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TWO BABIES DEAD

Police investigate after boy's body found in trashcan

By **SANCHESKA BROWN**
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

POLICE are investigating the deaths of two babies, a boy who was found partially decomposed in a trash can and a girl who died shortly after being admitted to hospital.

Police say the first baby was found dead inside a home at McQuay Street off Nassau Street shortly before noon Friday.

Information surrounding the incident is still sketchy, however The Tribune has learned that the mother of the infant is in hospital and has not yet been questioned by police.

Superintendent Stephen Dean said: "We are waiting to question the mother to find out what is what. We

don't know if it was a homicide, a still birth or anything. We won't know anything else until we speak to the mother sometime today."

The baby was discovered by a relative of the mother, according to sources. The unidentified woman called the police after she went to the home and noticed a foul odour coming from the bedroom. After searching the room, she found the decomposing baby boy in the trash can.

Last night, the mother was under police guard in the hospital after undergoing surgery Saturday morning.

A few hours later, around 7pm, officers received reports that a nine-month-old baby girl died in hospital shortly after being admitted.

SEE page 10



POLICE ARE investigating the deaths of two babies - one of which was found in a trash can in this area Photo: **Felipe Major/Tribune Staff**

MARIJUANA SEIZED IN DRUG BUST

By **DENISE MAYCOCK**
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – A police drug bust has resulted in the seizure of over 200 pounds of marijuana and the arrest of a male teacher from Jack Hayward High and another man on Grand Bahama.

The 49-year-old male teacher, a resident of Fortune Point, and a 34-year-old male resident of Holmes Rock are

currently in police custody and are expected to be formally arraigned today.

Assistant Superintendent Loretta Mackey, press liaison officer, reported that around 9.30pm on Wednesday, October 12, DEU officers were on mobile patrol when they saw a grey-coloured car travelling east on Queen's Cove Road.

She said the driver was acting in a suspicious manner

SEE page 2

FOX HILL TURF WARS SUBSIDE, POLICE TO EXPAND GUN SEARCH

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

POLICE have focused their strike force on illegal firearms to include two more New Providence communities as they claim turf wars in Fox Hill have subsided.

Despite a "sharp escalation" in crime this year, Paul Rolle, head of Central Detective Unit, last week maintained that his department was not "stretched" by the record number of homicides.

Mr Rolle said: "We have seen a sharp escalation in crime this year. We are not stretched, we have expanded the homicide team and those investigations are ongoing. Every bit of information that we got pertaining to all of those homicides we have (investigated)."

Of the 104 murders occur-

ring this year, police have charged suspects in 55 cases. Mr Rolle explained that each case is reviewed by more than one team at numerous stages of the investigation to ensure that all possible leads are explored.

"In some of those matters, we know the persons who may be responsible are dead," Mr Rolle said, "and at some point when the final report is released that will all be reflected."

"But as we go from day to day we don't want to start talking about that because we want to be satisfied before we report that we get sufficient evidence to substantiate it."

Based on police findings, shooting conflicts in the Fox Hill community stemmed from a turf war between three emerging factions, who were

SEE page 11

WOMAN CLAIMS POLICE BRUTALITY OVER INCIDENT

By **SANCHESKA BROWN**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A 31-year-old mother is calling for justice after she claims her husband and son were brutalised by police officers last week.

Sherice Darling said it was a typical Wednesday night for her and her family. She and her husband, Samuel Darling, had just finished a 30-minute Bible study lesson with their eight-year-old son when her husband went outside to get something from his car.

A few minutes later she said she heard her dog barking. When she looked out of the window, Mrs Darling said she stood in horror as she saw her husband being attacked by an unknown man, who she later identified as a police officer.

"I saw the man punch my husband. I didn't know who he was. He was not in a uniform. He punched him again

SEE page 10

100 CHARGED OVER VEHICLE LICENCE SCAM

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

NEARLY 100 people have been charged with defrauding the Bahamas government as police continue their probe into a longstanding vehicle licensing scam.

To date, police have not charged any Road Traffic employees in connection with the scam, Paul Rolle, head of the Central Detective Unit (CDU) said.

"There are still one or two persons that have been evading us but the investigation is still ongoing. None of those (charged) were employees from Road Traffic."

Mr Rolle said: "We have interviewed a number of persons from Road Traffic and the decision was made, at that time, not to press charges because sufficient

SEE page 11

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LOCAL NEWS

ARMED ROBBER HOLDS UP GAS STATION

POLICE are requesting the public's assistance in locating a man responsible for an armed robbery at Texaco Service Station, Old Town Marina, Sandyport,

during the weekend. The incident occurred around 2.45 pm on Saturday. According to police reports, a masked man entered the service station armed with a handgun and demanded cash from the staff. The culprit robbed the Texaco station of an undisclosed amount of cash and

then fled the area in an unknown direction. Police are investigating and are appealing to members of the public who might have some information about this incident to contact the police at 911, 919, 322-3333, Central Detective Unit at 502-9991, 502-9910 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

MARIJUANA SEIZED IN DRUG BUST

from page one
and officers stopped the vehicle. While conducting a search, DEU officers discovered a white crocus sack containing 176 pounds of what was suspected to be marijuana, with an estimated street value of \$176,000.

Ms Mackey said the driver was arrested and taken into custody. As a result of further investigations, police went to a residence at Holmes Rock

around 3.30pm on Thursday where a team of officers executed a search warrant. While searching the residence, police discovered 27 pounds of suspected marijuana, with an estimated street value of \$27,000. They also recovered a .45mm pistol with 13 live rounds of ammunition, as well as an additional 40 rounds of ammunition in the home. A 34-year-old male resident was arrested as a result. Investigations are continuing.

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LOCAL NEWS

TEENAGER SERIOUSLY INJURED FOLLOWING SHOOTING

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – Grand Bahama Police are investigating a shooting that has left a teenager with serious injuries in hospital.

Assistant Superintendent Loretta Mackey, reported that an 18-year-old male res-

ident of Eight Mile Rock sustained a serious gunshot injury to the ankle following a shooting early Thursday morning at Garden Villas.

According to initial reports, the victim went to the area around 2am and was attempting to locate a female friend.

He told police that while in

the area of the basketball court he heard gunshots and ran.

After realising that he had been shot in the right ankle, the victim went to the Rand Memorial Hospital to seek medical assistance.

ASP Mackey said doctors described the victim's injuries as serious.

Investigations are contin-

uing into the matter and officers at the Central Detective Unit are appealing to anyone with information that can assist them to call 350-3107/8, 352-9774/5 or 911.

Last Wednesday – a day before the shooting – police conducted a walkabout in the Garden Villas area.

Acting Assistant Commis-

sioner of Police Emrick Seymour and a number of officers met with residents in the high crime area.

Garden Villas is a known hot spot for criminal activities, including drug pushing, gambling, and illegal selling of goods.

Four of the seven murders this year have occurred there.

APPEAL COURT ORDERS RETRIAL

FREEPORT – The Court of Appeal overturned the murder conviction and sentence of Renaldo Bonaby and Renaldo Armbrister who were found guilty of the murder of Philip Gaitor Jr.

In September, the justices ordered a retrial as a result of "material irregularity" during the trial in December 2009.

Appeals justices found the men did not get a fair trial when Justice Neville Adderley told the jury the confessions of the accused men were admissible and voluntarily made. Philip Gaitor Jr, 24, was found burned to death in his car on December, 2006.

Armbrister and Bonaby were charged with his murder, kidnapping, and the attempted extortion of \$100,000 from the Gaitor family. Armbrister was sentenced to life and Bonaby was sentenced to death.

The men appealed their conviction. Armbrister has been released on bail. The family of Philip Gaitor Jr and Families for Justice are outraged over his release.



Bishop Simeon Hall has called on people to make use of the firearms amnesty, before they face stiffer penalties the government aims to introduce

OWNERS OF HANDGUNS URGED BY BISHOP TO HAND THEM TO POLICE

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Chief Reporter
pturnquest@tribunemedia.net

BISHOP Simeon Hall appealed to all persons in possession of an unlicensed firearm yesterday to turn them in to the authorities during the government's one-month amnesty period.

According to the Minister of National Security, Tommy Turnquest, this firearm amnesty period, which began on October 5 comes to an end on November 4.

Persons who have illegal firearms can hand them over to authorities without fear of prosecution to police stations in New Providence, Grand Bahama or any administrator's office or police station on the Family Islands.

However, the amnesty period does not apply to persons who are arrested and found in possession of an illegal gun, Mr Turnquest said.

In a press statement sent to the media yesterday, the senior pastor of the New Covenant Baptist Church encouraged young men to utilise this amnesty period before they might face the "stiffer penalties" that the government is seeking to implement.

The new gun laws, which are currently being debated in the House of Assembly will impose a minimum sentence of four years in prison if a per-

"Too many young black men treat our laws with impunity and should be reminded that prison time, of up to seven years, robs families, of their father's presence and protection."

Bishop Simeon Hall

son is found and convicted of unlawfully being in possession of an unlicensed firearm or ammunition.

