOOEY! I BET I HAS RATS ON ME SHIP WHAT COULD LICK A SILLY BUSH LIKE HIM!

ARF! ARF!

GET YOURSELF IN THERE NOW AND ASK ABOUT A JOB

LEN'S LUMBER NOW Recruiting Apply Within

SORRY, PET. LEN SAYS THERE ARE NO VACANCIES FOR YOU

HOT FUN IN THE SUMMERTIME!!

HE BELTS OUT ALL THE HOT HITS!!

AMAZING!

SUMMERTIME... AND THE LIVING IS EASY!!

FROM GERSHWIN TO GAGA!

I'M FEELING HOT HOT HOT!

HE WOULD BE PERFECT DURING THE DOG DAYS OF SUMMER!

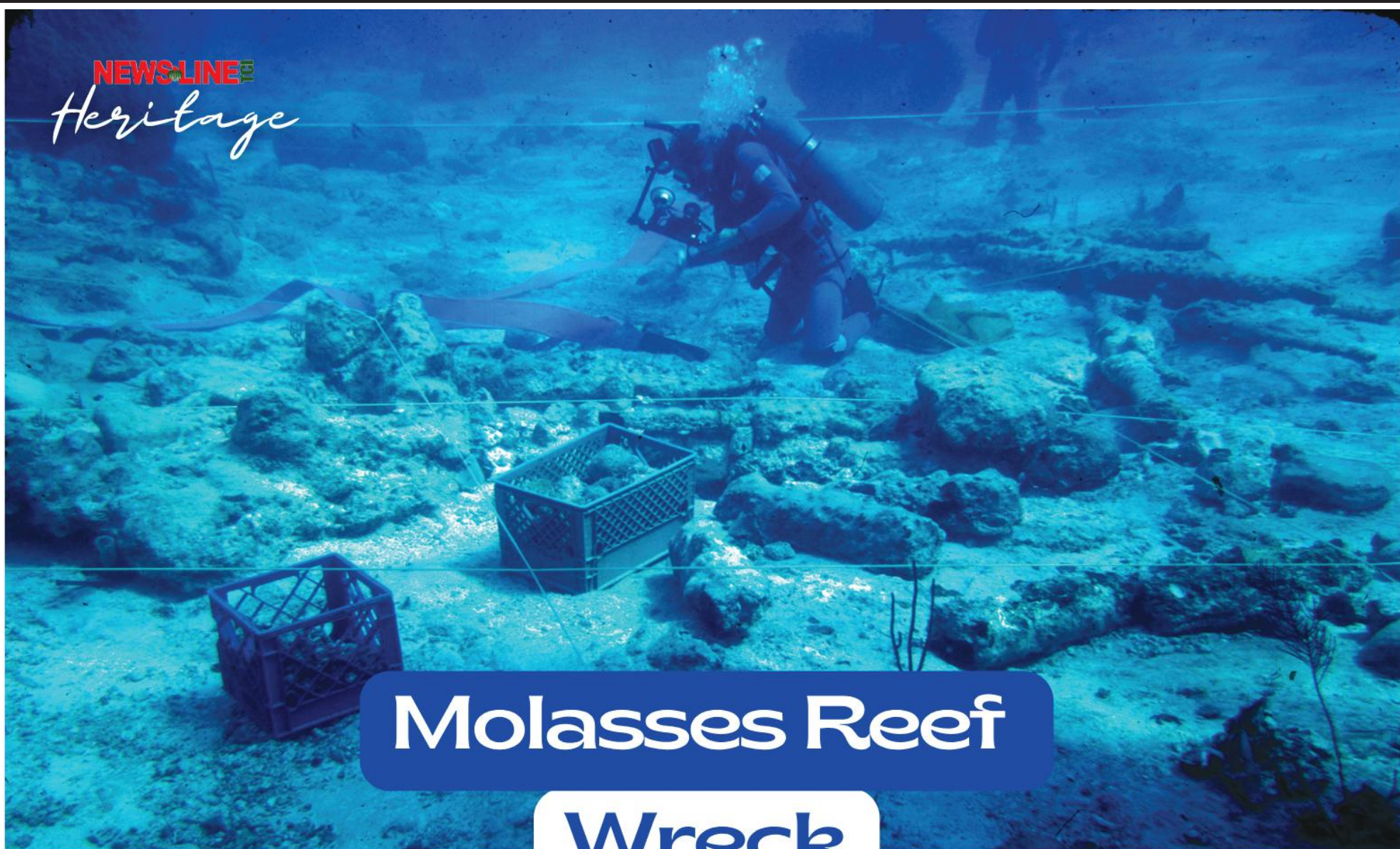
NEWSLINE^{TCI} COMICS

EXCUSE THE MESS. My children are ~~making memories~~ **FERAL**

"If you want to play the bad cop, at least get rid of the halo."

Does this train stop at MoMA?

"MARGARET THINKS SHE KNOWS WHAT SHE'S TALKIN' ABOUT, BUT SHE'S THE ONLY ONE WHO REALLY EVER DOES."



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.
 Keith, D.H. & Simmons, J.J. (1985) *Analysis of Hull Remains, Ballast, and Artifact Distribution of a 16th-Century Shipwreck, Molasses Reef, British West Indies*. *Journal of Field Archaeology*, 12(4), pp.411–424.
 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.



United Way Teachers and Volunteers presented at the start of the Summer Enrichment Camp



Mark Fulford (at the lectern) along with Chief Executive Officer Claudine Ewing (at right), Executive Member Rex Messam (left), and Davidson Louis – volunteer.

155 Children Enrolled in United Way Summer Enrichment Camp

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

At the launched of the United Way Turks and Caicos Islands Summer Enrichment Camp on Monday, July 13, 155 children were registered, with the organisers bracing for additional children.

The camp will run until July 24, offering a mix of academic support and fun-filled activities aimed at building confidence and a love for learning, and Chief Executive Officer Claudine Ewing said registration has already surpassed the organisation’s target of 150 students.

“This is an all-inclusive camp,” Ewing said. “Normally our programmes cater to children with remedial difficulties in government schools, but this camp is open to children from both public and private schools. They don’t have to have a reading disability. We just want to make sure they come together, have fun and develop a love of reading.”

The two-week programme combines daily Maths and English sessions with themed activities including Science Day, Art Day, Sports Day and Communications Day. Community professionals with expertise in each field have been invited to lead activities and engage the children.

Despite the wider range of activities, Ewing said improving literacy



A section of the room with the children

remains at the heart of the programme.

Students completed reading assessments on the opening day, allowing organisers to identify those who need additional support. Children who are behind their expected reading level will receive targeted instruction from a remedial teacher throughout the camp.

“Our goal is that those students leave here at least moving one reading level up,” Ewing said. “Some children still don’t know their alphabet, while others lack confidence in reading or communicating. We want them to leave with stronger skills and greater confidence.”

The camp has grown steadily since its launch three years ago. Organisers initially planned to accommodate 50 children in the first year but ended the programme with around 100 participants. Last year, the target increased to 120, but attendance reached 130. This year’s goal of 150 has already been exceeded.

Ewing also highlighted growing support from the community, saying the organisation’s impact has attracted more volunteers and corporate sponsors.

Around 40 volunteers have signed up to assist during the two weeks, including former campers, students from the Turks and Caicos

Islands Community College completing volunteer hours, and visitors from overseas spending part of their summer in the islands.

She added that all of last year’s sponsors returned to support the initiative, with approximately 10 additional sponsors joining this year’s programme.

By the end of the camp, organisers hope participants will not only improve academically but also become more confident and engaged learners.

One of the programme’s highlights will be Authors Day on Friday, when local authors will visit the camp to inspire children and encourage a lifelong interest in reading.

Life Line



FEATURED CHURCH

Church of Christ,
Blue Hills



This week on Newsline Featured Church, we highlight the Church of Christ, located in Blue Hills, Providenciales. The Church of Christ offers several opportunities for weekly worship. On Sunday at 9a.m. is Devine Worship. At 6:30p.m. is evening service. On Wednesday starting at 6:30pm is Bible Study and prayer meeting. The church is founded on Romans 16:16 – “Greet one another with a holy kiss. The churches of Christ greet you.” Its bedrock is also built on 2Corinthians 9:1-15. The Church of Christ is pastored by Jack Phanor and Patrick Forbes.

