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MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011

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NFL ACTION WEEK 11

DOLPHINS ON A WINNING STREAK

SEE SPORTS SECTION E



HIV health expert is gunned down

Worker killed as the Bahamas hosts conference

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

AN HIV peer educator was found gunned down at an apartment near police headquarters as the Bahamas hosts the 2011 Caribbean HIV Conference.

The bodies of Alexander Curry, the Bahamas Red Cross (BRC) volunteer, and 21-year-old Courtney Barry were found in separate incidents on Saturday.

Last night, police were without any leads in either

incident which occurred less than 24 hours apart.

B K Bonamy Jr, acting head of the Criminal Detective Unit, said: "We want anyone with information to give us a call, give us some idea as to what they think happened so that we can know where to look or start, to bring some closure."

Mr Bonamy Jr did not identify the victims as police were still in the process of locating family members.

Mr Curry's body was found

SEE page 11

AIDS STILL A MAJOR CAUSE OF DEATHS

By CELESTE NIXON
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DESPITE advances over the past several years AIDS remains a leading cause of death among Bahamians aged 25 to 44 years old, the prime minister said.

Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham opened the first

Caribbean HIV Conference this weekend to discuss the multi-faceted issues facing the region's battle to combat the disease.

Under the theme: "Strengthening Evidence to Achieve Sustainable Action", Mr Ingraham said the Bahamas was pleased to host

SEE page 11

THE BIG T JOINS THE CHRISTMAS PARADE



TRIBUNE TEAM MEMBER Patrice Fisher, inset, holds up a Big T at the Mall at Marathon Christmas parade on Saturday. Hundreds of those who attended the parade received a free Big T as well as sweets and other goodies. The Big T would also like to thank Builders Mall in Wulff Road for the loan of their fire truck for the event. For more parade pictures, see the second news section today. Photo: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

19 COLOMBIAN IMMIGRANTS HELD

A JOINT force of Royal Bahamas Police and Immigration officers apprehended 19 Colombian immigrants and one Bahamian in an affluent Grand Bahama neighbourhood yesterday morning, according Assistant Superintendent Clarence Reckley.

Mr Reckley said the immigrants were flown to New Providence late yesterday morning to be processed and are being held at the Carmichael Road Detention Centre.

He added that the 36-year-

SEE page 11

FESTIVE SEASON TO SEE AN END TO ROADWORKS

MANY of the roads under construction across New Providence will be cleared of their temporary barriers for the Christmas season, while others will be completed in time for the holiday, according to the Ministry of Public Works and Transport.

Ministry spokespersons said that many of the cones and concrete blocks that are being used in traffic management will be removed before the contractor, Jose Cartellone Construcciones Civiles (JCCC), goes on Christmas

holiday and that the necessary traffic management systems will be reinstated by the contractor when they return to work in January.

"The public is advised that temporary paving will be done in areas where work has not progressed to the first layer of asphalt, so that motorists can have the best driving experience during the Christmas holidays," a ministry spokesperson said.

The Project Execution Unit

SEE page 3

TWO QUIZZED OVER JEWELLERY RAID

POLICE are questioning two men in connection with the break-in and theft of jewellery from a store in Palmdale.

The men, aged 28 and 32, were found in possession of a large quantity of jewellery suspected to have been stolen shortly before 6pm Saturday.

The glass door at the rear of Michael Anthony Jewellers was broken and about \$150,000 worth of jewellery was stolen sometime between Friday night and Saturday morning.

The reported the burglary around 10am Saturday.

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LOCAL NEWS

...AND A JOLLY GOOD WEEKEND WAS HAD BY ALL



VISITORS admire the spread on show at the annual Jollification event held over the weekend at the Bahamas National Trust Retreat on Village Road. For more pictures from this year's Jollification, see the Big T on Saturday. Photo: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

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Closing statements are expected in murder trial

By LAMECH JOHNSON
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THE Supreme Court trial of a man accused of murder at a church construction site in 2009 should end today when counsel present their closing

submissions.

Phanuel Charles, 28, is accused of stabbing 21-year-old Leonard Lionel Johnson on November 16, 2009, who died of his injuries shortly after a scuffle.

During the trial last week, a number of witnesses gave evidence. Charles chose to testify under oath. He told the court that he had been attacked – on the afternoon in question – by the deceased and another colleague nicknamed “Turbulence”, one armed with a piece of steel, the other with a knife.

He said that he and the deceased had got into a scuffle. He claimed that he was hit with the steel pipe on his left shoulder.

Dr Juliette Dorsette, a Princess Margaret Hospital general practitioner, confirmed in her testimony that an examination of the accused's shoulder was done and documented but the medical notes could not be found.

Charles told the court that after watching the scuffle, “Turbulence” jumped in and it ended in all three men on the ground after he pushed the deceased into Turbulence.

The accused said he was frightened for his life while the two were trying to pin him down. He did not know when or how Johnson got a knife in his hand to stab him.

He testified that there was a struggle between the two as he tried not to get stabbed. When he saw blood from the deceased, he managed to get

away and run to the Quakoo Street police station to file a complaint.

However, he said, an officer kept leaving and returning during his explanation of why he was there, only asking a few questions between his leaving and returning. He then said that he was cautioned and arrested.

Prosecutor Damell Dorsette suggested all of the accused's evidence was not the truth and he'd wanted to get back at the deceased who had called him a derogatory name earlier during the day in front of their colleagues.

She suggested he was in possession of the knife and had stabbed the deceased in the “clocking out” office before going outside where the scuffle then took place. The accused disagreed.

Emergency department physician Dr Ricardo Davis had told the court that, on the date in question, the murder victim had been “brought in dead” to the hospital's A&E section in the back seat of a private vehicle.

He said the victim had been stabbed in the left side of the chest, later confirmed by pathologist Dr Caryn Sands.

The doctor said he received a knife – which had been in the vehicle – but had passed it on to the investigating officer.

Cpl 527 Basil Evans said after visiting the A&E and the scene of the incident, he cautioned Charles and recorded an interview with the accused.

He said Charles opted not to answer questions on the advice of his attorney.

Cpl Evans said Charles did give a statement, in which he said the stabbing happened after a scuffle between him, the victim and a co-worker.

In the statement, the accused said the victim had pulled out a knife, which Charles tried to take away from him during the struggle.

The trial resumes today at 10am.

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LOCAL NEWS

'People not interested in AIDS education'

By DANA SMITH
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

THE Bahamas Red Cross has found that young Bahamians are not interested in assisting with HIV and AIDS education, one of its representatives said yesterday.