The power of magistrates to impose sentences is also being increased from five to seven years and that conviction on drug and gun related offences may attract the maximum sentence of seven years.

Bishop Hall said: "Too many young black men treat our laws with impunity and should be reminded that prison time, of up to seven years, robs families, especially children, of their father's presence and protection."

"Some in possession of illegal firearms might be afraid to turn them in, but encourage them to find a pastor willing to accompany them to the police," he said.

At the end of this one month amnesty, Bishop Hall said that he would appeal to judges and magistrates to "not hesitate" in passing the maximum sentence on those found in possession of illegal firearms.

CAR THEFT CHARGE FOR EX-POLICE OFFICER



PICTURED ARE former police officer Lorene Mortimer, 38, left, and Charmaine Wright, 36, as they hide their faces after leaving court.

By LAMECH JOHNSON
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

AN EX-POLICE officer was arraigned in Magistrate's Court Friday afternoon in connection with a car theft in February of this year.

Former Constable Lorene Mortimer, who was discharged from the Royal Bahamas Police Force hours before her arraignment, appeared before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez in Court One, Bank Lane.

Prosecutors allege that she and 36-year-old Charmaine Wright stole a 2005 silver Toyota Forerunner, the property of Cameron Symonette, between Sunday, Feb-

ruary 6 and Monday, February 7.

Symonette's car – licence plate number 148816 – is valued at \$22,000 according to court dockets.

Mortimer, an Obediah Avenue resident, and her alleged accomplice who lives on Talbot Street, were also charged with receiving the vehicle.

Both women were represented by Keith Seymour and pleaded not guilty to the charges.

The prosecution offered no objection to the accused receiving bail, and the judge granted them each \$5,000 bail with one surety.

The matter was adjourned to Friday, October 21.

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THE TRING	NEW	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:45
REAL STEEL	D	1:00	4:00	N/A	7:00	N/A	10:00
DREAM HOUSE	C	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:40
SO/UP	C	1:15	3:30	N/A	6:15	8:25	10:40
CONFESSIONS	D	1:00	4:00	N/A	7:00	N/A	10:00
ABDUCTION	C	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:40
KILLER CLITE	C	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:40
INCEPION TAKE 3D	A	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:40
MONEYBALL	T	1:30	4:10	N/A	7:10	N/A	10:10
WHAT'S YOUR NUMBER	C	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:40
COLUMBIANA	C	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	8:25	10:40

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THE TRING	NEW	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:35	10:50
REAL STEEL	D	1:00	4:00	N/A	7:00	N/A	10:00
ABDUCTION	C	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:30	10:50
KILLER CLITE	C	1:00	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:30	10:45
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Considering crime and punishment

SPEAKING in the House of Assembly last week Cat Island MP Philip "Brave" Davis criticised Government's proposed crime Bills as falling "short" of what is needed to eliminate violent crime.

He wondered if any thought had been given to the rate of recidivism and what would be the average length of time to rehabilitate an offender when defining life imprisonment.

"There is jurisprudence," he said, "to suggest natural life without an opportunity to review with a view of release is cruel and unusual punishment."

One never hears of the "cruel and unusual punishment" suffered by a victim's family — a victim who has not had a second chance at life. And a family that has lost their main breadwinner.

With capital punishment virtually removed from the scene, there has to be a penalty, not only to punish, but to deter. True, there are degrees of murder — the planned, vicious murders spawned from a psychotic brain, and the impulsive anger, where death was not intended, but was the result. There might be some hope of rehabilitating the latter, but none for the former.

The society's complaint today is that the laws are too soft, so soft that the criminal is making a fool of our judicial system. It is felt that with automatic hanging removed, the criminal is willing to play Russian roulette with his life, knowing that he can commit his crime and in all probability avoid the hangman's noose. It might give him second thoughts if he had to contemplate a lifetime in prison — when he and the undertaker leave together.

However, if he knows that he can again trick his way out by good behaviour, where is the deterrent to his crime?

A police officer told us that what many of them do is "get religion" while in prison to impress their jailers. Some, released for good behaviour before completing their sentence, turn their collars backwards and quietly continue their misdeeds, while others shed their religion and openly revert to type.

If we are going to be serious about deterring crime — particularly murders — then we can't get soft on punishment. Already this timidity in enforcing the law has broken down law and order on every level in this country.

Mr Davis said that legislators have to think of the cost of housing a convict for the rest of his natural life — particularly if the offender has youth on his side. They also have to think of the increased burden on taxpayers.

Mr Davis told House members that it

costs \$14,000 a year to house a prisoner. He said that if a person were sentenced to life at the age of 30 — life expectancy for the average Bahamian male being 70 years — the state would have to support him for at least 40 years.

"Do the math," he told legislators, "there are at least 400 persons to be tried — millions of dollars it will be costing taxpayers!"

These convicts become burdens only if the government lacks the imagination to put them to good use and make them pay their way by their daily labour.

Already in this column we have suggested setting aside a large acreage of Crown land for cultivation. These prisoners — composed of lifers and those with shorter sentences — could feed the nation.

Of course, for those with a life sentence this would be a life time job. At least they can turn a misspent life into a useful one and remember — if the laws had not been changed — they could have been hanged, buried and forgotten about, instead of breathing God's fresh air, and growing a field of tomatoes.

This production could be a tremendous savings to government by reducing the cost of imports. If done on a large enough scale and managed like a business, it could even increase our foreign reserves through exports.

In the woodwork department, men with this ability could be taught to turn out first class cabinetry that could be sold from various furniture stores. Again if it were handled as a proper business, the prison could open its own furniture store and attract a market. They could even go into the business of making toys for children.

With a little imagination, these men need not become as heavy a burden as some predict. What must be remembered is that outside of prison walls they will be a constant menace.

Society has to decide whether they prefer to pay for their upkeep knowing that they can have a good night's sleep in the safety of their homes, or save the expense and sleep with one eye open, and an ear cocked listening for the thief at the window.

However, these prisoners could possibly earn enough that restitution also could be made to some of the victims of their evil deeds.

Who knows but that it might encourage pride in some of these men in the knowledge that in the end their lives were not a complete waste.

But with the criminal playing hardball with society, society cannot now go soft on punishment.

We must protect our children

EDITOR, The Tribune.

In the wake of Marco Archer's murder we now see that a man has been charged with "having sex with two pre-teen boys".

Additionally, the Prime Minister of The Bahamas, The Right Hon Hubert Ingraham addressed the nation on crime, promising sweeping changes in his administration's approach to crime. My response to both subsequent events is this is really too late and honestly not enough.

First of all, barbaric actions against children, like kidnapping them, raping them, and murdering them belong in its own category of crimes. This nation does not properly acknowledge paedophile as the special crime that it is, but lumps it with other crimes. There is nothing worse than preying on children sexually, abusing them physically, and making them feel confused, unsafe and ashamed. This nation needs to know that child predators exist and in more forms than a stranger who from time to time snatches a child walking home from school.

Paedophiles can sometimes be teachers, doctors, church leaders, uncles, fathers, cousins and mummy's boyfriend. Sometimes, paedophiles are women! What are we doing to educate children on this particular predator who targets them? What is the nation really doing about addressing incest that exists and victimises children, especially in the family islands? Our legal system does not seem to see raping a child as any different from other crimes related to stealing. Actually, between 2009 and 2011, there were two cases printed in the newspaper in which two men accused at different times of raping a child received bail for less than two men accused at different times of stealing a car. What is our legal system really telling us about who and what is more important? Why are we not using words like Paedophile and Child Predator to describe an adult who rapes a child? Why are we not referring to the act of an adult having sex with a child as rape? Even if the child has been persuaded to participate, it is still rape! The nation must be able to see paedophile as the abusive, sick, and unnatural crime that it is against children.

What is needed to curtail paedophile and child predators in The Bahamas is constant awareness campaigning in schools, churches, hospitals, clinics, and in the media throughout the archipelago. We need a legal system, educational system, churches, and

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

families who are aware of this crime against children in all the forms that it can manifest and would do everything possible to protect our children.

Further, we need a legal system that can put measures in place to protect our children and severely punish the paedophile as well as those who enable him/her. Some measures that can help to drastically curb this societal problem are: Training police officers to recognise the forms in which paedophilia exist, including incest; establishing a special unit to handle paedophilia cases; responding to missing children cases immediately instead of waiting for forty-eight hours to pass; and inform-

ing the public of child predators who are in the society.

Rehabilitating paedophiles in my opinion cannot be accomplished easily. Good behaviour in prison by a person who sexually assaulted a child does not mean that she/he is rehabilitated. There are no children in prison to who they would be attracted. Paedophilia tendencies can be suppressed, but will probably always resurface, so what should the society do to rid itself of paedophiles? We need leaders who are realistic about this crime and would put the well-being of the nation's children first. It is clear to me what needs to be done about paedophiles and it would be good if we could even vote on this as Bahamians.

SYRETA ROBERTS-BOURNAS

Nassau,

October 6, 2011.