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.tl 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 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
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‘Beauty for Ashes’ TCI’s 4th Women’s Empowerment Conference Leaves Lasting Spiritual Impact

Beauty for Ashes Women TCI successfully concluded its 4th Annual Women’s Empowerment Conference under the powerful theme “Praising Through the Pressure,” held June 4–7, 2026, in Providenciales and June 8–9, 2026, in Grand Turk. According to Pastor Dr. Barbara Jervis Founder & President of Beauty for Ashes Women TCI, the life-changing conference brought together women, men, and families from across the Turks and Caicos Islands and beyond for several unforgettable days of worship, empowerment, healing, and spiritual renewal. She noted that throughout the event, the presence of God was evident as lives were transformed, burdens were lifted, and many experienced healing, deliverance, and restoration. Jervis added that the conference featured anointed ministry from Pastor Latoya Brewington and Prophetess Shirley Stubbs, whose powerful messages challenged, encouraged, and inspired attendees to remain steadfast in faith while praising God through every season of life. She noted that one of the conference highlights was the recognition of several faithful individuals who have dedicated years of service to the ministry of Praise and Worship. These men and women were honored for their unwavering commitment and invaluable contributions to advancing the Kingdom of God through music and worship. She said the highly anticipated “Pure Praise, Pure Worship” nights, were nothing short of extraordinary. Held as elegant All-White Affairs on both Providenciales and Grand Turk, Jervis pointed out that worshippers gathered in unity to lift up the name of Jesus through heartfelt praise. Ministering in song were internationally renowned gospel artist Maranda



Curtis, along with Oslin Jadorte and Cara T. Newton, Min. Jay Morley and AS 1, whose anointed worship ushered the congregation into the very presence of God. She further pointed out that another historic milestone for Beauty for Ashes Women TCI was its first-ever “Walk in Her Shoes” Conference, held on June 6 at Brayton Hall. She said the venue was filled with women from every walk of life who came seeking encouragement, healing, and purpose. Through authentic testimonies and transparent conversations, women courageously shared their journeys of pain, perseverance, and victory. She said tears flowed freely as hearts were healed, lives were touched, and lasting connections were formed. Even now, testimonies continue to pour in of lives being changed, chains being broken, and women finding renewed hope and freedom in Christ. The conference concluded with a Night of Hymns, where timeless

songs of the faith filled the sanctuary. As voices united in worship, the tangible presence and glory of God filled the church, creating a sacred atmosphere that many described as unforgettable. In the meantime, the organisers of the Beauty for Ashes Women TCI is extending heartfelt gratitude to every speaker, worship leader, artist, volunteer, sponsor, partner, attendee, and supporter who they said helped to make the conference an overwhelming success. “Your prayers, generosity, and faithful service have made an eternal impact,” she said. She added: “As the ministry reflects on what God has done, it looks ahead with great expectation, believing that this year’s conference was only the beginning of even greater things to come. “Though we may face pressure, we will continue to praise, because our praise produces victory. Turning ashes into beauty, one life at a time.”





50th Anniversary of Ministerial Government (1976–2026) Series; Road to 1976 Series

GOVERNMENT HOUSE, KNOWN AS WATERLOO: WHERE PROTEST MET POWER

PART SEVEN

By the middle of the 1970s, the political awakening that had been quietly growing throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands had found its voice.

Ordinary people were no longer discussing the country's future only in homes, churches, waterfronts, and community gatherings. The awakening had become visible. People who had once remained observers were becoming participants. The demand for representation was becoming organised.

The desire for change was becoming increasingly difficult to ignore. Soon, events at Waterloo would demonstrate that the political awakening of the 1970s had moved beyond conversation. The people themselves had entered the story.

What Was Waterloo?

More than fifty years later, Waterloo remains one of the most powerful symbols of public protest in the modern history of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Yet Waterloo was never simply about one incident. It became a symbol of something larger. It represented a people determined to be heard. It represented ordinary citizens refusing to remain silent. And it demonstrated that public opinion itself could become a force.

For many who lived through the period, Waterloo marked the moment when protest met authority and public conviction confronted power.

Why People Gathered

By the mid-1970s, many Islanders believed that ordinary people deserved fair treatment, dignity, and greater respect.

Concerns surrounding the treatment of young people and questions of justice were being discussed throughout the country. Families shared stories. Communities exchanged information. People increasingly felt that their concerns deserved answers. Not everyone agreed on every issue. But many shared one belief. The people deserved to be heard.

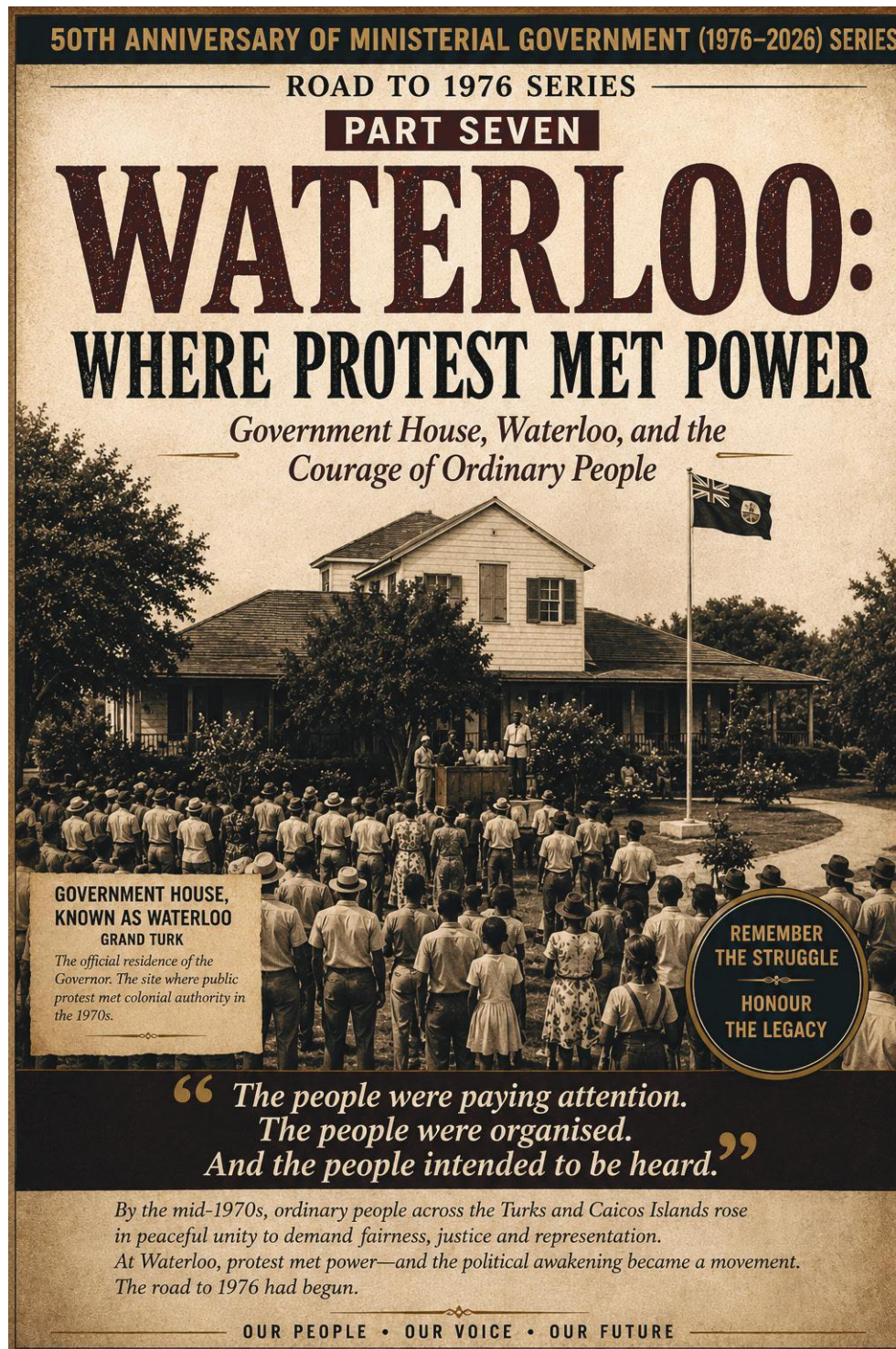
While Waterloo would become one of the defining moments of the political awakening, it is important to remember that the gathering did not occur in isolation. It was prompted by specific concerns and events that resonated deeply within the community. As additional documentary evidence, newspaper reports, government records, and eyewitness accounts continue to emerge, historians will be able to present an even fuller account of the immediate circumstances that led ordinary people to gather at Waterloo. What is beyond dispute, however, is that the protest reflected broader concerns about justice and representation, as well as a desire for a greater voice in the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

For JAGS McCartney, Lewis "Louie" Edwin Astwood, Earl "Super C" Ingham, Valeria Kennedy-Houseman, Arthur Russell, Donald Smith, Raphael Graveley, Harold Robinson, William Robinson, Rupert Robinson, and many others associated with the wider awakening, the struggle had grown larger than any single event.

For many ordinary Islanders, Waterloo became an opportunity to stand together.

Life at Waterloo

Those who remember Waterloo often



describe it not simply as a protest, but as a community. People gathered on the grounds and remained there. Some brought food. Others brought encouragement. Families visited throughout the day.

Meals were prepared and shared. People cooked on the grounds. Conversations continued into the evening. Many stayed overnight. Others returned the following day. Support came from different parts of the community. Some people offered transportation.

Some brought supplies. Others came to show solidarity. The gathering reflected something deeply rooted within Turks and Caicos society. People looked after one another. Even during disagreement, there remained a strong sense of community.

The Atmosphere

Those who witnessed Waterloo often recall an atmosphere that combined determination with hope. People talked. People debated. People waited. But above all, people

remained. There was frustration. There was uncertainty. But there was also courage. Participants understood that public visibility carried risks. Yet they chose to remain present.