Amanda Lewis, Red Cross Project Coordinator, was a presenter at the 2011 Caribbean HIV Conference, where she spoke on the difficulties in raising HIV-AIDS awareness among young people.

She explained how factors such as low interest from young people in HIV-AIDS education and a "lack of association" between HIV-AIDS work and the Bahamas Red Cross hindered the Red Cross' efforts in organising education programmes.

At the conference, Ms Lewis unveiled a new project, The Caribbean HIV-AIDS Project (CHAP), where young people can become peer educators, and teach their peers about safe sex, HIV, and AIDS.

Ms Lewis said that recruiting young people to be Peer Educators was the "main challenge" of CHAP.

"It's very difficult to get young people involved in something that they might not see the value in, right away," she said.

Despite this, according to the Bahamas Red Cross, CHAP was able to educate more than 5,000 young Bahamians on HIV prevention, this year alone.

"It's a two-year programme sponsored by the American Red Cross and being imple-

mented by the Bahamas Red Cross," Ms Lewis said.

"I train peer educators with knowledge about HIV prevention and safer sex, and they in turn go into their communities and educate their friends, family members, and peers."

She continued: "The research shows that young people are more receptive to hearing information from somebody in their age group. It's seen more as sharing information rather than being lectured to."

Ms Lewis said she "had to do a lot of work" to recruit young Bahamians to participate in the project, stating that she found "low levels of interest" from youth in becoming peer educators and "feelings of fatigue" from youth in becoming involved

in an organisation, in general. Ms Lewis also described how many Bahamians did not realize the role the Bahamas Red Cross played in HIV-AIDS education.

"Community members did not associate the Bahamas Red Cross Society with HIV-AIDS work so it was very difficult for us to establish ourselves and get the programme started," Ms Lewis said. "This lack of association had a big impact on the difficulties we faced when we were recruiting."

However, the Bahamas Red Cross was able to recruit 42 young Bahamians to become peer educators, with 36 remaining active in their communities.

"We've had great success. One of our targets for the project was that there would

be 4,000 young people reached by our peer educators in their communities by the end of the second year, and by the end of the first year, we've met just under 6,000," Ms Lewis said.

Colin Scavella Jr, the Lead Male of CHAP's peer educators said he got involved with CHAP because he "found that there was a need in the different communities throughout Nassau" for HIV-AIDS education.

"In the beginning, the response was kind of reluctant, but once you start, people start talking to people. I speak to a group today, and tomorrow they bring their friends. By the time you realize it, in the space of a week's time you've already spoken to 30 or 40 people," Mr Scavella said.

"It's like a domino effect – you speak to one or two people, and it trickles down from there."

A WEEK TO CELEBRATE WOMEN

NATIONAL Women's Week is set aside to reflect on the accomplishments of women over the years, Minister of State for Labour and Social Development Loretta Butler-Turner said.

She said the week presents the opportunity for women across the country "to take an introspective look at ourselves and our roles in the home".

National Women's Week also celebrates the observance of the anniversary of the enfranchisement of women.

"The votes for Women Act of 1961 under the provisions of the General Assembly Elections Act came into force on June 30, 1962, and on November 26, 1962, women voted for the first time. This year marks the 49th anniversary of women's suffrage," said Mrs Butler-Turner. She said the pioneers who led the way in advocating for the right to vote are to be saluted.

"As we remember the pio-

neering women on whose shoulders we stand – women like Mary Ingraham, Mabel Walker, Eugenia Lockhart, Georgianna Symonette and Doris Johnson, we build on the proud legacy that we have inherited and we continue the conversation that will result in charting the way forward for Bahamian women throughout the length and breadth of this archipelago."

Women's week begins with a church service planned for Sunday at 10am at St Joseph's Catholic Church on Boyd Road.

On November 22, a workshop will be held at the Ministry of Health's cafeteria at the Poinciana Hill complex.

The Crisis Centre in collaboration with the Bureau will host a workshop on Domestic Violence at Holy Cross Parish Hall, Highbury Park on November 25.

A Power Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, November



FROM LEFT, First Assistant Secretary and Officer in Charge of the Bureau of Women's Affairs, Christine Campbell; Minister of State in the Ministry of Labour and Social Development Loretta Butler-Turner; Gwendolyn Knowles, Chairperson of the National Women's Advisory Council' and Planning Committee member Mavis Johnson-Collie announcing National Women's Week. Photo: Letisha Henderson/BIS

26, 2011 at the British Colonial Hilton.

Events planned for Grand Bahama include a service to be held at 10am for Christ the King, Freeport, and a luncheon at 12.30 pm, at the Pro-Cathedral of Christ the King Hall, on Wednesday.

Ten women who have given exemplary service to the Grand Bahama community will be honoured.

Women's week is being held from November 20 to 26 under the theme "Women: Building Strong, Secure and Healthy Families".

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FESTIVE SEASON TO SEE AN END TO ROADWORKS

from page one
of the Ministry of Public Works and Transport announced Friday that in anticipation of increased traffic volume during the month of December, particularly during the week prior to Christmas, the Ministry and the contractor for the New Providence Improvement and Infrastructure Project are working on returning traffic to several key road corridors by expediting works so that the first layer of asphalt can be completed.

Members of the unit explained that Marathon Road between Samana Drive and the entrance to the Mall at Marathon (near Kentucky Fried Chicken) has recently been paved and opened to vehicular traffic. Motorists are now able to drive the entire length of Marathon Road from Wulff to Robinson Roads without diversions, they said.

They added that new traffic signals resembling those seen in the United States of America are being installed at the junction of Marathon Road and the East West Highway.

According to a release issued by the Ministry, the southbound lane of Baillou Hill Road near Family Guardian has been opened and two new lanes were recently paved on this section of Baillou Hill Road.

All underground works on Baillou Hill Road north between Cockburn and Duke Streets near Government House are now completed and JCCC has begun preparation for paving, the release said.

The ministry said it anti-

pates paving in this area will be completed by the end of November, while Robinson Road, between Third and First Streets, could be paved before December 20, when the contractor breaks for the Christmas holidays.

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IMMORTALS	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:40
JACK AND JILL	T	1:10	3:40	N/A	6:05	8:35	10:50
TOWER HEIST	T	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:45
IN TIME	T	1:05	3:30	N/A	6:15	8:25	10:40
PESS IN BOOTS	B	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:30
PARANORMAL ACTIVITY	T	1:15	4:05	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:50
REAL STEEL	B	1:05	4:05	N/A	7:05	N/A	10:05
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JACK AND JILL	C	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:55
TOWER HEIST	T	1:10	3:30	N/A	6:00	8:25	10:50
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Have roadworks become a political football?