Bell Island lessons

EDITOR, The Tribune.

ONCE again it appears that few people learn from their mistakes. On Monday afternoon, I was listening to 97.5 FM and I was shocked to hear what I thought was the voice of Mr Fitzgerald on the Steve McKinney show and he was on another mission carrying on about Bell Island.

It appears that he learnt nothing from the mistakes and tirades that he carried on about Saunders Beach which blew up in his face. I have yet to see or hear any admission by Fitzgerald or any of the others who joined him during this period that they were wrong and that Saunders Beach is better now than it ever was in any of their lifetimes. I know it takes a real man to admit when he is wrong, but it gives any man credibility in the eyes of the Public when you can do this. As with Saunders Beach 6 to 9 months after the work around Bell Island is finished life around there will be back to normal and very soon thereafter no one will ever know the work went on — just like Saunders Beach.

I do not know what makes McKinney or Fitzgerald an authority on the Environment or the waters surrounding Bell Island because I do not believe either of these gentlemen have ever spent very much time in, on or around the waters of the Bahamas. It appears to me that for the past 40 years or more they go on vacation out of the Bahamas for the full length of the winter when we have cold fronts and northwesterly winds because if they lived here then

they would realise that when we in the Bahamas have winters the sand and silt get stirred up and stays that way for 10 to 14 days at a time and it does not hurt conch, fish, turtle or any other marine life that God gave the ability to move around. Nature has its own way of dealing with these matters.

I spent 12 to 15 years fishing in and around the Exuma Islands (not in the Park) and I know that the Park is a wonderful place for conservation so that breeding can take place but whatever is bred in there moves out as it grows up and that is why the fishing is so good north and south of the Park.

I am an environmentalist, but not a fanatic and I have spent more than 2/3 of my life in, on or around the water and I know from personal experience what I am talking about because I have seen and lived through these things and it would be wonderful if all of these people with High Falutin' Degrees would spend enough time throughout the Bahamas to get some first hand practical experience to realize that what applies to Canada or the USA does not mean the same here in the Bahamas where we have 700 islands that are all separated by water and we have such a tidal movement that it keeps our islands and cays fully supplied with fresh salt water.

Also I am not a politician trying to impress anyone for a campaign. I am just trying to state the facts of life here in the Bahamas.

ABNER PINDER

Spanish Wells, Bahamas,
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Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon.

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LOCAL NEWS

PLP SAYS ANTI-CRIME BILL 'IS JUST ANOTHER ELECTION PLOY'

By KHRISNA VIRGIL

THE Opposition is calling the Anti-Crime Bill now being tabled in the House of Assembly just another election day ploy by the government.

In his address to parliamentarians, the opposition's key speaker MICAL MP V Alfred Gray made his predictions as to who will win election 2012.

Mr Gray said: "This government is going to get kicked to the curb. A one man band cannot solve this problem. It takes everyone of us. That's why the suggestion that a committee

made of both sides of this House should put their collective minds together, and come up with some suggestions for solving this problem is a good idea."

Moving forward, Mr Gray pinpointed major short comings of the Bill, which does not grant fairness to Bahamians who might have run-ins with the law.

Speaking of the new clause that will change the - in custody before charge - from 48 hours to 72 hours, Mr Gray said the door will be opened to abusive situations. He believes such a change does not encourage accountability on the part of officers.

"When you give powers to the powerful, there is always that possibility of abuse," Mr Gray said. He added that such an extenuation should make provisions for the person being held to see a magistrate during that time period. Mr Gray also suggested that executives stay clear of judicial affairs and sufficient manpower should be given to the Attorney General's office to keep the process of handling criminal cases moving.

He believes that the Bill is also a selective one: "I'm concerned when a Bill singles out categories of people for whom

the death penalty will apply. Every life is as important as every other life, so when you categorize who you will hang the criminals for it makes the rest of us feel like our lives are not as important as theirs."

Mr Gray is calling for a revision to the Bill that will be sensitive to the nature of the crime and not the person killed.

In his rebuttal, Golden Isles MP Charles Maynard reminded the Opposition that for more than four years the judicial system has been a focus of improvement.

As examples of the continuing upgrading of the judicial system, Mr Maynard alluded to the revitalization of the Parliament building for use by the courts and to ongoing construction of the new magistrate's court complex - Nassau Street. All according to Mr Maynard, signs of continued upgrading.

He views the upgrading as the government's move to stay consistent with the evolving Bahamian society that continues to have challenges facing crime.

Responding to MICAL MP's

reservations on the Bill prioritising certain person's lives above others, Mr Maynard did acknowledge that while the Bill does give some persons priority, it pays some attention to circumstances.

"Any person who wilfully and knows that a police officer is trying to arrest him and he takes out a gun and kills that police officer is a different type of person from somebody who kills a stranger for a different reason. That's a mind set. Anybody who wilfully goes and kills a judge who may be presiding over a particular case that he has interest in is a different type of person," he said.

"That's a dangerous type of person and a dangerous precedent for us to allow in our society. We wanted to make it clear that we consider that type of murderer as the worst of the worst."

Mr Maynard believes that the new Anti-Crime bill will usher in serious changes to a judicial system that has been for many years hindered by loopholes used to the advantages of criminal attorneys.

Bill discussions continue today.

THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN SELLING AND DWELLING



COLUMN by Mike Lightbourn

THERE is a special mind set associated with "staging" your home to sell in a soft market. Staging refers simply to the act of improving your home's appearance in order to appeal to the widest segment of potential buyers. The approach you must adopt is to see your home with an objective eye.

This could be easier said than done!

Stop looking at your home as your "home" and start visualising it as the "product" it becomes when it enters the market. Your BREA agent can help to market your product successfully by explaining how to highlight positive features and downplaying less attractive aspects. You can also hire an interior decorator.

Since you may have a strong emotional attachment to your home, you may not fully appreciate hearing about a better way to show your offering, but try to recognize that the way you decorate to SELL may be quite different from the way you decorate to dwell. The appearance of a space often trumps its functionality when impressing buyers.

Your goal is to sell quickly at a fair price. A survey by a large national real estate brokerage in the U.S. showed that staged homes sell in half the time, and another survey of realtors showed that a \$500 "staging" investment recouped 343% of that cost. It's fair to say the same applies here at home. So be prepared to swallow a little pride, move some furniture and field better offers on the road to your successful sale.

Mike Lightbourn is president of Coldwell Banker Lightbourn Realty

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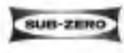
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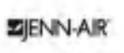


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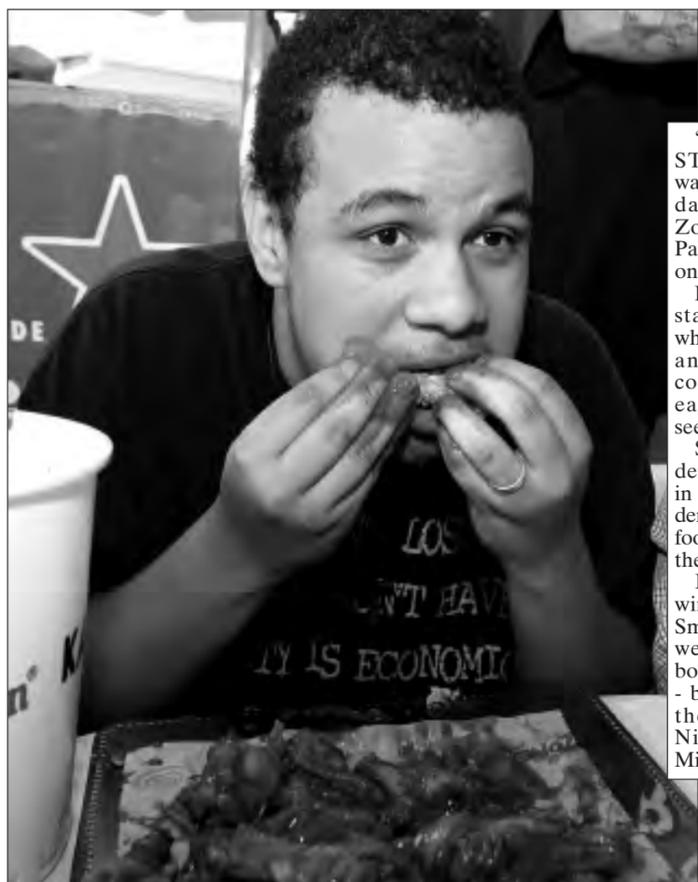
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LOCAL NEWS



OWNERS NICK DEAN and Michael Turnquest holds up the hand of Euston Smith, the winner of the Wing Zone first annual eating competition, held on Saturday at Wing Zone in the Circle Palm mall

BATTLING IT OUT TO BE KING OF THE WING



“ R E A D Y , S T E A D Y , E A T ” was the order of the day at the Wing Zone in the Circle Palm mall in Nassau on Saturday.

For the restaurant staged the first of what it expects to be an annual eating competition, with eager participants seeking to do battle.