For many people, Waterloo became proof that ordinary citizens could stand together peacefully and openly express their concerns.

Where Protest Met Power

As the gathering continued, something remarkable occurred. Public opinion confronted authority. Ordinary citizens made themselves visible. People who had long felt unheard demonstrated that they were prepared to remain present until their concerns received attention. Workers came. Fishermen came. Business owners came. Mothers came. Fathers came. Young people came.

Community leaders came. Some arrived because they believed injustice had occurred. Others came because they believed the

country needed change. Their presence carried a message. The people were paying attention. The people were organised. And the people intended to be heard. Authority encountered organised public opinion. Power encountered public courage. Protest met power. And power was forced to listen.

Why Waterloo Mattered

Waterloo did not create the political awakening. The awakening already existed. But Waterloo gave that awakening visibility. It demonstrated that the desire for change extended far beyond a handful of activists. Ordinary people themselves had become part of the movement.

The gathering showed that public support could no longer be ignored. It strengthened confidence. It strengthened unity. And it strengthened the belief that change was possible. For many participants, Waterloo became proof that ordinary people possessed both a voice and the courage to use it.

Strengthening the Movement

After Waterloo, the atmosphere throughout the country changed. People increasingly realised that they were not alone in their hopes and frustrations. Confidence grew. Political awareness expanded. More citizens became engaged in public affairs. The movement had already found its voice. Waterloo demonstrated that the voice was being joined by a people increasingly prepared to shape their own future.

The Road to 1976

The question facing the country now became even greater. Could public support become political power? Could growing confidence be transformed into constitutional change? Could the hopes of ordinary people be expressed through the ballot box? Those questions would soon be answered.

In September 1976, the Turks and Caicos Islands entered a new chapter in their history. And the movement that had begun with conversations, strengthened through public action, and sustained by ordinary people would ultimately help produce the first Ministerial Government under the 1976 Constitution. The road to 1976 had entered its decisive stage.

About The Author

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

She is the daughter of the late Hon. Lewis Edwin Astwood, who served in the first Ministerial Government established under the 1976 Constitution, and the late Mildred Garland Astwood, both of whom were closely connected to the political and community movements of the 1970s. Through decades of archival preservation, oral history documentation, and historical research, she has worked to preserve the memory and identity of the Turks and Caicos Islands for future generations.



A section of the audience at the Beaches Turks and Caicos 2026 summer internship programme at the Caribbean Village conference room



A group of interns at the 2026 Beaches Turks and Caicos summer cohort had a talk with Orville Morgan, Public Relations Manager during the orientation session at the Caribbean conference room

Beaches Welcomes Record 111 Summer Interns

Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort has launched its 2026 Summer Internship Programme with a record-breaking cohort of 111 high school and tertiary-level students, marking the largest intake in recent years. The six-week programme, which runs from July 6 to August 14, 2026, is designed to give young Turks and Caicos Islanders hands-on exposure to the hospitality industry across a wide range of departments. Human Resources Recruitment Specialist Fitzroy Virgo highlighted the programme's growing significance, "this is the largest cohort we have had in recent times. We currently have 111 participants with a waiting list of almost another 100. We are happy that we have been able to attract some of the brightest and best young minds in the Turks and Caicos Islands as we have interns from Providenciales, North and South Caicos Islands."

Virgo also noted that the programme goes beyond technical training, incorporating soft skills workshops in financial literacy, customer service, résumé writing and brand and image management.

General Manager Deryk Meany praised the human resources and training teams for the programme's sustained growth. "The success of this programme has allowed us to grow each year as we continue to build a conducive learning environment for aspiring professionals in the hospitality industry throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands," Meany said.

He noted that many of this year's interns were first introduced to Beaches through educational tours facilitated by the Sandals Foundation. "We are excited to provide training in the various areas but more importantly to train them in the soft skills areas that will allow them to be more marketable after they experience this internship programme."

Among the interns is Maranatha Academy fifth form student Vernae Handfield, who



Beaches Turks and Caicos Hotel Manager Ghislain Boutoulle was on hand to welcome the over 100 interns at the orientation session recently

has set her sights on the culinary arts. "My dream is to explore the culinary world and to be a Michelin chef in the future — hence my reason for wanting to start my experience here at the largest resort in the Turks and Caicos Islands," Handfield shared. "I'm looking forward to learning from all these experts who have many years of experience in the different cuisines."

For others, the programme offers a bridge between classroom theory and real-world application. Keiser University accounting

major Sean Astwood II said the opportunity is perfectly aligned with his academic goals. "I want to be able to put into practice my theoretical knowledge into the field of accounting and eventually auditing. Getting the opportunity here at Beaches Turks and Caicos Resort is the perfect environment for me to start to build my skills. I'm grateful for this experience to be immersed into this dynamic working environment."

The programme has also fostered a culture

of return, with several interns participating for multiple consecutive years — a testament to the quality and lasting impact of the experience. As Beaches Turks and Caicos continues to expand its community engagement through hospitality education, the 2026 cohort stands as a powerful reflection of the resort's commitment to developing local talent and strengthening the Turks and Caicos Islands' hospitality workforce for years to come.

-CONTRIBUTED

Flow TCI Empowers Top Graduates with 16 Laptops

On the heels of a spectacular graduation season, Flow Turks and Caicos has once again solidified its position as a champion of youth development and education, reinforcing its longstanding commitment to investing in the next generation of leaders.

In a powerful demonstration of that commitment, the leading telecommunications provider recently donated sixteen laptops to stand-out graduates at primary and secondary schools across the Turks and Caicos Islands.

The initiative, which was rolled out during this month's graduation ceremonies, saw Flow actively stepping up to reward the nation's top performers – including valedictorians and other exceptional academic achievers – with the digital tools essential for the next stage of their educational journey.

The laptops will help support students as they transition into higher levels of learning, providing them with the technology needed to continue excelling both inside and outside the classroom.

"This initiative addresses a critical need for bridging the digital divide as students transition into higher education and future career paths. By equipping these top achievers with cutting-edge technology, we are tangibly removing potential barriers to advancement and ensuring they remain fiercely competitive in an increasingly digital world," said Joanne Missick, Country Manager of Flow Turks and Caicos Islands.

"These laptops represent a direct investment in the future of the Turks and Caicos Islands. Witnessing the pride and determination of these outstanding graduates has been incredibly inspiring, and we are proud to provide the technological backbone that will fuel their lifelong journey toward excellence."

The initiative forms part of Flow's broader commitment to empowering young people through education, innovation and digital inclusion. By supporting academic excellence and providing students with the resources they need to succeed, Flow continues to play an active role in helping build stronger, more connected communities across the Turks and Caicos Islands.



CIBC Celebrates Employee Appreciation Week - Honouring Their Greatest Assets.

Providenciales, Turks and Caicos, 15 July 2026 – CIBC Caribbean recently celebrated Employee Appreciation Week with a series of activities dedicated to recognizing the people who drive the Bank's success every day. The initiative reinforced the Bank's commitment to creating a positive and supportive work environment.

The week commenced on Monday with an Employee appreciation breakfast, where staff gathered for a light meal and a message of appreciation from the Chief Executive Officer. Throughout this message, the team's team members' resilience and professionalism throughout the year were highlighted. Department managers also took the opportunity to recognize employees who consistently demonstrate excellence through the Bank's First Stars Portal. Employees were also brought together during themed activities including wearing pink to promote team spirit on Tuesday and red to represent each department on Thursday. Friday's Employee Appreciation Lunch was used as another opportunity to celebrate the dedication and commitment of the amazing team. Throughout the week department photos and appreciation tokens were captured and shared. The week's celebration concluded with a staff social mixer at Stingrays on Saturday, closing out in a relaxed atmosphere for further employee engagement.

Among the week's activities, Wednesday Wellness served as a meaningful reminder of the importance of prioritizing employee well-being. In collaboration with The Ministry of Health, employees were given access to health screenings and wellness information to encourage healthier lifestyles. It was an important reminder to prioritize particularly in a fast-paced industry where resilience, focus and customer service are vital for their personal and professional lives.

Speaking on the significance of the initiative, Senior Director Country Management Office at CIBC Caribbean Ladesa James-Williams said "This Employee Appreciation week we were very happy to celebrate the real superheroes, our employees, whose dedication, passion and commitment are our greatest superpower".

Reflecting on the week's activities, Carolaen Padua Rodriguez Support Officer at CIBC Caribbean said "Employee Appreciation Week is a wonderful reminder that what we do each day is recognized and appreciated. Wednesday Wellness was



especially meaningful because it encouraged employees to pause and reflect on our health choices not only for our customers but ourselves."

Tamyra Missick Corporate Manager at CIBC Caribbean noted that CIBC Caribbean's ongoing commitment to fostering a work environment where employees feel valued and supported and empowered are top priorities. Missick states that "This time can be especially demanding as we work toward our financial year end goals. Our employees work incredibly hard and it's important that they know their dedication and contributions are seen and valued. We want to encourage everyone to stay motivated and finish the quarter with confidence."