A LETTER writer on this page today has raised the "suspicion that those opposed to the government must be playing an active role in delaying this project (reconstruction of the roads) for their own reasons".

With lawyer Wayne Munroe, DNA candidate for Mt Moriah, taking the Bahamian workers' complaints against contractor Jose Cartellones construction company to the Supreme Court, instead of going through the normal Labour Board complaint channels, there is suspicion that the closed roads, which Bahamians want speedily completed, have now become a political football. Several months ago, when it was announced that Mr Munroe was entering the political arena, it was claimed that should his party win, he would be the next attorney general.

And now there is Mr Rodney Moncur, DNA candidate for Bain and Grants Town, who is awaiting a reply from a letter he said he wrote to Labour Minister Dion Foulkes asking him to investigate the workers' complaints so that the "job can continue and where the men can work".

Although, Mr Moncur said he wrote Mr Foulkes because "he has been a hero in the labour movement", we advise Mr Moncur not to hold his breath while he awaits the Minister's reply. Mr Moncur must understand by now that his political ally has removed these complaints from Mr Foulkes' Ministry and taken them to the courts. Minister Foulkes can no longer interfere. These workers are now in the hands of another jurisdiction.

Whether these political suspicions have any substance is not for us to say.

However, for some time now an angry public — particularly in the affected business sector — has predicted that the economic havoc caused by the lengthy road closures could bring down the FNM government in 2012.

However, when the workers tried to pull a fast one by calling a strike, only to be outwitted by their early rising supervisors, public opinion quickly shifted. It was clear that anyone who would do anything to delay completion of these roads would not have public support. Certainly, there was scant sympathy for workers who when motorists drive past often see one leaning on a shovel, while others stand idly by watching the painfully slow process.

And so, if it is a political game that is being played with the object of further delaying the roads to bring down a government, we suggest that the plotters be careful of the dynamite they could be unwittingly lighting under their own political ambitions. Anyone who further slows

the completion of these roads — whether they be workers or politicians — could stir the public to justifiable anger.

It depends upon who one talks to as to the opinion that is given about the new roads. If you talk with a resident on the western end of the island, there is nothing but praise for the magnificent transformation on that end of the island. No longer do motorists — like Eastern Road residents — sit in bumper-to-bumper traffic for hours trying to get to their offices in town. The opinion of Western Road residents is that government has done a magnificent job, and from what they see as the potential for the eastern end of the island they believe when everything has been completed all Bahamians will be more than pleased with their new and modern road system.

We sympathise with all businessmen who have suffered such hardships by the lengthy road closures, but we should all have known that, with this island's infrastructure neglected for so many years, whatever government decided to eventually bite the bullet and get the job done could not do so without mammoth disruption to the daily lives of residents. However, whenever it has all been completed and the new roads are open at least Bahamians will have a road network of lasting value.

We recall years ago during the Pindling regime when one of the international organisations warned the Bahamas about its crumbling infrastructure. They advised that one day major repairs would have to be done, but the longer the government of the day delayed, the more expensive it would be for taxpayers and disruptive to the lives of all residents.

When all has been completed, Bahamians will appreciate the wisdom of Prime Minister Ingraham to invest the revenue needed to put as many Bahamians as possible back to work, into a modern road system that will not only make the lives of every Bahamian easier but will raise the standard of our tourist product in readiness for the day when vacationers will have the means to travel again. The belt-tightening situation, brought on by the international economic collapse, has been rough, but when one looks out at a troubled, explosive world, Bahamians have to give their Prime Minister credit for having maintained a steady hand on the tiller of this country's ship of state and in so doing avoided many disastrous shoals. Other countries have not been as fortunate.

Yes, look around and see the unrest, and violence in countries far more sophisticated than our own, and — despite the crime — thank God for our relative good fortune.

Roadworks project reaction

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IT WAS interesting to hear the main complaints from the workers on the New Providence roads project concerning:

(i) the unsympathetic reaction of the supervisors when the workers arrive 15 minutes late for work, either at the beginning of the shift or after lunch break. (I often see them relaxing whenever I drive by — whether on Abundant Life Road or elsewhere).

(ii) Some supervisors are not Bahamian. (Any supervisor would expect their workers to give a fair day's work for the agreed day's wage. Read the relevant parable in the Bible).

(iii) The payment for which the workers agreed at the beginning of their contract of employment is not enough now. (Except when they were jobless, I suppose).

The spokesman did not mention that after payday, many of the workers do not return for duty until Monday

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

of the following week.

(iv) The said employee admitted that they often delayed their tasks to highlight these points against their employer.

Upon listening to the above-mentioned employee, I was convinced more than ever about the suspicion that those opposed to the government must be playing an active role in delaying this project for their own reasons.

As regards the workers, what an attitude for them to have! Instead of taking pride in being involved in such an island-wide reconstruction of roadworks and the laying of underground utility pipes for years ahead with all its implications for the future, they appear to lack interest in this important work and only care about the money. I believe it was in London when a mason

worker on a building in the city replied to an onlooker that he was not just working on a building, but on a "cathedral".

Even Bahamian supervisors would wish to have such dedicated workers. In any event, at least the public can observe what government supervisors must endure to obtain minimum output from some non-skilled workers.

It should be patently obvious to all that notwithstanding weather conditions (rain) and other uncharted underground pipes, etc, that it is not the Government, Ministry of Works/Public Works Department or the contractors who are to blame for the delays in this project, but the laid-back work attitudes of the local labourers which leave a lot to be desired. Would you hire such workers for your home projects?

OBSERVER

Nassau,
November 18, 2011.

Birth of a new tradition

EDITOR, The Tribune.

AS THE holidays approach, the giant Asian factories are kicking into high gear to provide Bahamians with monstrous piles of cheaply produced goods — merchandise that has been produced at the expense of American labour.

This year will be different. This year, Bahamians will give the gift of genuine concern for other Bahamians. There is no longer an excuse that, at gift giving time, nothing can be found that is produced by Bahamian hands. Yes, there is!

It's time to think outside the box, people. Who says a gift needs to fit in a shirt box, wrapped in Chinese produced wrapping paper?

Everyone — yes everyone gets their hair cut. How about gift certificates from your local Bahamian hair salon or barber?

Gym membership? It's appropriate for all ages who are thinking about some health improvement.