Shoulder to shoulder, they crammed in to see who could demolish the trays of food in front of them the fastest.

In the end, the winner was Euston Smith, whose arms were raised aloft - boxing-style fashion - by the owners of the Wing Zone, Nick Dean and Michael Turnquest.

ONE OF the competitors stays focussed on the task



THE EVENTUAL winner, Euston Smith, concentrates during the contest

Photos: **Felipe Major/Tribune Staff**

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LOCAL NEWS

REFORM OR DIMINISH: THE CHALLENGE THAT IS FACED BY THE COMMONWEALTH

By SIR RONALD SANDERS

ON October 12th as a member of the Eminent Persons Group (EPG) established by Commonwealth Heads of Government to advise them on reform of the Commonwealth, I delivered a keynote address in the British House of Parliament at a conference arranged by the several Commonwealth organisations.

This article is a very much shortened version of that address which reflected on the challenge that Commonwealth Heads of Government will face when they meet from 28 to 30 October in Perth, Australia.

There is no doubt that the Heads of Government meeting will be a defining occasion for the Commonwealth. As a result of their decisions, the Commonwealth

will either go forward, reinvigorated and resolute as a values-based organization intent on making a difference to its people and the wider international community; or it will limp along as a much devalued grouping to a future of disregard, deterioration, and disappearance.

If the Commonwealth continues with its business as usual, it will lose its moral authority and international respect, providing little benefit to its member states, particularly the small ones. It is in that context that the Group made 106 recommendations for reform covering the full range of Commonwealth activities.

Uppermost in our minds was a determination to draw a map for the consideration of Heads of Government that, in a practical and realistic fashion, could lead the Commonwealth from the cross-roads at which it is

presently marking time, to a path that allows it to march forward to renewed significance for its people, and importance in the global community.

In recent years, a few Commonwealth countries have strayed away from the collective values of the association, and, except for the unconstitutional overthrows of governments, the Commonwealth has not spoken out, as a body, or acted jointly to bring errant countries into compliance.

At the heart of this problem has been an absence of reliable and verifiable information in a timely manner that could allow both the Commonwealth Secretary-General and CMAG to engage a government before its violation of the Commonwealth's values becomes serious or persistent.

The EPG has recommended the appointment of

insight WORLD VIEW



a Commissioner for Democracy the Rule of Law and Human Rights. The post has been set at the level of "Commissioner" not because the office-holder would be a "policeman" armed with "punitive" powers, but precisely because it is envisaged that the occupant would be a person of sufficient standing, and possessed of significant diplomatic skill and sensitivity, as to be able to engage any government in a respectful and beneficial manner.

It will not be within the Commissioner's remit to recommend the suspension or expulsion of a country; this responsibility remains with CMAG or Heads of Government themselves.

The post of Commissioner should be embraced by all Commonwealth governments precisely because the Commissioner will be a very senior officer with the capacity to gather reliable information in a way that directly involves governments facing difficult circumstances.

Further, for the Commonwealth to continue to advocate for development funding, for money to militate against Climate Change, for reform of the criteria under which small states are unfairly graduated from concessionary financing, it has to be credible in relation to democracy.

On the recommendation of a Charter for the Commonwealth, there appears to be a belief that this idea was imposed on the EP by the governments of Australia, Canada and Britain. Nothing could be further from the truth; the idea originated with the EPG Chairman, Tun Abdullah Badawi – the former Prime Minister of Malaysia – whose country had pioneered work on a Charter for ASEAN.

The further incorrect notion that seems to have arisen is that the Charter will become a binding constitution for the Commonwealth. This is also a fallacy. We should also recall that

the Commonwealth is not a treaty organization. Its members have not signed up to legally-binding rules and obligations. It is an association of sovereign states that voluntarily work together in their common interest and for their common good.

The EPG's recommendation of a Charter is to do no more than weave the many declarations into one document, and then only after consultation with the people of the Commonwealth through public meetings across the Commonwealth with the involvement of civil society organisations.

Over the years of its existence, the Commonwealth has expressed its shared values in several declarations. The Charter would have no greater legal force than the many declarations now have, nor will it bind any member government in any greater way than now exists. Heads of Government themselves have decided that these values are the measure by which a government can maintain membership of the Commonwealth. When governments violate these values in a serious or persistent manner, they can no longer enjoy the badge of honour that membership of the Commonwealth represents.

The matter of funding the EPG's recommendations has also been raised.

Figures in excess of £9 million have been suggested as the cost of implementation. But those figures are not the EPG's.

Throughout its work, the Group was acutely aware that this is not the time to ask governments to put up huge sums of money to implement all the recommendations in its report.

For this very good reason, while the Group fulfilled its mandate to recommend urgent reforms that would make the Commonwealth "relevant to its times and its people", as it was requested to do, we called for the retirement of some programmes in which the Commonwealth has no comparative advantage, which are duplicative of the work of other agencies, and which have displayed no particular benefit. The re-allocated funds will pay for the necessary reforms.

The bottom line is simply this: without these reforms the Commonwealth will decline as an instrument of value to its member states and as an influence for better in the international community.

The greatest priority was placed on the urgent issue of the damaging effects of climate change on small island

states and coastal states.

The EPG has also made firm recommendations on helping developing countries to deal with burdensome debt created, in part, by the overwhelming financial crisis in whose creation they played no part, but of which they are now among the worst victims.

We also recommended strong advocacy by the Commonwealth collectively to reform processes in the World Bank that wrongly "graduate" small states from concessional financing on the basis of their per capita income only.

We proposed practical methods to fund entrepreneurial schemes for youth and to tackle youth unemployment; and we suggested ways in which inter-Commonwealth investment could be promoted, trade increased and jobs created.

Some observers are already saying that the meeting will be characterized by a North-South divide; that there is tension – if not animosity – between those who favour greater attention to democracy and the rule of law, and those who reject it, arguing instead for more resources for developmental issues.

In reality, the EPG has argued for far more resources – human, financial, inter-governmental, and civil society supported – to be put into ensuring development than into maintaining democracy.

In an era of changing economic circumstances and uncertainty, new trade and economic patterns, unprecedented threats to peace and security, and a surge of popular demands for democracy, human rights and broadened economic opportunities, the potential of the Commonwealth – as a compelling force for good and as an effective network for co-operation and for promoting development – is unparalleled.

But, for that potential to be achieved giving economic, social and political benefit to its 2.1 billion people, urgent reform is imperative.

The challenge at Perth is for Heads of Government, collectively, to seize the moment and to authorize the proposed reforms.

The entire address can be read at: www.sirronald-sanders.com.

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TIPS ON HOW TO AVOID CRIME

Royal Bahamas Police Force National Crime Prevention Office

AVOID BECOMING A VICTIM OF VEHICLE CRIME

By CONSTABLE 3011
MAKELLE PINDER

STATISTICS prove that vehicles are stolen nationally every day.

In fact, twenty percent of all auto thefts are as a result of either keys being left in the car or unlocked doors.

Most recently, reports indicate that professional car thieves have entered the field in increasing numbers; however, most cars are still taken by amateurs who can be stopped fairly easily.

You can greatly increase your protection against auto theft crime by taking the following precautions.

- Immediately report suspicious activity in your neighbourhood to the Police.

- Never leave your car door, window or sunroof unlocked, even if you are just going into a shop for a moment or two, or even when parked in your own driveway.

- Park in well-lit areas of parking lots and utilise motion-activated spotlights in your driveway.

- Remove the ignition key and engage the steering lock, even when parking on your own property.

- If you have an alarm, turn it on every time you park.

- Security mark your stereo or satellite radio and, if it is a removable type, always take it with you.

- Make a note of the serial numbers on your radios, computers, etc.

- Do not leave purses, backpacks, or wallets your vehicle.

- If you must leave valuables in your car, don't put them in the trunk while a thief could be watching (do it before you get to your destination).



CONSTABLE 3011 Makelle Pinder offers advice for readers on ways to avoid vehicle crime

- Never leave credit cards or check books in your vehicle.

- Never leave money (cash or coins) or jewellery in your vehicle.

- If you have a garage or access to a garage, use it. Then lock it.

- Provide local authorities with the make/model/license plate and Vehicle ID number.

- Try to avoid touching the vehicle until after the

responding Police Officer/s has an opportunity to inspect the vehicle for any evidence left behind by the thief.