Employee Appreciation Weeks reflects CIBC Caribbean belief that its people are its greatest strength. By investing in employee recognition and well-being, the Bank continues to cultivate a work culture that supports, empowers and inspires

employees to deliver exceptional service to customers and the wider community.

Ends

CIBC Caribbean

CIBC Caribbean is a relationship bank offering a full range of market

leading financial services through our Corporate Banking, Personal and Business Banking and Private Wealth segments. We are located in ten (10) countries around the Caribbean, providing banking services through approximately 2,700 employees in 41 branches and offices. We are one of the largest regionally listed financial services institutions in the English-speaking Caribbean, with US\$13 billion in assets and market capitalization of US\$1.7 billion. We also have a representative office in Hong Kong that provides business development and relationship management for our fund administration. The face of banking is changing throughout the world, and CIBC Caribbean intends to lead these changes with the expertise, integrity and knowledge gained from banking in the Caribbean since 1836.

Ongoing news releases and more information about CIBC Caribbean can be found at <https://www.cibccaribbean.com/about-us/media-centre>. CIBC is a leading North American financial institution with 14 million personal banking, business, public sector and institutional clients. Across Personal and Business Banking, Commercial Banking and Wealth Management, and Capital Markets, CIBC offers a full range of advice, solutions and services through its leading digital banking network, and locations across Canada, in the United States and around the world. Ongoing news releases and more information about CIBC can be found at www.cibc.com/ca/media-centre.

For more information about CIBC Caribbean, visit www.cibccaribbean.com, Facebook, X, LinkedIn, Instagram or YouTube.

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Brain-Body Connection Key to Reducing Cognitive Decline Alzheimer’s Disease Risk

The same lifestyle choices that reduce your risk of heart disease, diabetes and cancer also can reduce your risk of cognitive decline. Bryan Woodruff, M.D., a cognitive neurologist at Mayo Clinic in Arizona, explains the brain-body connection, lifestyle changes to foster brain health and why work to make earlier detection of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias is important.

“What’s good for your overall health is good for your brain too,” Dr. Woodruff says. You may have heard that Alzheimer’s disease is caused, in part, by the buildup of beta-amyloid plaques and twisted tau proteins in the brain. While true, other brain changes also are likely involved, Dr. Woodruff says.

“When scientists look at the brains of people with Alzheimer’s disease after they’ve died, they find more than just plaques and tangles,” he adds. They often find a buildup of fats, cholesterol and other substances in the vessels that supply blood to the brain. They also discover evidence of microscopic strokes — also called microinfarctions.

Unlike major strokes with noticeable symptoms such as facial drooping, physical numbness, a severe headache and trouble speaking, microscopic strokes are silent. As more occur, they can starve brain tissue of oxygen and nutrition. If enough microvascular changes occur, there may be symptoms like slowed thinking and trouble concentrating.

“Your brain, as with every other organ in your body, depends on your cardiovascular system,” Dr. Woodruff says: This is why it’s so important to care for your heart and blood vessels.

Lifestyle choices help reduce risk

Thanks to this connection, what benefits your heart also protects your brain. To get these benefits:

Manage heart disease risk factors: Treat elevated blood sugar, high blood pressure and undesirable cholesterol levels. Don’t use tobacco products. Keep your weight in the healthy range. “The earlier you address these, the better the benefit is for your brain,” Dr. Woodruff says.

Follow a heart-healthy diet: The Mediterranean diet’s emphasis on minimally processed whole foods and fruits and vegetables may improve brain health by helping to keep body fat and chronic inflammation in check. The Mayo Clinic Diet takes a similar approach to establishing a healthy-eating lifestyle.

Get enough sleep: Research has linked insomnia to cognitive decline. And poor sleep can also increase your risk of other diseases that can impact cognition, such as high blood pressure and diabetes.

Maintain social connections: Social connections are thought to benefit the brain in many ways. Research suggests that social engagement triggers the release of chemicals such as serotonin and dopamine, which improve mood and outlook. Social connections may help to spur the growth of new

connections between nerve cells.

Treat hearing and vision loss: If you can’t see and hear what’s going on around you, you’ll find it more difficult to communicate and remain social. “Those sensory functions are integral to how we think and interact with the world,” Dr. Woodruff says. “If you don’t see or hear it, then you can’t encode and remember it.”

Avoid chronic use of sedating medications: Some medicines used to treat pain, insomnia and other conditions can dull thinking, slow reaction time and make you feel sleepy. If you’re not sure of the side effects of the medications you take regularly, talk with your healthcare professional, who can look at what is on your medication list and suggest alternatives, Dr. Woodruff advises.

Exercise: Physical and mental exercise can benefit brain health. A large study found rates of cognitive decline were twice as common in sedentary people.

Keeping your mind active through activities you find enjoyable, particularly trying new things, can also exercise your brain. When you have difficulty learning something new, your brain builds new connections between nerve cells. If you continually learn new skills and information over time, experts believe that these networks of nerve cell connections create a cognitive reserve, sort of like savings in a bank account.

“Cognitive reserve doesn’t mean you’re immune,” Dr. Woodruff says. “But it buys you some cushion against a neurodegenerative problem.”



The importance of early detection

Dr. Woodruff is among Mayo Clinic researchers working to make earlier diagnosis of dementia and its precursor mild cognitive impairment possible, to allow for earlier treatment. This will be essential if therapeutic advances eventually make it possible to slow or even halt progression, he says. It is never too late to make lifestyle changes to protect and improve brain health, he adds: “I tell all my patients, regardless of the severity of their cognitive decline, to take care of their overall health.”

New AI Tool Predicts Brain Tumor Recurrence Risk Without Costly Genetic Testing

- Trained on data from 672 patients, the tool uses routine pathology images to provide insights that currently often require advanced genetic testing, supporting treatment decisions and patient follow-up.

Mayo Clinic researchers and collaborators have shown that an artificial intelligence (AI) tool can analyze routine pathology slides to help clinicians classify meningiomas, the most common primary brain tumor in adults, and better understand a patient’s risk of tumor recurrence. The study, published in The Lancet Digital Health, demonstrates that deep learning models can support the extraction of molecular and prognostic information from standard hematoxylin and eosin, or H&E, slides — the same type of tissue images already used in routine clinical care. These insights are typically obtained through DNA methylation profiling, an advanced genetic test which provides valuable diagnostic and prognostic information but can be costly, time-consuming and is unavailable in many hospitals.

“This is one of the many studies where we can harness the strength of digital pathology by capturing the last two decades of genomic and molecular knowledge into AI algorithms,” says Gelareh Zadeh, M.D.,

Ph.D., chair of the Department of Neurologic Surgery at Mayo Clinic in Rochester and the David C. and Flora C. Pratt Distinguished Chief Medical Officer for Mayo Clinic Platform.

Making advanced tumor insights more accessible

Meningiomas can vary widely in behavior. Some grow slowly and may never return after treatment, while others are more aggressive and more likely to recur. Understanding that risk is critical for patients and care teams deciding whether additional treatment, such as radiation therapy, may be needed after surgery. Molecular testing can help identify which tumors are more likely to recur and which may respond differently to treatment. But these tests require specialized technology and expertise, limiting access for many patients.

Using tissue samples, pathology images and clinical data from 672 patients, researchers developed and tested AI models designed to help identify patterns linked to a tumor’s biology. Drawing on multiple de-identified datasets, including data resources from Mayo Clinic Platform, the models supported classification of meningioma subtypes and recurrence risk prediction using standard pathology



slides that are already part of routine patient care.

The findings suggest that, with further validation, AI-based tools could one day help clinicians obtain more detailed tumor information to inform patient care, without requiring every patient to undergo advanced genetic testing.

Helping guide treatment decisions

For patients with meningiomas, recur-

rence risk can influence follow-up care, imaging frequency and whether radiation therapy should be considered. The study found that AI-based predictions remained useful even after accounting for traditional clinical factors such as tumor grade, the extent to which surgery was able to remove the tumor and patient age.

Researchers also found that the AI models could identify patterns of tumor heterogeneity — differences within the same tumor — that may help explain why some tumors behave more aggressively or respond differently to treatment.

The researchers note that additional prospective studies are needed before the AI models can be used routinely in clinical care. Still, they say the findings lay the groundwork for more accessible, personalized care for patients with meningiomas — and potentially for similar AI approaches in other cancers.

As with any clinical decision-support tool, the researchers emphasize that these models would require rigorous evaluation, validation and ongoing physician oversight before being considered for routine care. “The aim is to make these algorithms readily and simply accessible for use globally, improving patient care across many healthcare settings,” says Dr. Zadeh.

TCI Fashion Week: More Than Fashion— A Movement Defining a Nation

By Dr. Alicia Swann

There are moments in the history of a nation when an idea evolves beyond its original purpose and becomes a catalyst for transformation. Turks and Caicos Islands Fashion Week: The New Tropic is one such movement.

Fashion is often viewed through the lens of glamour, luxury, and design. While these elements undoubtedly define the industry, fashion at its highest level is also a powerful expression of identity, culture, tourism, heritage, entrepreneurship, and economic development. It tells the story of who we are, where we have come from, and where we aspire to go.