Who wouldn't appreciate getting their car detailed? Small, Bahamian owned detail shops and car washes would love to sell you a gift certificate or a book of gift certificates.

Are you one of those extravagant givers who think nothing of plonking down the Benjamin's on a Chinese made flat-screen? Perhaps that grateful gift receiver would like his driveway sealed, or lawn mowed for the summer, or driveway plowed all winter, or games at the local golf course.

There are a bazillion owner-run restaurants — all who could offer gift certificates. And, if your intended isn't the fancy eatery sort, what about a half dozen breakfasts at the local breakfast joint. Remember, folks this isn't about big national chains — this is about supporting your home town Bahamians with their financial lives on the line to keep their doors open.

How many people couldn't use an oil change for their car, truck or motorcycle, done at a shop run by the Bahamian working guy?

Thinking about a heartfelt gift for mom? Mom would love the services of a local cleaning lady for a day.

Some computer could use a tune-up, and I know there are some young guys struggling to get his repair business up and running.

OK, you were looking for something more personal. Local crafts people make jewellery, and pottery and beautiful wooden boxes, crafted and sewn items.

Plan your holiday outings at local, owner operated restaurants and leave your server a nice tip. And, how

about going out to see a play or concert at your hometown theatre.

Musicians need love too, so find a venue showcasing local bands.

Honestly, people, do you really need to buy another ten thousand Chinese lights for the house? When you buy a five dollar string of light, about fifty cents stays in the community. If you have those kinds of bucks to burn, leave the mailman, trash guy or baby-sitter a nice big tip.

You see, Christmas is no longer about draining Bahamian pockets so that China can build another glittering city. Christmas is now about caring about us, encouraging Bahamian small businesses to keep plugging away to follow their dreams. And, when we care about other Bahamians, we care about our communities, and the benefits come back to us in ways we couldn't imagine.

This is the new Bahamian Christmas tradition.

Forward this to everyone on your mailing list — post it to discussion groups — throw up a post on Facebook and Twitter — send it to the editor of your local paper and radio stations, and TV news departments. This is a revolution of caring about each other, and isn't that what Christmas is about?

MS LOCKHART

Nassau,
November 15, 2011.

DNA party - a splinter group?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THE RT Hon Hubert Ingraham called the DNA party a splinter group during his contribution to the crime bills recently in the House of Assembly. He devoted several minutes of comic talk about the Member for Bamboo Town, in which members of both sides could be seen literally squawking at the Prime Minister's best interpretation of Eddie Murphy.

The word splinter means something that is not together, fragmented or a piece of something. This description would probably best describe the former Coalition for Democratic Reform (CDR).

Standing room only at town meetings, thousands of followers on Facebook, thou-

sands of financially current members, leadership conferences for candidates, the ratification of 25 candidates and an agenda that speaks to nationalism and Bahamianisation are just some of the achievements of the DNA, just a few months after its inception.

Who will win the next general election remains to be seen. Like Bob Marley said in one of his reggae songs, "Time Will Tell". One thing I can say for sure is that the PM's assertion that the DNA party is a splinter group is incredible, given that evidence to the contrary exists.

DEHAVILLAND

MOSS
Nassau,
November 4, 2011.

Three years for drug dealer?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

Re: \$1M drug dealer gets three years in prison. — The Tribune, November 2, 2011.

THE article reports that there were convictions on a total of nine dangerous drug and gun charges. Strongly

deterrent and concurrent sentencing such as this sends a powerful message to all drug lords: Crime definitely does not pay!

KEN W KNOWLES, MD

Nassau,
November 10, 2011.

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LOCAL NEWS

\$1.2m classroom deal

EDUCATION Minister Desmond Bannister and Works and Transport Minister Neko Grant both signed documents allowing for the construction of a second phase to the Sister Mary Patricia Russell Junior High School.

The \$1,267,534.80 contract was awarded to Noula Investments Construction Company of Grand Bahama.

This second phase of construction to the two-and-a-half-year-old institute will involve the building of eight additional classrooms.

Mr Bannister said the expansion will allow the school to accommodate its ninth grade students for the first time starting in September 2012.

The ninth grade students of Sister Mary Patricia Junior High School are currently located at the nearby St George's High School.

"We are looking forward to the day when all of the students of this school will be educated under one roof. This includes the four eight-grade classrooms that are currently at St George's High School," he stated.

He commended the leadership, teachers, students and



NEKO GRANT presents Maxwell Quant, of Noula Investments Construction Company, with a copy of the contract for the construction of eight new classrooms at the Sister Mary Patricia Russell Junior High School in Freeport, Grand Bahama.

the entire community for their patience and cooperation in the matter.

"I want to thank them for recognising that education sometimes takes place under less than ideal circumstances. The current situation, however, has not prevented teachers from teaching and children from learning."

Mr Grant, MP for Lucaya, the constituency in which the school is located, said the FNM Manifesto 2007 committed to providing Bahamian children with quality education and to prepare them for the future.

Mr Grant pointed out that shortly after being re-elected, construction to the first phase of Sister Mary Patricia Russell School began in July 2007 costing some \$5.2m and was dedicated in October 2009.

He said the school is special to him and that he was pleased to have equipped its music lab with 20 violins, 25 keyboards and one digital piano.

Mr Grant said less than a year ago the Ministry of Education indicated a need for expanded school infrastructure in Freeport, Grand Bahama to accommodate an increasing student population.

Accordingly, Mr Grant said a pre-qualification tender exercise was therefore undertaken by the Ministry of Public Works and Transport at the time in which six contractors were invited to bid for the construction of an eight classroom extension to the school.

The tenders, he advised were opened at the Tenders Board Meeting of the Ministry of Finance on June 1, 2010, and that on review of the submissions, it was determined that Noula Investments Construction Company had submitted the most competitive bid of \$1,267,534.80.

Mr Grant said construction is underway and that a conventional concrete block two-storey structure is being erected. The building will measure 6,590 square feet with 1,443 square feet of covered walkways.

Construction of the new extension is expected to be completed within six months.

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LOCAL NEWS

Ex-minister's caution over proposed law

By KHRISNA VIRGIL

FORMER Transport and Aviation Minister Glenys Hanna-Martin believes the proposed Antiquities, Monuments, and Museums Bill does not comply with the United Nations' underwater cultural heritage standards.

Nor does the proposed legislation sufficiently support Bahamian culture, said the PLP MP for Englerston.

While lauding its aim, she said the Bill tries to place a dollar value on what is invaluable.