Should you need more information on Vehicle Safety or if you have information pertaining to any crime, please do not hesitate to contact the police at '919' or Crime Stoppers at 328-tips (New Providence), 1-300-8476 Family Island

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Yesterday's Answer

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Yesterday's Winners

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Rachel Burrows	2pts
Chantice Dames	1pt

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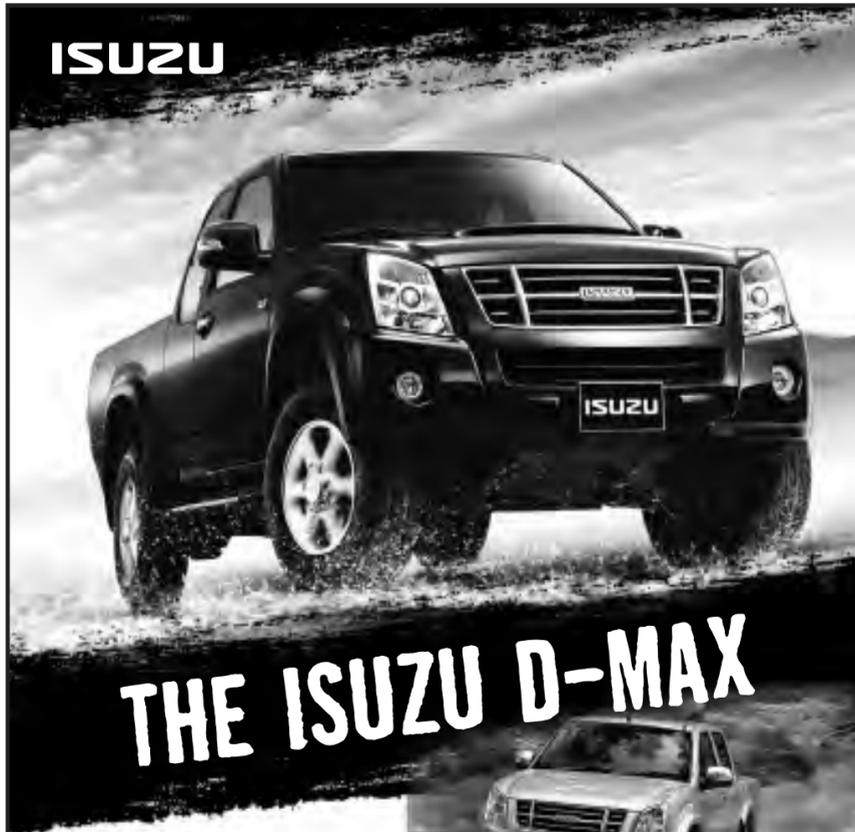
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LOCAL NEWS

WOMAN CLAIMS POLICE BRUTALITY OVER INCIDENT

from page one
 and started to drag him out of the car by his feet. At that point I ran outside to see what was going on," she said.
 "That's when I saw about seven other men on top of him beating him and choking him. I ran to him and told them to 'let him go'.
 "At that point I saw one of the men in a khaki uniform and another one in a blue uniform with a vest. I then fig-

ured out they were police. My husband was handcuffed, he couldn't fight back so I don't understand why they were hitting him."
 Mrs Darling said the officers pushed her, cursed at her and told her to "go back inside."
 "I didn't move. I wanted to know who they were and why they were arresting my husband."
 "They never identified themselves. They never said

why they were there. They dragged my husband, threw him in the back of the bus and pulled off."
 Mrs Darling said she immediately got her son and her nieces and drove to the nearest police station, East Street South.
 "When I got inside I saw the officers and asked them where my husband was."
 "They verbally assaulted me, grabbed me and arrested me in front of my son and

my nieces. They told the kids to 'get the hell out' the station."
 "My son refused to leave so one of the officers grabbed him, took him in a back cell and slapped him. He is eight. I screamed to one of the other officers to get him and they did."
 According to Mrs Darling, police held her and her husband until 1 pm on Thursday.
 They were charged with

disorderly behaviour and obstruction.
 However, she said, she still does not know why her husband was initially arrested.
 "We just want justice. I have the utmost respect for the law and for police, but now I don't feel safe in my own home. Something needs to be done."
 "I don't have a record and neither does my husband. We filed a complaint with the

complaints unit and now we are just waiting to see if anything happens."
 Calls to police at East Street South police station were unanswered up to press time.
 Amnesty International has issued reports for several years criticising police brutality in the Bahamas.
 There have also been numerous calls for an independent body to investigate police brutality claims.



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POLICE ARE investigating the deaths of two babies - one of which was found in a trash can in this area Photo: **Felipe Major/Tribune Staff**

Police investigate after boy's body found in trashcan

'The baby could have been sick or could have died from dehydration from all the vomiting. We do not suspect foul play at this time'

from page one
 Paul Rolle, Officer in charge of the Central Detective Unit, said a 21-year-old woman of Step Street, Fox Hill, took the baby to the Accident and Emergency department after she was found unresponsive.
 The woman said the baby had been vomiting all day.
 "We have to wait on the autopsy to determine the exact cause of death. Right now we cannot say conclusively."
 "The baby could have been sick or could have died from dehydration from all the vomiting. We do not suspect foul play at this time," he said.
 Active police investigations into both of these matters continue.

Paul Rolle, officer in charge

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2003173	Adderley, Nitika	2007583	Devnax, Craig	2020826	Rolle, Alphonso	2020827	Rolle, John
2004198	Adderley, Sandra	2041173	Ferguson, Selwyn Jr	1171950	Saunders, Esala	2013319	Saunders, Ravi
2003967	Adderley, Terry	2019471	Forbes, June	2006282	Scrachan, Eastley B.	903210	Scrachan, Lowella
2015700	Archer, Richard	2015125	Mackey, Jason	893188	Thompson, Trevor	2005972	Wright, Demetrico
2007568	Brown, Leroy Jr.	2015129	Mackey, Shanna				
9027186	Decius, Cynette	2003941	Major, Rudy				
2105704	Delancy, Angelo	2005296	Maxwell, Tressie				
2005078	Delancy, Demestrie	1193957	Pinder, Rosa				
2105702	Delancy, Rawelle	2012540	Rolle, Alphonso				

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1137281	Bowe, Nancy	1143679	Mackey, Terry	1203414	Rolle, Emily	1151247	Thompson, Dennis
1118087	Bowe, Navaro	1174231	Martinez, Carolyn	1189262	Thompson, Jerry	1168677	Vial, Valke
1151675	Bowe, Papp	1130708	Munnings, Brian	1179245	Vial, Valke	1176710	Wilson, Christell
1162127	Brown, Cornell	1171855	Munnings, Dexter	1091816	Wilson, Clint	1181937	Young, Kamara
1158883	Brown, Neil	1194137	Pierre, Aline				
1199932	Culmer, Joyann	1175343	Pierre, Andrew				
1139863	George, Orison	1188013	Pratt, Andrew				
1200018	Hanna, Stephen	1203728	Pratt, Andrew				
1123225	Johnson, Vinilnata	1188009	Pratt, Kendall				
1203426	Lockhart, Degreen	1203727	Pratt, Kendall				

Carmichael Sales Office, Blue Hill Road South (top of the hill)				Phone: (242) 341-4429			
POLICY No.	NAME	POLICY No.	NAME	POLICY No.	NAME	POLICY No.	NAME
2204655	Bain, Vernita	1182056	Duncombe, Ellenise	1194228	Pratt, Samantha	1201545	Rolle, Elajane
2203256	Brown, Jermaine	1174993	Edgecombe, Florine	1203663	Rolle, Elajane	2204654	Rolle, Emily
2203236	Brown, Lavardo	1182042	Edgecombe, Sandra	1193378	Rolle, Levisana	2204640	Rolle, Levisana
2203237	Brown, Tamara	2203810	Ferguson, Victoria	1209563	Starrup, Shanel	2203641	Thompson, Rickesh
2203205	Bullard, Gregory	2009329	Hanna, Aaron	2111228	Young, Dadrine		
1204856	Bullard, Shawndrika	2207442	McKinney, Hunsia				
2200152	Davis, Albury	2200554	McPhee, Kevell				
1209246	Devaux, Reno	2204276	Munroe, Kendies				
2203154	Douglas, Ebony	1194230	Pratt, Benjamin				

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LOCAL NEWS

FOX HILL TURF WARS SUBSIDE, POLICE TO EXPAND GUN SEARCH

from page one

battling for the "illicit" drug trade in the area.

Illegal firearms recovered in Fox Hill account for nearly 10 per cent of the total guns seized in the country this year, according to police, with illegal ammunition at 35 per cent.

"We had regular reports of gunshots in the Fox Hill community and that was a great concern to us, the same thing was happening in the Nassau Village, Pinewood Gardens community and so these are the areas where we sought mainly to concentrate on," said Mr Rolle.

Police have recovered 34 illegal firearms, and one rifle, in Fox Hill since the launch of their special task-force in June. The teams are comprised of divisional officers, and officers from CDU, the Drug Enforcement Unit, Criminal Records office, and Central Intelligence Bureau.

Attributing the operation's success to the consistency of participating officers, Mr Rolle said there has been a significant reduction in the number of shooting reports from the area.

"There were at least three factions that we have identified trying to

establish themselves in these turf wars and we can't have this," Mr Rolle said. "This conflict resulted in a number of individuals being shot and a few persons being killed. We have brought these men together and have spoken with them in a view to lessen the tension within the Fox Hill community."

He added: "We have placed considerable resources in that community in order to arrest the conflict and prevent as far as possible further carnage."

Twelve people have been put before the courts charged with possession of firearms and ammunition as a result of the operation. However, said Mr Rolle, there have also been four deaths.