This year's Fashion Week challenged traditional perceptions by demonstrating that the Turks and Caicos Islands possesses far more than breathtaking beaches and world-renowned hospitality. It showcased a nation rich in creativity, innovation, and untapped talent.

Throughout the week, local and international designers, models, photographers, videographers, makeup artists, stylists, entrepreneurs, and industry professionals came together with one shared purpose—to elevate the creative industries of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

Perhaps one of the most meaningful moments came during the Fashion Industry Panel Discussion, where leaders from various creative disciplines shared their experiences and encouraged collaboration, innovation, and investment in the next generation. Their message was clear: the creative economy is no longer optional—it is an essential pillar of national development.

Equally inspiring was the emphasis placed on our youth. Their talent, passion, and imagination remind us that the future of fashion in the Turks and Caicos Islands is already here. What they need now is opportunity. They need mentorship, investment, internships, education, and platforms that allow them to thrive.

The Edward Gartland Youth Centre's Design Department stands as a shining example of what is possible when young people are given the resources to explore their creativity. Their work reflects not only technical skill but also vision, discipline, and a genuine passion for design. They deserve the support of the private sector, Government, edu-



cational institutions, and the wider community.

Fashion Week also reminded us that our heritage is one of our greatest strengths. The editorial experience at the historic Cheshire Plantation transformed fashion into something deeply meaningful. Surrounded by centuries-old ruins, participants reflected on the resilience of our ancestors and the enduring legacy they left behind. Those stones tell stories of hardship and perseverance, while also reminding us that faith, courage, and determination carried generations forward.

As a nation deeply rooted in Christian values, we recognize that our ancestors found strength through prayer, worship, and unwavering faith in God. Those hymns and songs of praise echoed through gener-

nerstone of fashion tourism, attracting designers, buyers, media, investors, and visitors from around the world while creating meaningful opportunities for local businesses and creative professionals. It can stimulate economic growth, strengthen cultural preservation, and position the Turks and Caicos Islands as a leading destination for Caribbean fashion and creativity.

The New Tropic is not merely a theme. It is a declaration that the Turks and Caicos Islands is ready to embrace a new era—one where fashion, culture, education, tourism, and entrepreneurship work together to shape a stronger and more prosperous future.

This movement belongs to all of us. Its success depends on collaboration between Government, private enterprise, educational institutions, community organizations, and ev-



ations, offering hope in times of hardship and becoming an enduring part of our cultural identity. Their resilience continues to inspire how we build, create, and lead today. Looking ahead, the future of Turks and Caicos Islands Fashion Week extends far beyond an annual event. It has the potential to become a cor-

ery individual who believes in the limitless potential of our islands. The runway has been built. The vision has been shared. Now is the time for a nation to walk confidently toward its future.

Dr. Alicia Swann is the Founder | Visionary | Director of the Turks and Caicos Islands Fashion Week.



Hu Prospere (in hat) and fellow model strike a pose on a golf cart

Remanence, the Colombian-born label redefining men’s outdoor apparel through luxury craftsmanship and textile innovation, proudly announces TCI model **Hu Prospere** as a signature face of its latest advertising campaign. Shot in March 2026 at the prestigious **Royal Turks and Caicos Islands Golf Club** on Providenciales, the campaign pairs Hu with an international model to capture Remanence’s ethos: movement without boundaries, where style, comfort and technology converge. Crafted in Colombia, Remanence garments fuse elevated comfort with versatile style and performance-minded textiles, pieces designed to move with you from city streets to coastal trails. The new visuals, now live on **remanence.com** and across the brand’s social

channels, present a refined, kinetic aesthetic that underscores the label’s commitment to both form and function. “Working with Remanence felt like a natural fit,” said Hu Prospere. “Their garments are built for life in motion, lightweight, smart and effortless. Being part of this campaign has given me the chance to show how technical clothing can still feel personal and stylish, that, along with being featured in a global campaign.” Leidy, who led casting and creative direction, praised Hu’s professionalism and presence on set. “Hu was a dream to work with,” she said. “His instinctive movement and ability to interpret our vision elevated every shot. We’re immensely proud that we were able to find such outstanding local talent in the Turks and Caicos, it speaks to the country’s



Hu Prospere(left) at the Royal Turks and Caicos Golf Course along with another male model

REMANENCE ELEVATES TCI TALENT TO GLOBAL STAGE WITH NEW CAMPAIGN FEATURING HU PROSPERE



2025 TCI Top Model finalist Hu Prospere strikes a pose decked out in his golf outfit

emerging creative strength and our belief in scouting authenticity wherever it lives.” “Hu Prospere epitomises the effortless confidence and versatility we champion at TCI Top Model,” said **Courtney Robinson**, Founder and Executive Producer of TCI Top Model. “From the photographs and videos online, it’s clear he brought natural charisma and an uncommon professionalism; his presence elevates every frame. I look forward to seeing him emerge as a rising star representing the Turks and Caicos on the world stage.” Remanence sees this campaign as a milestone: a platform that celebrates Colombian craftsmanship while amplifying a TCI model on the international stage. The collaboration not only highlights Remanence’s technical design language but also opens a global window on talent from smaller markets, proving that true style and performance know no borders. The campaign is available to view now at remanence.com and across Remanence’s Instagram, Facebook and Twitter channels.



Hu Prospere appears ready to hit hole in one



Michael Saunders proudly displays the Turks and Caicos Islands Flag



Michael Saunders make his presentation at the Global Climate Conversation at TEDxMcGill

Turks and Caicos Islander Michael Saunders Puts TCI at the Center of Global Climate Conversation at TEDxMcGill

Michael Saunders, a 21-year-old native Turks and Caicos Islander and student at the University of Waterloo delivered a TEDx talk at TEDxMcGill 2026, one of Canada's most prestigious student-run TED events.

The talk, centered on Caribbean climate vulnerability and ecological debt, positions the Turks and Caicos Islands at the heart of a critical global conversation about fairness, resilience, and the future of innovation in small island states.

Initially titled "The Short End of the Stick: How Caribbean Vulnerability Becomes Global Strength," Saunders traces a throughline from the Caribbean's colonial past to its present-day climate reality. Drawing on his experience growing up in TCI, including living through back-to-back Category 5 hurricanes, Irma and Maria, in 2017, he argues that the region's structural vulnerability is the accumulated result of centuries of economic extraction, followed by decades of climate damage the Caribbean did little to cause.

"SIDS contribute less than one percent of global emissions, yet face some of the highest risks from climate change. The countries that did the least to create the crisis are paying the highest price for it." — Michael Saunders, TEDxMcGill 2026

Central to the talk is the concept of ecological debt, the idea that wealthier nations bear a responsibility for the climate costs now

falling disproportionately on vulnerable regions. For TCI specifically, Hurricane Irma alone caused more than half a billion dollars in damage and losses, exceeding the entire national budget that year, while devastating nearly 80 percent of critical buildings and housing across the islands.

Yet Saunders is careful not to frame the Caribbean solely as a victim. He argues that the same conditions that made the region vulnerable now position it to lead on resilience and climate technology, highlighting TCI's Blue Belt Programme, mapping fragile reef ecosystems and strengthening coastal defences, as innovation already taking shape.

Looking ahead, Saunders argues the path forward requires Caribbean governments to lead through policy. He points to three levers. First, the development of regional green finance taxonomies: CARICOM and the IFC are already working to establish guidelines that define green assets and channel private capital toward climate-resilient projects, but territories like TCI can accelerate this through complementary domestic legislation.

Second, climate-resilient debt instruments: in 2022, Barbados restructured \$150 million in sovereign debt through a blue loan arranged by Credit Suisse and CIBC FirstCaribbean, guaranteed by The Nature Conservancy and the Inter-American Development Bank, unlocking \$50 million for marine

conservation over 15 years.

TCI, with its Blue Belt Programme and extensive marine protected areas, is naturally positioned to pursue a similar instrument, but requires the domestic legislative framework to execute it independently.

Third, closing the climate finance access gap: despite SIDS representing 25% of Green Climate Fund (GCF)-eligible countries, they have received only 12% of total GCF allocations, a structural imbalance that can only be corrected if Caribbean jurisdictions build the institutional capacity to access these funds directly.

But Saunders' ambition extends further. He argues the Caribbean should position itself as the world's premier destination for climate innovation capital, not merely attracting green investment, but anchoring it. That means creating the conditions for environmental startups to incorporate, scale, and raise capital across the region: purpose-built climate investment zones, streamlined environmental venture licensing, and regionally coordinated incentive structures that make the Caribbean the obvious home for the next generation of climate technology companies.

The Caribbean sits on the frontlines of the climate crisis, giving it unmatched real-world conditions for testing and proving climate solutions, and that is an asset that can be monetized. The region should not only be building resil-

ience against climate change; it should be profiting from solving it. The Turks and Caicos Islands is uniquely positioned to lead this charge: with strong investor confidence, a longstanding affiliation with the United Kingdom due to being a British Overseas Territory, proximity to the United States, and a track record of responsible governance, TCI has the institutional credibility and strategic location to become the Caribbean's anchor jurisdiction for climate innovation and diversified economic growth. And the window to seize that position will not stay open indefinitely. The son of Hon. Erwin Jay Saunders and Indrani Saunders, he has roots in both the Turks and Caicos Islands and Guyana. His talk draws on both family histories, the parallel experiences of enslaved Africans and indentured Indian labourers, to illustrate how the region's vulnerability was by design, not by accident.