The Bill includes a share split agreement of 75 per cent to 25 per cent on any treasure discovered in the Bahamas, with the larger share going to the excavator, the smaller to the government, provided a detailed list of recovered artifacts is reported to the minister in charge.

The proposed legislation also requires all excavators to have in their possession a wet and dry restoration unit.

Mrs Hanna-Martin said the excavation process seems at odds with the United Nations' recommendations on underwater cultural standards.

Article two of the UN's standard encourages "the preservation of underwater cultural heritage for the benefit of humanity".

The UN guidelines go on to urge nations not to commercially exploit their underwater cultural heritage, but to ensure its long-term preservation.

Considering the UN's orders, Mrs Hanna-Martin said she sees the excavation process as an activity that interrupts the artifact's environment that has for years lingered on the ocean floor intact.

She said: "The thought is that when you are investigat-



GLENYS HANNA-MARTIN says the proposed Antiquities, Monuments and Museums Bill does not meet UN standards.

ing a site, you cannot just extract pieces. Doing that will disturb the area."

Instead, Mrs Hanna-Martin said the government should channel its efforts into finding ways to preserve archeological finds and make money.

Mrs Hanna-Martin referenced Bahamian archeologist Michael Pateman's photograph of himself holding a Lucayan skull by a blue hole on South Andros. She called the internationally acclaimed photo "breathhtaking".

"We can finance and give copyrights to photographs so that museums can be recouped to display these buried treasures."

The Englerston MP said she also has reservations with the share agreement itself.

As Youth, Sports and Culture Minister Charles Maynard has said, the agreement was crafted with excavator's in mind, Mrs Hanna-Martin noted. "Locking in that type of agreement ties the hands

of the government."

She suggested the clause be changed to "not less than 25 per cent".

Mrs Hanna-Martin said: "Putting the agreement in those terms will give the government the opportunity to make adjustments as they wish."

However, former Tourism Minister Obie Wilchcombe said he sees the legislation as a catalyst that will propel the country forward.

He said: "Before we read the obituary for tourism, we have to diversify the industry."

Mr Wilchcombe's comment comes weeks after Standard and Poor's downgrading of the Bahamas due to a lack of economic diversification.

This Bill, he said, will help us to expose a new element of the tourism product.

"We are failing to tell the story of our God-given gifts: the 600ft blue hole in Long Island; the Preacher's Cave; they all have the ability to become a phenomenon."



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LOCAL NEWS

HANDBAG PROVES A HIT IN ATLANTA

A STRAW handbag from the Bahamas was a big hit at the 2011 YWCA Open Your Purse fundraiser in Atlanta, Georgia.

The fundraiser was a silent auction featuring new and used purses donated by public figures in the Atlanta metro area, and the Bahamas Con-

sulate in Atlanta participated.

In an effort to promote the best Bahamian straw works, Consul General Katherine Forbes-Smith donated a straw handbag designed by Cacique Award winner Dorothy Miller, of Long Island.

Organisers said the bag received the most bids. It fea-

tured a plait design called Jacob's Ladder. The type of straw used for the bag was dried silver-top palm leaves and its black accents were achieved by smoking the leaves over a kerosene lamp. The purse also dazzled patrons with its authentic goat skin on the front.



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Power company to respond to complaint

BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - Following an official complaint presented to the Grand Bahama Power Company, officials say they are preparing a "detailed response" to concerns raised by Troy Garvey of Operation Justice Bahamas.

In a press release issued to *The Tribune*, the GBPC acknowledged receipt of a complaint on Wednesday, November 16.

The company stated that it understands that customers have been challenged with a higher than expected fuel surcharge, and noted that the changes that GBPC has been making over the last number of months, with Emera's support, have been done with the best interests of customers in mind.

"Our priority has been to improve reliability over the peak summer months so that we could avoid rolling blackouts experienced by customers in previous summers under the previous ownership of GBPC.

"This was done by bringing rental units on island as supplemental generation. In addition, the construction of the new West Sunrise plant will provide greater reliability and cost stability to the system. Going forward, GPBC will continue to seek alternatives to reduce GBPC's reliance on heavy and light oil," the statement read.

Operation Justice Bahamas has embarked on its ongoing fight against the Power Company over the high cost of electricity and fuel surcharges.

The organisation's leaders have held demonstrations, town meetings and a petition.

Last Wednesday, representatives presented an official complaint to the company. Copies were also sent to the Grand Bahama Port Authority as regulators, the Royal Bahamas Police Force and to Office of the Prime Minister.

In its statement, the GBPC said it expects to release a detailed response to Mr Garvey, and will make it available to its stakeholders and customers in the coming days.

In advance, the GBPC and Emera provided the following information to customers:

1. Sale of the Power Company - The sale of majority ownership of GBPC to Emera was done in full accordance with all regulations and approved by the Government of The Bahamas.

2. ICD Utilities Individual shareholders of ICD Utilities do not have any direct control over decision-making at GBPC. Minority shareholders are passive investors in the power company and the power company retains its own independent Board of Directors which oversees the management and takes full responsibility for the company.

3. Fuel surcharge - The current fuel surcharge is 21.0316 cents. This puts us in the bottom third (among the lowest cost) of 13 Caribbean Carilec Utilities for "all in" electricity prices. There is a very direct link of world fuel prices and the fuel surcharge over the years, including 2011. GBPC does not burn crude oil, we burn # 6 and #2 oil. The prices being quoted in the media do not reflect the costs of these oil sources but the fuel surcharge does. As we stated in a media release, GBPC is actively working to stabilise fuel costs and will implement a fuel hedging programme to provide greater predictability on fuel costs and reduce the volatility in the cost of electricity to customers.

4. Billing - Any customer who has concerns regarding their particular electricity bill is encouraged to speak with a member of GBPC's customer service team. When a customer brings an issue forward, we review it, verify what we can and if changes are required, we make them. GBPC has, of

its own accord, been auditing customer billings on a regular basis for the last few years and correcting any problems as they are identified.

5. Customers and pre-existing bills - It is not, and has never been, the practice of GBPC to require customers to pay pre-existing bills. Any customer encountering this issue should contact the customer service centre immediately to ensure the matter is resolved.

6. The estimation of meters - Less than four per cent of GBPC customers have their bills estimated. It is not GBPC's preference to estimate bills and every attempt is made to gain access to meters so that they can be read. Any estimated bills are corrected for the customer when access to the property is provided and meters can be read.