Operations in Pinewood Gardens and Nassau Village were launched October 1 and Mr Rolle said that officers will continue to monitor the Fox Hill community.

"We continue to monitor the situation in Fox Hill and wish to encourage the young men to engage in positive activities and lead productive lives. We will help, but we will also warn any person thinking to re-establish a turf in Fox Hill that we will not tolerate it."



AWARD-WINNING cinematographer Paul Mockler will instruct an underwater film workshop as part of FLIFF on Location: Grand Bahama Island, an extension of Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival in Freeport on Thursday, October 28.

LEARN TO CAPTURE THE BLUE KINGDOM

FREEPORT – A one-day workshop for beginner and intermediate underwater videographers will take place on October 28 as part of the Fort Lauderdale International Film Festival.

This year, the festival will hold an extension programme known as FLIFF on-location: Grand Bahama, of which the underwater film course will be a part.

Beginning at 9am, workshop discussions will include underwater camera techniques and the importance of production planning. At 2pm, after a lunch-break, participants will check in with the Underwater Explorers Society (UNEXSO) to film UNEXSO's legendary shark dive. They will be challenged with producing a short video of the experience.

An afternoon post dive session will involve video screenings and discussions.

In a career spanning more than 35 years, Paul Mockler, IATSE local 667 director of photography associate member: Canadian society of Cinematographers, has worked on hundreds of commercial, documentary and dramatic films.

Sponsors of FLIFF on Location include the Pelican Bay Hotel, TheBahamasweekly.com, Bahamas Celebration Cruises, and SkyBahamas Airlines.

For more information on the film festival visit: www.fliff.com

Participants must provide their own underwater video equipment.

100 CHARGED AFTER VEHICLE LICENCE SCAM INVESTIGATION

from page one

evidence was not there."

In June, police arrested 10 Road Traffic employees after a six-month fraud investigation. It was estimated that "millions" of dollars had passed through the hands of employees at the Road Traffic Department involved in the vehicle licensing scam, which was believed to have been in operation for about two years.

Arrested employees were said to include a 52-year-old woman, who had been 18 years on the job, and a male employee who was found in possession of "licensing paraphernalia and an assortment of inspection stickers and decals."

In an press briefing last week, Mr Rolle added: "If you have possession of fraudulent disks with a genuine decal, that would suggest that

some persons are involved, but we still don't have that corroborating evidence, sufficient."

Officers are also investigating alleged links between corrupt officials at the Road Traffic Department and second-hand car lots who they believe could have assisted in the resale of stolen vehicles on the island of New Providence.

According to sources within the CDU, there is the possibility any number of vehicles illegally licensed in the exposed Road Traffic scam could have been stolen cars that have been repeatedly sold to unsuspecting persons.

Mr Rolle said drivers who have licensed vehicles through this unauthorised scheme are asked to bring their vehicles into CDU before officers are forced to "come and get you."

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LOCALNEWS



VISITORS ENJOY the World Food Day event



BAHAMIAN-MADE products and fruits and vegetables were on display on Saturday at the opening of the World Food Day ceremony held at the Gladstone Road Agriculture Center
Photos: Felipe Major/Tribune Staff

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

ON Saturday, Gladstone Road was the venue for a mini fair to celebrate World Food Day.

The eight-hour event at the Research Centre on Gladstone Road included a farmers' market, and live music provided by the Royal Bahamas Police Force Band.

The day was identified by the United Nation's Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) to celebrate mankind's efforts to produce enough food to feed the world.

FAO's theme for World Food Day 2011 is "Food Prices - From Crisis to Stability".

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THE ROYAL Bahamas Police Force Band played for the opening

INTERNATIONAL NEWS



FRANCOIS HOLLANDE, winner of the Socialist Party primary vote for France's 2012 presidential, left, celebrates with rival candidate Martine Aubry at the party's headquarters after the second round of the vote. Hollande urged the French left to unite behind his bid for the presidency in elections next year

HOLLANDE TO TAKE ON SARKOZY IN FRENCH VOTE

PARIS
Associated Press

FORMER French Socialist Party chief Francois Hollande declared victory Sunday in the party's presidential primary, urging the left to unite around his bid to unseat embattled conservative Nicolas Sarkozy in elections next year.

Hollande, a 57-year-old moderate leftist known more as a behind-the-scenes consensus-builder than a visionary, is seen by many as a welcome contrast to the tough-talking, hard-driving Sarkozy.

Sunday's vote for the main opposition party's presidential nominee comes at a time when many French citizens are worried about high state debt, cuts to education spending, anemic economic growth and lingering unemployment.

With 2.2 million votes counted after Sunday's run-

off voting, the Socialist Party said 56 percent of the ballots were for Hollande and 44 percent for his challenger Martine Aubry, who had succeeded Hollande as Socialist Party leader.

The party estimates that more than 2.7 million people voted in Sunday's run-off.

"I note with pride and responsibility the vote tonight, which with more than 55 percent of the vote gives me the large majority I had sought," Hollande told supporters in party headquarters as results rolled in.

He said the victory gives him "strength and legitimacy" to take on Sarkozy, who is widely expected to seek a second five-year term in elections in April and May. Hollande pledged to reverse Sarkozy-era cuts in education funding and defend the values of the left.

Aubry quickly conceded

defeat. She had sought to be France's first female president.

"I warmly congratulate Francois Hollande, who is clearly ahead. His victory is unquestionable," said Aubry, famed for authoring France's 35-hour workweek law.

The bespectacled Hollande was the longtime partner of the Socialists' last presidential candidate, Segolene Royal. The two split after Royal's 2007 presidential defeat to Sarkozy but stood side-by-side during Hollande's victory speech Sunday.

Recent polls suggest Hollande could easily beat Sarkozy in the presidential election next spring.

The incumbent's favorability ratings have hovered near the 30-percent level for months, but he is a strong campaigner and senses a rightward-majority tilt in the French electorate.

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BANK TO INVEST \$6M IN UPGRADE

- * BoB branches to be remodelled in next 24 months
- * \$9m provisions, plus operating cost rise, behind 24.5% profit drop in 2011
- * But MD says share price up 45% in last 3 months

By NEIL HARTNELL
 Tribune Business Editor

BANK of the Bahamas International will invest "close to \$6 million" over the next 24 months in upgrading its 12 branches, including an expansion of the Carmichael Road location, following a year in which it would have matched 2010's bottom line despite \$9.132 million in loan loss provisions - were it not for

SEE page five

MULTI-MILLION PROJECT EYES 100 FULL-TIME JOBS



* Palm Cay chief 'very confident' 350-400 unit development sold out in four years' time

* 200-300 construction workers, eight contractors, on site

* UK investors spend \$40m to date; looking at other Bahamas projects in future

By NEIL HARTNELL
 Tribune Business Editor

AN EASTERN New Providence real estate development could create more than 100 full-time jobs when completed, its newly-appointed chief executive telling Tribune Business he was "very confident" that the 350-400 unit project would be sold out within the next four years.

Richard Browning said Palm Cay's UK-based investors had "committed to continue to invest" to make the project a success, having spent "just shy of \$40 million to get us where we are" - a position that is now allowing the development to start marketing to Bahamas-based buyers in earnest.

Emphasising that Palm Cay wanted to first build "a local commu-

SEE page six

NAD RAISES \$582M IN AVAILABLE CREDIT

* Far more than \$409.5m LPIA redevelopment cost

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
 Tribune Business Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

THE Nassau Airport Development Company (NAD) has raised its available line of credit to \$582 million through its financing efforts, its vice-president of marketing told Tribune Business.

Speaking at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Nassau Sunrise, Vernice Walkine said: "The total budget for the project is \$409.5 million. It is the single largest infra-structural project ever undertaken by the Government.

"We've raised \$582 million today in four transactions. That's the monies we've been able to raise

SEE page seven

TAXATION SYSTEM RESTRICTS GOV'T 'TAX AND SPEND'

* Think-tank executive rejects income tax as stifling productivity and investment

By NEIL HARTNELL
 Tribune Business Editor

A LEADING libertarian has backed the Bahamas' current taxation system because it places "severe restrictions" on the Government's ability "to tax and spend as if there's no tomorrow", urging that any reform focus on consumption-based taxes rather than an income tax.

Rick Lowe, vice-president and treasurer of the Nassau Institute think-tank, told Tribune Business that because tax increases were

so visible to consumers and businesses under the current import-duty based system, governments were kept in-check on this issue because of the obvious resulting political fallout.

One of the speakers at last week's College of the Bahamas (COB) debate on whether this nation should switch to an income tax system, Mr Lowe again reiterated his belief that government spending, rather than revenue, was the main factor behind persistent fiscal

SEE page five

CITY MARKETS IN SEAGRAPES STORE RE-OPEN

By NEIL HARTNELL
 Tribune Business Editor

CITY Markets has reopened its Seagrapes store location, Tribune Business can confirm, cutting its hours from 7am to 11pm.