With the full talk recently released on TEDx Official's YouTube Channel titled "Climate debt: what do we owe to the Caribbean?", Saunders joins a growing cohort of young Caribbean voices bringing the region's perspective to international platforms. For the Turks and Caicos Islands, it is another signal that the next generation is ready to lead.

"Where I am from, we learn to track hurricanes before we learn how to drive. We know how to navigate the storm. Now we are asking for the power to shape what comes next." — Michael Saunders

Chief Rabbi condemns Church of England vote to engage with controversial Gaza document

The Chief Rabbi, Sir Ephraim Mirvis, has criticised the Church of England after its governing body voted to engage with a controversial document that describes Israel's actions in Gaza as "genocide", calling the decision "shameful" and warning it could damage Jewish-Christian relations.

The Church of England's General Synod voted on Monday to "hear" A Moment of Truth: Faith in a Time of Genocide, also known as Kairos II, a document produced by the Palestinian Christian organisation Kairos Palestine.

The motion, which followed hours of debate, encourages members to engage with the document as an expression of the lived experiences of Palestinian Christians. An earlier proposal to "receive" the document was amended to "hear" it as a "heartfelt expression" of Palestinian Christian experience.

Responding to the vote, Sir Ephraim said the document was "full of falsehood" and accused it of rejecting dialogue while using inflammatory language about Israel.

"It is shameful that the Church of England General Synod has recommended engagement with Kairos II," he said.

"Though it poses as a route to understanding, Kairos II in fact functions as an egregious barrier to it, reducing one of the world's most complex conflicts to a single, warped narrative, which can only harm the cause of peace. This is a sad day for Jewish-Christian relations."

The 14-page Kairos II document describes the war in Gaza as "the continuation of the Zionist project to seize all of Palestine, emptied of its Palestinian people." It characterises Israel as a "colonial, settler and exclusionary entity" and argues that the current



The Chief Rabbi, Sir Ephraim Mirvis

conflict is rooted in decades of occupation and displacement.

While condemning Hamas' October 7, 2023 attacks on Israel, the document says the violence was "borne out of decades of injustice, oppression and displacement." It also challenges Israel's claim of self-defence and criticises the Abraham Accords, arguing they have "normalised occupation and apartheid in Palestine."

The President of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, Phil Rosenberg, also criticised the Synod's decision, describing the motion

as "highly problematic."

"Kairos Palestine may come from a place of genuine pain, but the falsehoods and distortions of Kairos II, including its erasure of Jewish identity and experience, is a prescription for more division and not the answer to conflict in the Middle East," he said.

Mr Rosenberg added that there was "a clear tension" between the document's language and the Church of England's commitment to tackling anti-Semitism.

"We remain committed to working with Christians, Jews, Muslims and others to

tackle hatred and extremism and build a better future for all at home and abroad. We must not import conflict, but export peace instead."

The debate comes weeks after the Methodist Church formally accepted the Kairos II document and announced plans to develop study materials based on its contents.

Ahead of the Synod debate, several rabbis and Jewish organisations had urged the Church of England to withdraw consideration of the document, arguing it risked causing harm to Britain's Jewish community through its dissemination.

Addressing the Synod, the Archbishop of Canterbury, the Most Rev Dame Sarah Mullally, defended the decision to engage with the document while stressing that doing so did not amount to endorsing all of its contents.

"To hear the heartfelt expressions of the lived experiences of the Palestinian Christians does not mean we agree with everything in these documents, but it does mean that we listen with compassion and stand in solidarity with them amidst the many injustices they face," she said.

Reflecting on a recent visit to the region, Archbishop Mullally described the expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, increasing settler violence and the displacement of Palestinian communities.

"Put simply," she told Synod, "Palestine, which the British government recognised last year, is disappearing."

The Church of England said the amended motion was intended to acknowledge the experiences of Palestinian Christians while encouraging continued dialogue on the conflict.

Bill Gates Says Only Four Jobs Likely to Survive AI Takeover

Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates believes that only a handful of professions are likely to remain largely protected from artificial intelligence as the technology continues to reshape the global workforce.

Speaking during a recent appearance on The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon, Gates added professional athletes to his earlier list of careers he believes will withstand widespread AI disruption. He said fans would still prefer watching humans compete in sports rather than machines.

"You know, like baseball. We won't want to watch computers play baseball," Gates said.

The billionaire philanthropist had previously identified coders, biologists and energy workers as occupations that would continue to rely heavily on hu-

man expertise despite rapid advances in AI.

However, Gates also offered a stark assessment of AI's long-term impact on employment. When asked by Fallon whether humans would still be needed in the future, Gates replied: "Not for most things – we'll decide."

He explained that while people may choose to reserve certain activities for themselves, many industries could eventually become almost entirely automated.

"So there'll be some things that we reserve for ourselves, but in terms of making things and moving things, and growing food, over time, those will be basically solved problems," he said.

His comments come as concerns grow over AI's impact on employment worldwide. A study by investment bank



Microsoft co-founder Bill Gates

Morgan Stanley, cited by Bloomberg, found that the United Kingdom recorded an estimated eight per cent decline in net employment last year linked to the adoption of AI, marking one of the highest rates of job losses among major economies.

Meanwhile, a 2025 Microsoft study identified occupations with the highest overlap with AI capabilities, suggesting they are among the most exposed to automation. These included interpreters and translators (98%), historians (91%), mathematicians (91%), proofreaders (91%), automatic machine coders (90%), writers and authors (85%), statis-

tical assistants (85%), sales representatives (84%), technical writers (83%), and journalists (81%).

Despite the findings, senior Microsoft researcher Kiran Tomlinson cautioned that the study was designed to examine how AI chatbots could be used productively within different professions, rather than predict which jobs would disappear entirely.

As AI adoption accelerates across industries, Gates' latest remarks add to the growing debate over which careers will remain dependent on uniquely human skills and which could eventually be transformed by automation.

Death toll in Venezuela quakes rises past 4,000

The death toll in Venezuela's devastating twin earthquakes has topped 4,000, the government said Friday. At least 4,118 people were killed and 16,740 injured in the back-to-back June 24 quakes, which flattened entire districts in the coastal state of La Guaira, Venezuelan parliament chief Jorge Rodriguez wrote on Telegram. Thousands more are listed as missing. The stronger 7.5 magnitude quake — the biggest in Venezuela in over a century — struck 39 seconds after the first 7.2 magnitude shock, flattening entire high-rise apartment blocks to layers of rubble.

Although rescue teams have abandoned their search for survivors, family members continue to search the ruins for their loved ones, in the hopes of giving them a dignified burial.

On Friday, a 3.0 magnitude tremor in central Caracas caused momentary panic and led to buildings being evacuated.

The scale of the recovery effort facing Venezuela, where state services have been severely degraded by a prolonged economic crisis, is gargantuan.

The United Nations on Wednesday issued an urgent appeal for nearly \$300 million towards earthquake re-



Rescue workers carry a person on a stretcher out of a collapsed building following an earthquake in Caracas on June 24, 2026. A magnitude 7.1 earthquake struck Venezuela on Wednesday, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) reported, triggering panic in Caracas, according to AFP journalists. The tremor, which was followed by several aftershocks, was also felt in Colombia. (Photo by Juan BARRETO / AFP)

lief operations.

Venezuela's interim president Delcy Rodriguez has called for the release

of frozen assets held abroad to be used towards the recovery.

On Wednesday she said she asked

King Charles III to release about 30 tons of Venezuelan gold frozen under UK sanctions.

CARPHA and CDEMA Renew Partnership to Advance Regional Disaster Management and Public Health Resilience

The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA) and the Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) renewed their partnership to strengthen regional cooperation in disaster management and public health resilience across the Caribbean, through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on July 6th, 2026.

This MOU will strengthen the already established relationship, enhance co-operation between the two CARICOM institutions, and provide better coordinated action to prevent, prepare for, respond to, and recover from disasters and public health emergencies across the Caribbean.

For many years, CARPHA and CDEMA have worked together to support the CARICOM Region in responding to hurricanes, disease outbreaks, and other emergencies. Through CDEMA's Regional Response Mechanism (RRM), CARPHA has provided technical public health expertise during regional emergencies, supporting Member States with disease surveillance, laboratory services, health assessments, risk communication, environmental health interventions, and emergency response

planning.

Recent examples of this collaboration include the regional responses to Hurricane Melissa in 2025 and Hurricane Beryl in 2024. Following the devastating impacts of these events across several Caribbean countries, CARPHA supported the health response as part of the CDEMA-led RRM by deploying technical experts to participate in rapid needs assessments, evaluate shelters and health facilities, strengthen disease surveillance, and provide guidance to national health authorities.