7. The use of steam generation plants - GBPC has always maintained that it will run the most efficient generation mix of its assets, including the steam units, diesels and rental generation, to ensure that customers are provided with a reliable and cost effective power supply. GBPC has never stated that we would not be running the steam units as we do continue to run unit #12 as steam is a requirement of the plant. The rental units continue to be used as supplemental generation to ensure reliability and therefore the rental costs on the unit continue to be included in the fuel surcharge. As load has decreased and GBPC has been able to use the rental units less, the fuel surcharge has decreased in September, October, and November.

8. Damage to equipment - There is a formal process to be undertaken in cases of equipment damage claims between the customer and GBPC. The company said customers are encouraged to contact the customer service centre to discuss this process and have their complaint considered.



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LOCAL NEWS

Sarkozy got it wrong - but it is not enough to say so

By SIR RONALD SANDERS

FRANCE'S President Nicolas Sarkozy has publicly – and wrongfully – identified three Caribbean countries as “tax havens”. The response to him should be unified and robust.

Sarkozy named the Caribbean countries, Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados and Trinidad and Tobago, among eight others – Botswana, Brunei, Panama, Seychelles, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Switzerland and Liechtenstein.

Sarkozy also threatened that “countries that remain tax havens ... will be shunned by the international community” and he threatened that the G20 countries will publish a list of countries – presumably one that includes these 11 – as “non-cooperative”.

Among French Presidents, he is not alone. Jacques Chirac, the former French President, also made similar statements in the late 1990s. Then, under Chirac, as now under Sarkozy, the French government's sole intention was to shut-down all off-shore financial centres anywhere outside the European Union countries and the United States on the basis that they are “tax havens” and are harbouring money that would otherwise be taxed. Yet, the biggest tax havens exist in the EU and the US.

The instrument for beating up and booting out jurisdictions with offshore banking sectors is the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in which the EU countries predominate. In 1998, the OECD produced a list of countries which it said would be “blacklisted” for “harmful tax competition”. Included in this “harmful competition” was the exercise of their sovereign right not to tax offshore companies or their deposits in banks.

It was only after a spirited joint response, supported by intellectual and lobbying work by the Commonwealth Secretariat, exposed the OECD's actions as unilateral, bullying, and without authority in international law, that the Organisation relaxed its demands in 2000. But, the major players in the OECD created a so-called “Global Forum” into which offshore jurisdictions allowed themselves to be lured.

The OECD has become a cartel for dictating global tax policy in a way that suits EU countries in particular. As a recent study by a US university research team points out: “There has recently been a spate of aggressive efforts by large developed countries to demand an end of financial privacy through tax information exchange agreements, threats of blacklisting, and direct payments to individuals for stealing data from financial institutions in other jurisdictions.”

In reality, the governance and rule-making of the “Global Forum” is not global at all. Up to 2009, it was run by the OECD Secretariat and it set standards and practices for jurisdictions other than the large and powerful member nations of the OECD. The OECD nations attend the Forum to pass judgment on others.

China has now joined the “Global Forum” largely to protect its own interests in Hong Kong and Macao which the OECD had contemplated blacklisting. But, little has changed, and engagement by the non-OECD countries with China as an ally is urgently needed.

While within the forum, there is no solidarity among developing countries, which hold no pre-meetings and have no joint strategy and no common position, the OECD members carefully coordinate their positions, set the agenda and prepare the working papers. Few government ministers of the developing countries attend the Forum, and civil servants from developing countries are overwhelmed by the high-powered OECD staff and the representatives of the big OECD member states particularly France, Germany and Japan.

The ultimate weapon that the OECD uses to force other jurisdictions to comply with their unilaterally-determined “standards and best practices” is publication of areas of legislation, regulation and enforcement in which it is claimed that the non-OECD countries are not compliant and are, therefore, open to illegal activities.

The result is that, over time, the OECD has succeeded in killing the offshore financial sectors of several developing coun-

tries and those that have not been killed, have certainly been crippled. This has been achieved by demands for requirements that not only cost the governments of these countries large sums of money to implement, but also by depriving them of their sovereign right to tax or not tax as they see fit, and coercing them to enter into Tax Information Exchange Agreements (TIEAs). There are also no accompanying double-taxation agreements that would make tax information agreements palatable. At least, a double taxation agreement would make an investor more comfortable to invest in a country, which has TIEAs, on the basis that he/she would not be taxed twice.

The OECD has itself counted over 600 TIEAs signed since 2009. Some of them are between countries that have very little – if any – trade or investment relationship. But they establish for the OECD a network of TIEAs through which it influences tax policies across the globe. Additionally over 60 peer reviews of jurisdictions have been completed. The point is that jurisdictions with offshore financial centres have bent over backwards to accept the intrusions of the OECD because of fear of being blacklisted.

It is not for nothing that President Sarkozy has invoked the G20 as the latest forum for judging countries as “tax havens.” Membership of the G20 is heavily – and wrongfully – weighted in favour of EU countries, and even the European Commission has a voice in it. They are well placed to push an EU agenda while the jurisdictions they attack have no opportunity to put their case.

Countries of the Caribbean and others not represented in the G20 have an obligation to fight back. The Caribbean countries would best do so by creating joint regional machinery, under the CARICOM Secretariat, to represent their collective interests; to build alliances with other countries that have been equally affected by the OECD's overwhelming ambition either to direct their tax policies or to close them down as financial centres. No one country can do this alone.

insight WORLD VIEW

And “beggar thy neighbour” policies won't work. This is not a time for individual jurisdictions to try to cut separate deals; it is time for joint actions to put their case before influential nations in the G20 such as Canada which represents Caribbean countries on the boards of the World Bank and the IMF.

It is also time for the Global Forum to be extracted from the

hands of the OECD and placed under the auspices of the United Nations where it will truly be global.

If the countries accused of being “tax havens” now fail to act collectively, coherently and decisively, no statements that President Sarkozy got it wrong will help them.

• Responses and previous commentaries at: www.sir-ronaldsanders.com.





THE INSURANCE COMMISSION
OF THE BAHAMAS

PUBLIC NOTICE

No. 8 of 2011 16th November, 2011

This NOTICE is issued by the Insurance Commission of The Bahamas (“the Commission”) pursuant to sections 8, 75A(3) and 75A(4) of the Insurance Act, Ch. 347 (2009 Consolidated Statute Laws).

The general public is hereby notified that the time period for the Statutory Administration of ATLANTIC FIRST INSURANCE COMPANY LIMITED, has been extended pursuant to a Supreme Court Order dated the 3rd November, 2011. In this regard, the Commission will continue to carry out such functions on its own behalf.