Calls to Mark Finlayson, City Markets' principal and head of its 78 per cent majority shareholder, Trans-Island Traders, were not returned

SEE page five

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BUSINESS

GAS PRICES TO DECLINE DESPITE MARGIN RISE

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Business
Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

CONSUMERS will still see a \$0.34 to \$0.47 cent decrease in the cost of fuel despite the Government's decision to increase the margins for petroleum retailers, the minister of state for public utilities has told Tribune Business.

The Government announced last week that it would increase the margins on gasoline and diesel, previously fixed at \$0.44 and \$0.19 per gallon respectively, to \$0.54 and \$0.34 cents.

But, in late August, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham said no to a margin increase requested by the Bahamian Petroleum Retailers Association (BPRA), arguing at that time that "the price of gas was already too high and the Gov-

ernment is not willing to impose a further burden on the public."

Explaining the rationale for the Government moving now, Phenton Neymour said: "The Government did not consider that an appropriate time because the cost of gas was in the region of \$5.60."

"The Government indicated that we recognised the challenges they [the retailers] were facing, and was of the view that there was need for a margin increase but we could not accommodate it at that time because we didn't feel that the Bahamian economy and the Bahamian people could accept an additional \$0.30 on to that \$5.60."

Mr Neymour added: "The price of oil has significantly decreased. We're now beginning to feel the effects of that, and so with there being a decrease in the cost of gaso-



Phenton Neymour
SEE page 11

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Pictured from Left:
Mrs. Christina Taylor - Winner; Kim Pritchard - Kraft Brands Manager, The d'Albence Agency Ltd.; Sam Thibaud - Marketing Manager, Master Technicians; Mrs. Elbethel Mackey - Winner

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Alternatively, fax to 242-323-2637

REGULATOR ADJUSTS MARKET POWER THRESHOLD TO 40%

By NEIL HARTNELL
Tribune Business Editor

THE COMMUNICATIONS regulator has bowed to pressure from its two leading licensees over the proposed market share thresholds for determining 'Significant Market Power' (SMP), agreeing to alter this from between 25-75 per cent to a 40 per cent benchmark instead.

In its statement of results on the methods for determining SMP in the Bahamian communications market, the Utilities Regulation & Competition Authority (URCA) said it was "prudent" to change the initial threshold it had given, which was that carriers with between 25-75 per cent market share should be presumed to have SMP.

* URCA bows to feedback from BTC and Cable Bahamas

This was opposed by both Cable Bahamas and the newly-privatised Bahamas Telecommunications Company (BTC), which had argued that this threshold was inconsistent with European Union's (EU) practices.

The SMP-related provisions of the Bahamas' Communications Act 2009 are largely based on the EU's electronic communications sector directives, and both Cable Bahamas and BTC agreed that licensees with a market share of less than 25 per cent should be presumed as non-SMP.

However, both oppose URCA's initial proposal that

communications licensees with a market share of between 25-75 per cent should be presumed to have SMP, and also had some difficulties with the regulator's position that firms with 75 per cent or more market share would be automatically determined to have SMP power.

Noting these concerns, URCA said it had considered the feedback from both companies, and added: "URCA recognises that it cannot conclusively say that a licensee with less than 25 per cent market share will be presumed to be a non-SMP licensee."

"However, after considering all submissions, reviewing international experiences and considering factors and characteristics specific to the Bahamas (the embryonic stage of the electronic communications markets), URCA considers it prudent to increase the threshold level from 25 per cent to 40 per cent."

"URCA would not likely consider a licensee with market share of less than 40 per cent to be an SMP licensee unless compelling evidence is provided to URCA demonstrating otherwise. As a result of this change, URCA will amend its statement to read: 'A licensee with less than 40 per cent market share will not generally be presumed to have SMP.'"

In its earlier response to URCA's initial consultation on SMP determination methods, Cable Bahamas said it agreed with the presumption of no SMP for an operator with less than 25 per cent market share.

"However, when considering a market share above 25 per cent, a presumption of dominance is unreasonable and, indeed, a presumption of dominance below a market share of 40 per cent is not consistent with international precedents," Cable Bahamas had argued.

Noting that this was supported by the European Commission in the EU's SMP guidelines, Cable Bahamas added: "It is also unjustified to impose what appears to be a conclusive determination of SMP above

a 75 per cent threshold, as URCA appears to propose. "High market share alone is not considered sufficient to establish dominance in SMP. Thus, although a presumption of SMP may apply in the case of very high market shares, the presumption should not be conclusive or irrefutable. This is consistent with international precedents, in which there have been findings of non-dominance notwithstanding very high market shares (i.e. above 75 per cent)."

As a result, Cable Bahamas concluded that presumptions of market dominance (SMP) should only apply to firms with a 40 per cent market share or greater, and that market share should

SEE page eight



HUGH SANDS

Hugh Sands to receive BFSB's Lifetime award

HUGH SANDS has been selected to receive the Bahamas Financial Services Board's (BFSB) Lifetime Achievement Award, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the industry.

Mr Sands, a banking industry veteran, is the former Caribbean director and Bahamas manager for Barclays Bank, from which he retired in 1995 after a career that began in 1973.

He started at Barclays as a staff manager in the Bahamas head office and, prior to becoming Bahamas manager, also served as manager of Barclays' Bay Street branch.

As Caribbean director his duties included responsibility

for the bank's operations in the Bahamas, Turks and Caicos Islands, and profit and performance planning for the bank's operations in the Cayman Islands and Belize.

After retiring from Barclays, Mr Sands was appointed chairman of the Bank of the Bahamas, a position he held until retiring in early 2005. In 1998 he was awarded the Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of Saint Michael and Saint George (CMG), in recognition of his significant contribution to the Bahamas. Three years prior, he became an Honorary Fellow of the Bahamas Institute of Bankers, now the Bahamas Financial Services Institute. Currently, he remains a

trustee of the Royal Bahamas Police Dependents Trust Fund and chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Bahamas Hotel and Allied Industries Pension fund. He serves as a director of The Private Trust Corporation,

Tribune Radio Holdings, Providence Advisors, Fidelity Bank and Trust, Andbank (Bahamas), CBH Compagnie Bancaire Helvetique SA (formerly Banque SCS Alliance (Nassau) Limited). Previously, he served as chairman of J.S. Johnson & Company and the Insurance Company of the Bahamas.

Mr Sands concluded a four year appointment as Chairman of the Public Service Commission on the 31

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NOTICE

**New Store hours for
STAR DUST DRUGS**

**Blue Hill Rd.
effective
October 14th Mon-Sunday 7:30am - 7pm
Public Holidays 7:30am - 2:30pm**

THE COLLEGE OF THE BAHAMAS

Visit our website at www.cob.edu.bs

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) AND
EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST (EOI)**

PREPARATION OF A TEN (10) YEAR MASTER PLAN

The College of the Bahamas (COB) is seeking Expressions of Interest from qualified architectural firms to provide services for the preparation of a ten (10) year Master Plan for the development of all campuses of The College.

Interested parties may obtain a copy of the RFP from:

Office of the Vice President, Finance/Chief Financial Officer
Portia M. Smith Student Services Centre, 2nd floor, Room 202
The College of The Bahamas
Oakes Field Campus
Nassau, The Bahamas
Tel: (242) 302-4516

Or

Office of Associate Vice President
College of The Bahamas
Northern Bahamas Campus
Grand Bahama
Tel: (242) 352-9761

The documents are ready for collection as of Monday 3rd October, 2011. An information meeting will be held in Nassau, on Monday 10th October, 2011 at 11:00a.m. in the Conference Room, Harry C. Moore Library and Information Centre, The College of The Bahamas, Oakes Field Campus, Tucker Road entrance.

EOIs are to be submitted to the location(s) indicated in the RFP document in a sealed envelope appropriately marked:

**The President
College of The Bahamas**

**EXPRESSION OF INTEREST - College of
The Bahamas Master Plan**

All EOIs are to be submitted by 12:00 pm (mid-day) on Friday 21st October, 2011.

APD Limited – Request for Proposals for Private Terminal Operators.

Invitation to qualified Ocean Carriers interested in operating a private container terminal within the Nassau Container Port.

APD Limited was established in 2010 pursuant to a MOU between the Bahamas Government and APD Limited for the purpose of developing Arawak City into an international port facility serving the break bulk cargo, bulk materials and containerized freight needs in New Providence. The port development and operating agreement with the Government of The Bahamas provides APD Limited with exclusive rights to operate the port in New Providence for twenty years and provides APD Limited with a 45 year lease for the port property on Arawak City.

In July 2010 Port construction began and the Port is expected to be fully operational by January 2012. APD Limited would like to invite qualified firms to submit proposals to operate a private container terminal in the Arawak Port.

The Ocean Carrier will be expected to operate and supply the necessary freight handling equipment and personnel to meet the operating needs of the assigned private container terminal. APD Limited will establish the rules and regulations regarding the safe operation of a private container terminal. The Ocean carrier will be required to conform to these requirements in order to remain in good standing with APD Limited. Should the Ocean Carrier fail to meet the minimum operating requirements and/or satisfactorily comply with the terms and conditions of the license, APD Limited will have the right to terminate the license without consequences to APD Limited. The Ocean Carrier will be subject to a \$15 per TEU license fee and will be subject to minimum volume guarantees. In addition the Ocean Carrier will be required to construct a maintenance facility to support the freight equipment operation. All improvements made to APD Limited property, to include facilities of any kind, become the absolute property of APD Limited at the expiration of the license.