Commenting on the significance of the agreement, CDEMA Executive Director, Elizabeth Riley, said:

"The Caribbean's risk landscape is changing rapidly. Climate change, increasingly intense weather events, public health emergencies, and other emerging threats demand that we move beyond traditional approaches and strengthen collaboration across sectors. This MOU between CDEMA and CARPHA reflects our shared recognition that resilience can only be achieved through integrated action and strong regional partnerships."

CARPHA Executive Director, Dr. Lisa Indar, emphasised the importance of inte-

grating public health and disaster management, noting: "Health and disaster management are inseparable. This MOU brings together CARPHA's public health expertise and CDEMA's disaster coordination leadership to strengthen regional preparedness, build more resilient health systems, and better protect the people of the Caribbean from increasingly complex threats."

Sharing remarks at the signing ceremony, CARICOM Assistant Secretary-General Alison Drayton said: "The collaboration between CARPHA and CDEMA therefore represents a practical expression of the Community's commitment to building resilience through cooperation. By combining CARPHA's technical leadership in health security with CDEMA's expertise in disaster mitigation and emergency management, we are strengthening the regional architecture that protects Caribbean people before, during, and after crises."

This MOU reinforces collaboration between CARPHA and CDEMA in disaster preparedness and emergency response across the Caribbean. Under the agreement, the two agencies will strengthen coordination during regional emergencies, combining CDEMA's leadership in

disaster management with CARPHA's technical expertise in public health.

The partnership also promotes the protection of affected populations, the integration of health into regional disaster planning and response, the application of shared standards and best practices, and joint capacity-building initiatives through training, simulation exercises, technical exchanges, and knowledge sharing to enhance the Region's resilience.

The partnership will also strengthen joint planning, capacity building, resource mobilisation, and operational coordination, enabling the Caribbean to better anticipate and respond to emerging threats while enhancing regional health security and disaster resilience.

As the Caribbean continues to face increasingly complex and interconnected risks, the strengthened CARPHA-CDEMA partnership will improve coordination during emergencies, protect vulnerable populations, reinforce resilient health systems, and further integrate public health into disaster risk management. The MOU marks another important step towards a safer, healthier, and more resilient Caribbean.



EAGLES, CHESHIRE HALL CROWNED CHAMPIONS

Academy Eagles FC Capture Boys' Title,
while **Cheshire Hall FC** Win Girls' Crown
in Pelican Energy U16 League Finals

SEE PG32

UEFA Federations Reportedly Exploring Challenger to FIFA President Gianni Infantino

By Vivian Tyson NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Several UEFA member associations are reportedly considering backing a candidate to challenge FIFA President Gianni Infantino at the next FIFA presidential election, amid growing tensions between European football's governing body and FIFA.

According to reports carried by international media and talkSPORT, Infantino, who confirmed at April's FIFA Congress that he intends to seek a third term, had been expected to run unopposed. However, support is said to be growing within UEFA for an alternative candidate.

Relations between UEFA and FIFA have become increasingly strained in recent years, with a number of controversial decisions fuelling the divide. Infantino has overseen the expansion of the FIFA World Cup to 48 teams beginning in 2026 and has also floated the possibility of increasing the tournament to 64 teams for the 2030 edition.

He has also spearheaded the expansion of the FIFA Club World Cup, transforming it into a larger competition that many see as a rival to UEFA's Champions League. Another flashpoint came when FIFA rescinded a one-match suspension for United States forward Folarin Balogun following reports of intervention by U.S. President Donald Trump. UEFA strongly criticized the decision, accusing FIFA of crossing "a red line" and describing the move as "incomprehensible and unjustifiable." UEFA argued the decision undermined both the integrity of the game and the credibility of the competition. Although UEFA President Aleksander Čeferin is widely viewed as one of the strongest potential candidates to lead FIFA, reports indicate the Slovenian has no intention of challenging Infantino. Instead, he is expected to seek another term as UEFA president next spring despite previous disagreements with the FIFA chief.

Paris Saint-Germain president and



Some UEFA heads have accused Gianni Infantino of being a divisive figure but wants to remain as FIFA boss

European Club Association chairman Nasser Al-Khelaifi has also been mentioned as a possible contender, with reports suggesting several UEFA federations, including Belgium and Poland, would support his candidacy. However, he is understood to have no interest in running for the position.

Meanwhile, senior football officials in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Norway, Sweden, Germany and Spain are reportedly discussing support for Legia Warsaw owner Dariusz Mioduski, whose backing could

grow in the months ahead.

Beyond Europe, Concacaf President Victor Montagliani has also emerged as a potential successor, while Confederation of African Football (CAF) President Patrice Motsepe is believed to harbour ambitions of one day leading FIFA. While no formal challenger has yet emerged, reports suggest momentum is building within sections of European football to mount a serious challenge to Infantino's leadership when FIFA's next presidential election takes place.



Jayden Adams

South African midfielder Jayden Adams, who represented his country at the ongoing World Cup, died Saturday at the age of 25, Sports Minister Gayton McKenzie said.

"It is with profound shock and a heavy heart that I have learnt of the passing of Jayden Adams," McKenzie said in a statement.

"South African football has lost one of its brightest young talents," he said.

The Confederation of African Football

(CAF) also paid tribute, saying on X: "Football has lost one of its own."

Police said they had opened an investigation after the body of a 25-year-old man was found at a house in Schotschekloof, a suburb in central Cape Town, on Saturday morning.

"Circumstances surrounding this incident are under investigation," Western Cape police spokesperson FC van Wyk told AFP.

Adams played in all three of South

Tributes for late South Africa World Cup footballer Adams

Africa's group-stage matches at the World Cup, as Bafana Bafana reached the Round of 32 for the first time, but did not feature in the knockout defeat by Canada.

He was also part of the South Africa squad that finished third at the 2024 Africa Cup of Nations in Ivory Coast. FIFA President Gianni Infantino said he was "so incredibly sad to hear" that Adams had passed away just weeks after featuring in his nation's historic World Cup campaign.

"My thoughts and condolences, as well as those of everyone at FIFA and the global football community, are with his family, friends and teammates," Infantino said in a statement. Born in Cape Town, Adams came through the Stellenbosch FC academy and became the club's first youth

graduate to sign a professional contract in August 2020.

He went on to make 139 appearances for the Cape Winelands side and helped them win the Carling Knockout in 2023 before joining Mamelodi Sundowns in January 2025.

At Sundowns, the midfielder added a Premiership title and a CAF Champions League crown to his list of honours.

His death comes less than a month after the passing of his grandmother on the eve of South Africa's Group A match against Czechia at Atlanta Stadium.

"Jayden started in the match against Czechia and gave his all while carrying the burden of losing his grandmother," the South African Football Association said at the time.



Reigning Champs HIIT FITT

The regional combat sports landscape is set for an electric showdown this summer. On Saturday, August 29, 2026, the Team Grappling Invitational (TGI) will take over the Eastern Regional Indoor Sporting Facility in Tacarigua, bringing together the fiercest submission artists the Caribbean has to offer. Nine elite teams hailing from Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, and Guyana will go head-to-head in a high-stakes, winner-take-all tournament. At stake is a cash prize pool of over \$1,500 USD and, more importantly, the ultimate bragging rights: the official title of the Best Grappling Team in the Caribbean. The stakes are higher than ever this year as regional powerhouse HIIT FITT steps back onto the mats to defend their crown. Led by the Caribbean's top-ranked Featherweight, the reigning champions are aiming to prove their previ-

ous victory was no fluke. However, with eight hungry rival squads

TEAM GRAPPLING INVITATIONAL (TGI) RETURNS TO TRINIDAD AS REIGNING CHAMPIONS 'HIIT FITT' DEFEND THE CROWN

studying their every move, the road to retention will be a gauntlet. "TGI is the ultimate proving ground for Caribbean Jiu-Jitsu and submission wrestling," said Event Organizer Robert de Gannes. "Having HIIT FITT back to defend their title adds incredible drama. Every academy from Barbados to Guyana is sending their absolute best killers to take them down. The atmosphere in Tacarigua is going to be unforgettable." Event Details At A Glance:

- Date: Saturday, August 29, 2026
- Time: 12pm
- Venue: Eastern Regional Indoor Sporting Facility, Tacarigua, Trinidad & Tobago
- The Contenders: 9 powerhouse teams representing Trinidad, Tobago, Barbados, and Guyana
- The Stakes: Over \$1,500 USD in

total prize money + the title of the Caribbean's top grappling team

How to Watch

For fans unable to witness the action live at the Eastern Regional Indoor Sporting Facility, TGI is bringing the tournament directly to global screens. The entire event will be broadcast via live stream. Fans can follow the action and catch live links on:

- Instagram.com/@tgi.868
- YouTube.com/@TGI868
- Ticket information, physical event scheduling, and full team rosters will be released in the coming weeks.

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TGI 2025 Team Group Photo



L-R _ Trevor Ariza, Dahntay Jones, Katie Hall, JR Smith, Dorell Wright, Dante Hall, & Al Harrington at South Bank Resort



Trevor Ariza Golfing at the 2025 Trevor Ariza Celebrity Golf Tournament

Trevor Ariza Returns for the 2026 Celebrity Impact Weekend

NBA Champion Trevor Ariza will return to the Turks and Caicos Islands to host the 2026 Trevor Ariza Celebrity Impact Weekend, bringing together some of professional sports' biggest names for a multi-day celebration of sport, philanthropy and community while launching a new initiative dedicated to expanding opportunities for local youth through athletics.