Any questions in this regard may be directed to the Superintendent of Insurance, in writing, at P.O. Box N-4844, Nassau, Bahamas or delivered to the Insurance Commission, 3rd Floor, Charlotte House, Charlotte & Shirley Streets, Nassau, Bahamas.

Signed
LENNOX McCARTNEY
Superintendent of Insurance

Has Cancer Overtaken Heart Disease As The Bahamas' # 1 Killer?

The Cancer Centre, Bahamas Will Be Hosting A Cancer Clinic

With Professor Dr. Karol Sikora
Providing Consultations And Treatments To Persons With Cancer
Monday, November 28th, 2011
9:00 am - 5:00 pm
For An Appointment
Telephone: 242-502-9610

The Cancer Centre Bahamas & The Bahamas Heart Centre Are Inviting The General Public To A FREE Lecture On “How To Prevent Cancer And Heart Diseases.”

Monday, November 28th, 2011
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Space Is Limited / Must RSVP Tel: 242-502-9610



Cancer Expert

Professor Dr. Karol Sikora
MA, PhD, FRCP, FRCP, FPPM
Director of Medical Oncology & Director, CancerPartnersUK, London



Heart Expert

Dr. Conville S. Brown
MD, MBBS, FACC, FESC
Director & CEO, The Bahamas Heart Centre & The Medical Pavilion Bahamas



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LOCAL NEWS

ROYAL BAHAMAS POLICE FORCE NATIONAL CRIME PREVENTION OFFICE

Home invasion survival tips

By Constable 3011
MAKELLE PINDER

THERE is no right or wrong way to protect you and your family during a home invasion.

However, when your home security is broken, the objective is to escape alive.

Hence, the best defense against a home invasion is prevention, which includes family education and planning.

One family meeting to discuss general rules and procedures may save a life in years to come.

Therefore, the police suggest that the following precautions are taken into consideration and utilised:

- Parents should teach children how to answer or not answer the phone or a knock on the door in the scenarios

of parents being home or away.

- Don't forget to teach kids the basics, such as always locking the doors and windows before leaving home and anyone could be at the door. The weakest home security link is failing to lock doors or windows and opening the door without question at the sound of a knock or ring of the door bell.

- Teach your children how to dial 9-1-1 at a young age while explaining the appropriate situation to dial.

The options of response:

- Escaping immediately, saving yourself - This option decreases the amount of time the burglars have to complete their job while having their privacy leaked. Some refuse to look like a coward

by leaving their family in danger, however, radical actions may pay off later if you are able to immediately get help.

- Fighting and screaming - screaming and yelling works well if there are neighbors close by or in a public area. There is no purpose in fighting if you are physically incapable. If fighting, make a strong, forceful hit to the nose, eyes, throat or groin area. This will give a small window of time to escape and call for help.

- Compliance with burglars - this allows more time to think of an effective plan of action while creating an escape opportunity once the burglars let their guard down.

- Pulling a weapon on an armed intruder: This option should be your last resort,

most times house hold weapons are not loaded for child safety, so in the rare occasion you have access to a loaded fire arm, be aware the burglar is just as desperate and often will not hold back.

Remember that no matter what option you choose, make sure you stay calm and put thought into your actions because it will affect everyone surrounding you.

Should you need more information and before your home security is broken and invaded, please pay close attention to the information provided.

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).



THE BAHAMAS ROADMASTERS cheque is handed over to the Ranfurly Home for Children.

\$14,000 GIFT TO RANFURLY

By RASHAD ROLLE

THE Ranfurly Home for Children received \$14,000 from The Bahamas Roadmasters last week.

In May last year, the Ranfurly Home's board of directors said its male dormitory could be shut down due to low funds. Members of the public and business organisations donated money to the home in response to this announcement.

The Bahamas Roadmasters' donation is another contribution that will aid in the running and upkeep of the home.

"The Ranfurly Home is grateful for any contributions made by corporations and people because we are a charitable organisation. We are particularly grateful to the Bahamas Roadmasters for the funds which they raised during a marathon fun run/walk earlier this year," said a spokesperson for the children's home.

Since 2008, the Bahamas Roadmasters, a non-profit organisation, has donated money to charitable organisations.

Donations from the group have previously been made to the All Saints Camp, the Bahamas AIDS Foundation and the Pilots Club of Nassau.

Donations are raised from the group's annual marathon and fun run/walk.

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LOCAL NEWS

AIDS still a major cause of deaths

from page one

the regional collaborative effort of the 2011 Caribbean HIV Conference. "While there has been a decline in new cases," he said, "and a major reduction in mother-to-child transmission and decreasing mortality, AIDS remains a leading cause of death."

According to Mr Ingraham, the acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) was first recognised in the US in 1981. The first case of AIDS was reported in the Caribbean and in the Bahamas nearly 30 years ago.

Giving an update on the treatment of AIDS in the Bahamas, Mr Ingraham said research into the disease has paved the way for medical advances such as the anti-retroviral (ARV) drugs and the generic ARVs that are available and funded by the Bahamas Government for residents through partnerships with international organisations.

He said regardless of immigration status individuals afflicted with the disease are

provided with treatment, which includes clinical care and support, diagnostic testing and treatment.

"Sustainable high quality prevention, treatment, care and support services that are accessible by all residents of the Bahamas living with, or affected by, HIV/AIDS regardless of legal status or ability to pay" is the basic mission of the National HIV/AIDS programme in the Bahamas, he said.

Antenatal care and treatment has been important in preventing mother to child transmission, said Mr Ingraham. This, he said, led to no babies being detected with the transmission of HIV from infected mothers in the Bahamas last year.

"The Ministry of Health has been proactive in reaching persons at risk for HIV infection, but there are still significant challenges in accessing vulnerable and at risk individuals for diagnosis, care and treatment," he said.

The Prime Minister said HIV/AIDS infected persons continue to be stigmatised and discriminated against,

even as progress has been made. He added that further steps must be made to defuse fears associated with the disease.

"The Bahamas has been a leader in developing legislation to protect the rights of minorities and others living with HIV," said Mr Ingraham. "In 1991, the Bahamas decriminalised homosexuality between consenting adults and was the only Caribbean country to sign the Paris Declaration in 1994 which set global standards for HIV and human rights."

Further, Mr Ingraham said the Bahamas has passed legislation strengthening protection against workplace discrimination for persons infected with HIV.