Ocean Carriers interested in obtaining a license to operate a private container terminal in the Arawak Port are invited to submit a proposal to include but not be limited to the following:

1. Business structure: sole entity or a consortium of partners. Please explain and provide background of consortium.
2. Evidence that the applicant is licensed to provide freight terminal/stowage operations in the Bahamas.
3. Detailed account of current and historic experience in operating a private container terminal.
4. APD Limited requires that the Ocean Carrier provide a minimum TEU volume commitment as part of their response to the RFP. The applicant is asked to provide the TEU volume which they will guarantee each of the first three years of operation.
5. Evidence that the applicant can provide the following freight equipment by the dates indicated:
 - a. Reach stackers, top loader, straddle carrier – minimum QTY required 5 of any combination (All required by January 15th 2012)
 - b. Lumber Trucks – minimum QTY 4 (required by January 15th, 2012)
6. The applicant should include a list of terminal operations staff and their qualifications and years of experience.

Procedure:
Upon receipt and satisfactory analysis of the provided qualification, the shortlisted companies will be invited to present their proposal on or before November 7th, 2011.

You are asked to hand deliver your submission to the office of APD Limited, Arawak City, Bahamas. Submissions must be received on or before November 1st, 2011.

**LOW DOWN PAYMENT!
MOVE IN NOW!**

For Sale

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3 Bedroom, 2 ½ Bath Townhomes with Garage

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BUSINESS

BHA FORGES SECURITY TRAINING SCHOOL LINK

INCREASING numbers of high school students are participating in tourism industry-related certification programs, which are being piloted in several schools as part of an initiative by the Ministry of Education and the Bahamas Hotel Association.

Thirty-nine students from the Government High School and Anatole Rodgers High School were the first to enroll in a new program launched this week to prepare them for jobs and careers in the safety and security field in the nation's hotels.

part of our industry are considerable, growing and projected to continue to grow, particularly with the new resorts being developed in New Providence. Roughly 4 per cent of people employed in the hotel industry are working in the safety and security field," said BHA president Stuart Bowe.

"We are excited to have been able to forge a partnership between members of the BHA Tourism Safety and Security Network (TSSN) and the principles of Anatole Rodgers, the Government High School, and Aquinas College to create a

three-year certification program which will be taught after school twice a week by the leading security personnel in our industry."

Students who successfully complete the High School Certified Safety & Security Officer Program (SSOP) will find it much easier to secure employment in this part of the industry.

According to TSSN chairman Douglas Hanna, who is also senior vice-president for security at Kerzner International, the curriculum is built around a textbook for the industry globally called 'The Professional Protection Officer'.

"It covers a broad range of topics aimed at helping ensure the success of the young people as they enter our industry. A variety of teaching tools will be used to engage the students and help them understand the critical role they would play in ensuring our guests have a safe and memorable experience," Mr Hanna added.

The program's details were shared recently during a parent's meeting at the Govern-



LEFT TO RIGHT - Mrs. Myrtle McPhee, Mr. Stuart Bowe, Mr. Collin Johnson, Mr. H. Kevin Brown, Ms. Bridget Murray, Ms. Lavern Dean and Mr. Philip Johnson.

ment High School when principal Collin Johnson was joined by Anatole Rodgers High School principal, Myrtle McPhee, and representatives from BHA and the TSSN. The certification program is tied to the globally-recognised International Foundation for Protection Officers.

The BHA is also working with the Ministry of Education to develop certification programs in several other areas of the industry, in partnership with the American Hotel & Lodging Education Institute; Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscaping Association and the Bahamas Landscaping Association; the Coterie of Caribbean

Butlers; and the Dermal Institute.

"When a young graduate with little or no work experience comes to industry seeking employment after high school, it is certificate programs like these which gives them a leg-up or a competitive advantage and helps them to land their first job. Their chances of transitioning from school-to-work and becoming a productive and valued part of our industry are enhanced considerably," said Mr Bowe.

Photo Caption L to R: Myrtle McPhee, principal, Anatole Rodgers Jr/Sr High School; Stuart Bowe, president, the

Bahamas Hotel Association; Collin Johnson, principal, Government High School; H. Kevin Brown, chairperson, safety and security credentialing committee and member of the Tourism Safety & Security Network; Bridget Murray, credentialing committee member and workforce development manager, the Bahamas Hotel Association; Lavern Dean, credentialing committee member and member of the Tourism Safety & Security Network; Philip Johnson, credentialing committee member and member of the Tourism Safety & Security Network. (Not in photo is Shona Knowles, principal - Aquinas College)

PARALEGAL WANTED

Established busy practice is seeking a Paralegal with minimum 2 years Law Practice Experience.

Reply in confidence to: legalaid242@gmail.com



VACANCY NOTICE

Grand Bahama Power Company Ltd. (GBPC) is a totally integrated utility company serving the Island's 50,000 residents and commercial establishments from east to west. The company employs over 180 Bahamians and has one of the lowest electricity rates in the Caribbean.

GBPC is seeking to recruit an experienced **Senior Accountant**. The position is responsible for, but not limited to, maintenance of the general ledger and financial reporting, as well as financial analysis and other special projects as assigned. The Senior Accountant reports to the Financial Controller or designee and plays an integral role in ensuring that all of the Accounting Department deliverables are met.

The incumbent must be able to effectively handle multiple projects simultaneously in a deadline driven environment. The individual will be expected to work with minimal up-front guidance and take ownership of his/her work product. The incumbent in this position will be expected to work harmoniously and effectively with peers and in particular with the Financial Controller and Assistant Controller.

Minimum Qualifications are:-

- Bachelors or higher degree in Accounting, Finance or related field from an accredited University
- Five years progressively responsible experience in the accounting industry
- Strong understanding of accounting theory (GAAP and IFRS)
- Strong analytical and accounting skills
- Intermediate to advanced experience with MS Word, MS Excel, MS Outlook
- Intermediate to advanced knowledge of major accounting software packages
- Excellent verbal, written, communication and interpersonal skills

Suitably qualified applicants should send their applications along with supporting documentation including a clean Police Certificate and proof of Bahamian citizenship to:

THE VICE PRESIDENT OF HUMAN RESOURCES
GRAND BAHAMA POWER COMPANY, LIMITED
P.O. BOX 1-40888
Freetown, Grand Bahama
Bahamas
OR BY EMAIL: hrdept@gb-power.com

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF APPLICATION IS WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2011.



AVAILABLE UBS Annex - East Bay Street

FEATURES:

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- First Floor: 11,827 SF (1,095.8 SM)
- energy efficient building
- Impact resistant windows and doors
- Full service stand by generator
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- Fire alarm and controlled access
- Monitored CCTV cameras
- Impact resistant windows and doors
- Finished shell interior

For more information please contact:

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cmartin@nab.com

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lroberts@nab.com

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www.nabahamas.com



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

CIBC FirstCaribbean is a major Caribbean bank offering a full range of market-leading financial services in Corporate Banking, Retail Banking, Wealth Management, Credit Cards, Capital Markets and Treasury. We are the largest, regionally-listed bank in the English-speaking Caribbean, with over 3,500 staff; 100 branches and banking centres, and offices in 17 regional markets, serving 800,000 active accounts. We are looking to fill the following position:

SENIOR MANAGER-CORPORATE CREDIT RISK MANAGEMENT

ABOUT THE JOB

- Assess corporate credit accounts including any grouped personal accounts for key individuals.
- Monitor/manage adherence to Bank credit risk policy, guidelines & procedures for corporate, capital markets bank and sovereign sectors.
- Visit corporate business teams throughout the region to assess quality of portfolios.
- Provide support, guidance and advice to front line Corporate Managers on specific proposals, lending situations and any credit issues.

ABOUT YOU

- At least 7 years banking experience
- Prior experience as a front line commercial lender.
- Professional qualification - ACIB or equivalent.
- Sound understanding of accounting principles.
- Thorough hands on knowledge of use and function of all corporate credit decision support tools.
- In depth knowledge of corporate structures and security considerations.
- Complete knowledge of corporate market credit and counter party transaction risks.
- Detailed knowledge of all corporate credit products
- Knowledge of economic and political environments and the financial services industry in all markets served.
- Previous experience working within a structured team environment.
- Demonstrated written and oral communication skills.
- Prior credit structuring and negotiation experience.

ABOUT OUR OFFER

You will have a challenging, diverse experience with opportunities for professional growth. Our compensation and reward package is attractively structured and performance bonuses are offered.

ABOUT APPLYING

To apply for this and any other positions, kindly visit our www.firstcaribbeanbank.com/careers.htm

Applications with detailed resumes with the names of three business reference should be submitted.

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