Events will take place July 31- August 2, 2026.

Produced by BIG Limited, the weekend brings together Founding Partners, Windward, South Bank Resort and Lua Beach House, alongside Sport for Impact and the Next Pass Foundation to provide exclusive experiences that celebrate the Turks and Caicos Islands while creating meaningful opportunities for the next generation. South Bank Resort serves as the weekend's Official Host Property.

"I want people to experience Turks and Caicos the way I know it. Not just for its beauty, but for its people and its culture," said Trevor Ariza. "If this weekend inspires young people here to believe in what's possible, that's the greatest win."

Confirmed participants include **Chris Paul, Devin Booker, Aaron Gordon, Paul Pierce, JR Smith, Dorell Wright, Drew Gooden, Tyson Ross, and Dante Hall**, with additional guests expected to be announced.

A Weekend Designed to Inspire and Give Back

Designed to celebrate the unique connection between sports, culture and community, the 2026 Trevor Ariza Celebrity Impact Weekend will serve as a platform to showcase the Turks and

Caicos Islands while creating meaningful opportunities for local youth through mentorship, education and athletic programming. Throughout the weekend, celebrity participants will engage with the local community while experiencing the destination's luxury hospitality, natural beauty and vibrant culture.

Programming for the weekend includes a community development day, where attendees will take part in youth clinics, leadership workshops, and community service initiatives. On Sunday, the weekend culminates with the 2nd Annual Trevor Ariza Celebrity Golf Tournament and Charity Gala, at Lua Beach House, benefitting the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission's Athlete Development Fund.

As part of the weekend, BIG Limited will officially introduce a new partnership between Sport for Impact (SFI) and the Next Pass Foundation (NPF), created to fulfill Trevor Ariza's vision of advancing opportunity for youth through sports. SFI will provide nonprofit expertise and infrastructure to support NPF's flagship focus on athlete development using sport as a vehicle for education, leadership and life skills. Through their combined networks, SFI and NPF will seek to develop partnerships with like-minded organizations that maximize youth potential by broadening access to quality sport and educational programming throughout the Turks and Caicos Islands.

For the weekend's community development day, NPF is partnering with Loyal to My Soil to host a free Youth Basketball Skills Clinic. Founded by former MLB All-Star Pitcher, Tyson Ross, Loyal to My

Soil is dedicated to providing high-quality, cost-free athletic opportunities for young people. Supported by community partners, the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission, and Hoop Culture, the upcoming clinic will welcome 150 local youth participants. In addition to elite skills training, attendees will benefit from a sports equipment giveaway and receive custom jerseys designed in partnership with Hoop Culture.

Together, the event's partners share a common vision of using sport to inspire future generations while showcasing the Turks and Caicos Islands on a global stage. "The Celebrity Impact Weekend is where BIG's vision comes to life. We built it to bring people together, celebrate the Turks and Caicos Islands, and strengthen the future of sports for the next generation," said Nick Henry, Co-founder of BIG Limited.

The Athlete Development Fund (ADF), established by the Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission, provides financial support to emerging and elite Turks and Caicos Islander athletes, helping remove barriers to training and competition while strengthening the territory's pathway to international sporting success.

"The Athlete Development Fund exists because of generosity like this. Funds raised through the 2026 Trevor Ariza Celebrity Impact Weekend go directly toward giving Turks and Caicos Islander athletes the training, opportunities, and resources they need to compete at the highest level. Trevor is proof of what is possible for a Turks and Caicos Islander athlete, and having him invest that success back into the next generation means everything to our athletes

and our mission. We are grateful to Trevor and BIG Limited for making our athletes part of this weekend, and we look forward to seeing the impact this investment will have on the next generation of Turks and Caicos Islander athletes," said Jarrett Forbes, Director of Sports, Turks and Caicos Islands Sports Commission.

As the weekend's Official Host Property, South Bank — Windward's luxury residential resort and marina in Long Bay on Providenciales — will welcome athletes, partners and invited guests, with Lua Beach House serving as the culinary centerpiece of the celebration. Together, South Bank and Lua Beach House will showcase the elevated accommodations, dining and experiences that reflect the Turks and Caicos Islands' standing as one of the Caribbean's premier luxury destinations — offering guests a firsthand look at the residential lifestyle available to South Bank owners. Windward and South Bank will also award the celebrity guest winner of the 2026 Trevor Ariza Celebrity Golf Tournament a complimentary 3-night stay in the Arc Penthouse following its completion.

"Windward is proud to serve as a Founding Partner of the 2026 Trevor Ariza Celebrity Impact Weekend. South Bank was built to be part of this community, and partnerships like this one are exactly why. Trevor's story reflects the same values we build toward — vision, persistence, and a commitment to what is possible for the Turks and Caicos Islands. We are honoured to welcome him, and everyone joining him, home to South Bank," said Ivor Stanbrook, CEO & Director of Windward.



Academy Eagles, Champions of the 2026 Pelican Energy Turks and Caicos Islands Under-16 Boys' League



Cheshire Hall FC are the Girls Under 16 Champs

Academy Eagles FC Capture Boys' Title, Cheshire Hall FC Win Girls' Crown at Pelican Energy U16 League Finals

By Vivian Tyson, NEWSLINE Editor-In-Chief

Academy Eagles FC were crowned champions of the 2026 Pelican Energy Turks and Caicos Islands Under-16 Boys' League, while Cheshire Hall FC claimed the Under-16 Girls' League title during an exciting weekend of championship finals.

Academy Eagles FC completed a dominant season with a convincing 3-0 victory over SWA Sharks FC in the boys' championship final, while Cheshire Hall FC edged SWA Sharks FC 5-4 in a dramatic penalty shootout after the teams finished level at 1-1 in regulation to capture the girls' crown.

Boys' Championship Final

Academy Eagles FC produced a clinical display to defeat SWA Sharks FC 3-0 and secure the league championship.

The Eagles raced to a 2-0 half-time advantage behind an outstanding performance from striker Dudley Mintus, who opened the scoring in the 18th minute before doubling the lead eight minutes later in the 26th minute. Mintus completed a memorable hat-trick in the

40th minute to put the result beyond doubt and cap an impressive championship performance.

Academy Eagles were disciplined throughout the contest, finishing the match without receiving a single caution. SWA Sharks FC, meanwhile, had Homides Guiuers cautioned in the 44th minute, Frank Jeandenis in the 50th minute and Nolente Charitable in the 58th minute. Charitable was later sent off after receiving a second yellow card in the 62nd minute.

Mintus was named the Academy Eagles FC Most Valuable Player following his hat-trick, while Charlie Thornhill earned MVP honors for SWA Sharks FC.

Earlier in the day, Teachers FC secured third place in the boys' competition with a hard-fought 2-1 victory over Cheshire Hall FC.

After a scoreless first half, Roosevelt Kessie broke the deadlock for Teachers FC in the 32nd minute. Cheshire Hall responded through Scott Kommalapate in the 43rd minute before Melchy Orne netted the winning goal in the 53rd minute to seal the

victory.

Roosevelt Kessie was named Teachers FC's MVP, while goalkeeper Tavin-Max Marrs was selected as Cheshire Hall FC's MVP.

Final Boys' Standings

Champions: Academy Eagles FC
Runners-up: SWA Sharks FC
Third Place: Teachers FC

Academy Eagles FC also dominated the individual awards. Goalkeeper Wanito Joseph claimed the Golden Glove Award after recording four clean sheets, Wilsony Charles finished as the league's leading scorer with seven goals, and Morvens Joseph was named the league's Most Valuable Player.

Girls' Championship Final

The Under-16 Girls' Championship provided one of the most exciting matches of the tournament as Cheshire Hall FC overcame SWA Sharks FC in a penalty shootout to lift the title.

SWA Sharks FC took a 1-0 lead into halftime after Amika Jackson scored in the 30th minute. Cheshire Hall FC responded after the break through Abigail Contreras, who found the

equalizer in the 41st minute to level the match at 1-1.

With neither side able to find a winning goal during regulation, the championship was decided from the penalty spot.

Cheshire Hall FC held their nerve, converting five penalties to defeat SWA Sharks FC 5-4 and claim the 2026 Pelican Energy U16 Girls' League championship.

Abigail Contreras, who scored Cheshire Hall's equalizer and converted her penalty in the shootout, was named her team's Most Valuable Player.

Asia Williams earned MVP honors for SWA Sharks FC.

Final Girls' Standings

Champions: Cheshire Hall FC
Runners-up: SWA Sharks FC
Third Place: Teachers FC

SWA Sharks FC swept the girls' individual awards despite falling just short in the final. Goalkeeper Shelsy Gibson-Perez earned the Golden Glove Award with three clean sheets, Fredlyne Brave finished as the league's leading scorer with five goals, and Wineiris Nunez De Leon was named the league's Most Valuable Player.