"Despite the fact that the rate of new HIV infections has slowed and prevalence rates have levelled off globally, the total number of people living with HIV continues to rise," said Mr Ingraham.

He said there are still significant challenges in "accessing vulnerable and at risk individuals for diagnosis, care and treatment".

HIV HEALTH EXPERT IS GUNNED DOWN

from page one

with multiple gunshot injuries inside an apartment at Prison Lane off East Street shortly after 5am.

At the HIV conference yesterday, BRC representatives dedicated their presentation on the Caribbean HIV AIDS Project (CHAP) – which trains peer educators – to Mr Curry.

Under the theme "Strengthening Evidence To Achieve Sustainable Action", the conference began on Fri-

day and ends today.

Later that evening, police responded to reports of gunshots in the area of Baker Street off Market Street. According to reports, Courtney Barry's body was found lying in the middle of Baker Street with multiple gunshot injuries sometime around 7.30pm.

With just over a month left in the year, the homicide count stood at 112 last night.

Police are appealing for anyone with information to contact them at 911, 919, the

Central Detective Unit at 502-9991, 502-9910 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

19 COLOMBIAN IMMIGRANTS HELD

from page one

old Bahamian man being held by police is a New Providence resident. However, police said it is not known if the man is the owner of the residence where the illegal Colombian immigrants were discovered.

According to Mr Reckley's reports, police and immigration officers, acting on information received from an unidentified source, raided a house on Chignal Road in Fortune Bay at one o'clock Sunday morning.

There they found the 19 Colombians, consisting of 13 men and six women, and the Bahamian man hold up in the residence, his reports said.

He added that no drugs or weapons were found in the house with the immigrants.

Mr Reckley explained that Fortune Bay is a wealthy subdivision where houses are mandated to be built to certain specifications, suggesting the people were found in a large house.

Director of Immigration Jack Thompson said more information will be revealed today.

PUBLIC NOTICE



THIS IS TO ADVISE THE PUBLIC THAT **MR. LARRY WILLIAMS** IS NO LONGER EMPLOYED AS FINANCIAL CONTROLLER WITH WEMCO SECURITY & COLLECTIONS LTD. AND IS NOT AUTHORIZED TO CONDUCT ANY BUSINESS TRANSACTIONS ON BEHALF OF THE COMPANY.



FIDELITY BANK (BAHAMAS) LIMITED

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

The Board of Directors of Fidelity Bank (Bahamas) Limited is pleased to notify all shareholders that a dividend of \$0.07 per ordinary share has been declared to be paid on December 5, 2011 to all shareholders of record as of November 28, 2011.



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MISSING PERSON



MARK E. MERCER

EYES: BLUE
HEIGHT: 6' 6"
HAIR: BROWN.
BUILD: SLIM.
WEIGHT: 130 POUNDS
NATIONALITY: U.S. CITIZEN

If you have any information regarding the whereabouts of this person please contact **Marsh Harbour Police Station @ 367-2560, 367-3437** or

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911

National Crime Prevention Office
302-8430/1

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LOCAL NEWS

Battle 4 Atlantis to draw in the crowds

THIS week, the highly anticipated Battle 4 Atlantis (B4A), featuring eight of the top teams in college basket-

ball, will take place in the Imperial Arena in the Atlantis Convention Centre on Paradise Island.

The B4A, a one of a kind pre-season double elimination tournament, was realised earlier this year fol-

lowing the successful Battle At Atlantis double header held last year and the subsequent change in NCAA legislation granting The Bahamas status to host pre-season college basketball tournaments.

According to Special Events Senior Vice-President Michele Wiltshire, who heads the B4A team, this inaugural event is expected to bring a "really good buzz" this Thanksgiving holiday weekend - November 24th to 27th - and provides yet another great reason for family travel as well as a fantastic family outing for guests on property at Atlantis over the holiday weekend.

In giving a rundown of what to expect tournament weekend, Wiltshire says that this is something we should all be very proud of.

She also pointed out the high level of promotion for this property that comes with hosting the tournament.

"Keep in mind, while this is a fantastic event for us to put on, this is part of a marketing strategy and a strategy that drives business to the property over a weekend that we could use it."

Advertisements in local papers, on the screens at the movie theatres and at Mario's Bowling, in addition to the swell of promotions going on overseas have been a part of the strategy to get the word out that

Atlantis and the B4A are what's up for this Turkey Day holiday, said Wiltshire.

"We've worked with all of the schools as they communicate out to their teams and to their alumni base, and to all the members of their databases where we've done banner ads and been included on the collateral out to their bases.

"We've also done print distribution during midnight madness as the schools kicked off the college basketball sea-



ACTION FROM last year's Battle 4 Atlantis.

son. We've executed direct mail prices to the boosters of all the schools, and email blasts designed specifically for each school detailing their special rates and just what's in store for them tournament weekend.

"We've done sweepstakes, and erected billboards in two key markets - Orlando and Tallahassee - to remind people there that we're right here so they can come and support their school.

"We've also posted at Westchester airport, which is an important gateway for us as there are now direct flights from Westchester to The Bahamas onboard JetBlue.

"We're penetrating the local market heavily because it is important that we create as much awareness as is possible and make this as available as is possible to the fabulous local residents, so we're everywhere," explains an excited Wiltshire.

Wiltshire announced that in addition to the major sponsorships given by the Paradise Island Tourism Development

Association and the Nassau/Paradise Island Promotion Board, Under Armour and Coke Zero are now onboard, plus HDNet and Versus, a subsidiary of the NBC Sports family, will carry the games live.

President and managing director George Markantonis adds that there will be a last minute promotional blitz this week, reiterating Wiltshire's comments about driving business for the traditionally slow Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

"The objective was not to get 4,000 people in the ballroom. The objective was to get occupancy up. The last two Thanksgivings, 2009 and 2010, we were at exactly 53 per cent both years. This year, we're gonna run 91 per cent," said Markantonis.

Battle 4 Atlantis promises some 2,000 people attending the daily game sessions anticipated.

There will be four games at the championship match up happening Saturday, November 26th, at 4.30pm.

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SGL	DBL	SGL	DBL
\$549	\$494	\$143	\$112

HOTELS - PANORAMA & RIVIERA

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SGL	DBL	SGL	DBL
\$399	\$361	\$60	\$38

DEC 22 - JAN 2			
SGL	DBL	SGL	DBL
\$479	\$438	\$102	\$79

JAN 3 - MAR 31			
SGL	DBL	SGL	DBL
\$396	\$355	\$63	\$40



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