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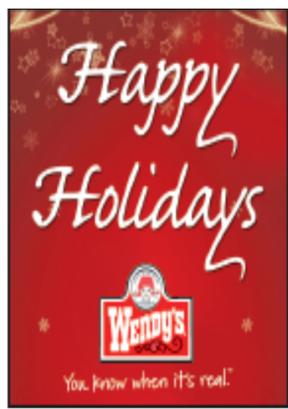
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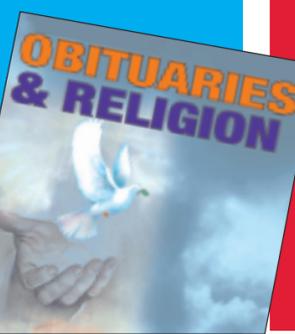


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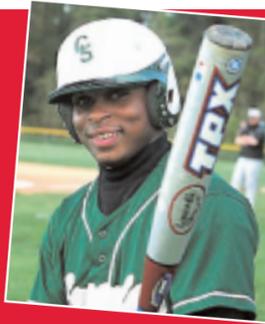
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DNA EMAIL CASH ROW

Radio host is dumped over money demands

By **CELESTE NIXON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net



STEVE MCKINNEY

RADIO talk show host Steve McKinney's DNA candidacy prospects have come to an end over a money dispute, according to the party. DNA party chairman Mark Humes said contrary to the party's plans, Mr McKinney announced he needed to be "comfortably satisfied" on the question of funding before he could announce his Fort Charlotte candidacy.

An email Mr McKinney sent on December 14 to DNA executive members, said: "I expect and anticipate the DNA party provide no less than 60 per cent of the funding to run an adequate campaign in the area."

"To date, we have spent \$15,000 of our own monies to get this far, this includes securing a building for headquarters, some of the needed paraphernalia, and a small vehicle for transportation."

The email requested funds for the operation of the Fort Charlotte headquarters, including money for rent, utilities, a manager's salary, posters, flyers and other promotional tools.

It said: "Please note, that I am not prepared to be announced as a candidate of the DNA until such time as these matters are satisfied with definite assurance by the DNA party."

Last night, Mr McKinney told *The Tribune* his December 14 email was never answered, but Mr Humes released an email he sent, dated December 16, to Mr McKinney, informing him that the party was unable to accede to his requests.

It said: "Members of the executive committee have discussed this matter and, after careful consideration and deliberation, have decided, unfortunately, that the party is unable to provide you and (Fort Charlotte Constituency Association member Vaughn) Miller with the guaranteed assurances that you would need to make you feel comfortably satisfied."

"In this light, the party, however, understands and

SEE page 8

RIBBON CUT ON STRAW MARKET



PRIME MINISTER Hubert Ingraham looks on as his wife, Delores, cuts the ribbon on the new Straw Market last night to mark its official opening. See *The Tribune* tomorrow for more on the opening.

Photo: **Felipe Major**/Tribune Staff

COSTS COULD BE CUT ON HOUSING

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

THE cost of government homes could be "drastically reduced" if the burden of installing infrastructure was removed, according to housing officials.

Ministry of Housing technical director Gordon Major confirmed that infrastructure costs account for 25 per cent of the individual unit price paid by homeowners.

Mr Major said homeowners should not have to bear the costs of infrastructure expansion.

"What happens now is the homeowner pays entirely for the installation of everything," he said.

SEE page 8

HAITIAN FINED OVER DOCUMENTS

By **LAMECH JOHNSON**
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A HAITIAN man whose real name is unknown was fined \$1,600 or faced with a four-months prison sentence after he was arraigned in Magistrate's Court yesterday afternoon on false document possession charges.

The penalty was handed down after Dennis Richards, defence attorney for "John

SEE page 10

PLP CHOOSE PERRY GOMEZ

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

THE Progressive Liberal Party has selected a candidate to replace standing MP Vincent Peet for North Andros and the Berry Islands, *The Tribune* can confirm.

Last night, PLP chairman Bradley Roberts said that Director of the National HIV/AIDS Programme Dr Perry Gomez is being considered for the seat; however,

SEE page 8

MAN QUESTIONED OVER CHEQUE

By **DANA SMITH**
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

A MAN was being questioned by police yesterday in connection with an alleged attempt to cash a fraudulent cheque at a bank.

As the man was being arrested, by coincidence police were holding a press conference on the other side of the city urging the public to help capture the person responsible for cashing fraudulent cheques.

Speaking yesterday afternoon at the Crime Prevention Centre, Inspector Matthew Edgecombe of the Criminal

Detective Unit (CDU) said thousands of dollars have been lost to one man's fraudulent cheques and police fear he may be a part of a ring of thieves behind the scam.

As the press conference commenced, a man walked into Royal Bank of Canada's Palmdale location to cash a cheque.

According to an eye-witness, as RBC employees conferred behind the counter doing their usual confirmations that proceed cheque cashing, the man fled.

The witness said: "He was standing at the counter and then he turned around and

broke out running. He must have figured out that something was wrong."

The witness claims RBC employees immediately notified police stationed inside the bank of the fleeing man. He was captured after a short chase and taken into custody for questioning.

"I must commend police on their response," the witness said. "Patrol cars were out there in a matter of seconds. They responded very well."

At the press conference, Insp Edgecombe spoke of a man who forges cheques for

SEE page 10

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LOCAL NEWS

PLP snipe at Laing future

By **KHRISNA VIRGIL**
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

AMID looming public speculation that State Minister of Finance Zhivargo Laing could be “jumping the ship” on his Marco City seat to run in Fort Charlotte, the Progressive Liberal Party concluded the minister clearly realized he would be “soundly defeated”.

In a press statement yesterday, the PLP said Mr Laing’s decision was evident.

The statement said: “No reason was given for Mr Laing’s surprise decision to desert voters of Marco City, whom he has represented in the House of Assembly for the past four-plus years.”

“But there was clear evidence that Mr Laing would have been easily defeated by noted Grand Bahama lawyer Gregory Moss, the Progressive Liberal Party’s candidate, who has been waging an impressive campaign in Marco City with an army of spirited young supporters.”

According to the PLP, chances became even greater



ZHIVARGO LAING has come under fire from the PLP.

for Mr Moss as Mr Laing did nothing for Grand Bahama during his reign as one of the island’s members of parliament.

“Mr Laing was one of three ministers in the cabinet of Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham who remained silent as Mr Ingraham and his FNM government totally neglected Grand Bahama over the past four-plus years, resulting in an unemployment rate in Grand Bahama that is estimated to be around 25 per cent.”

The PLP also allege that the FNM redrew the constituency boundaries to up Mr Laing’s chances of being re-elected for the Marco City seat.

“It was quite obvious that an attempt was made to

boost Mr. Laing’s chances of winning the seat by moving some polling divisions into Marco City that were believed to have a majority of FNM supporters,” the statement said.

While Mr Laing is seeking re-election to a seat that he represented from 1997 to 2002, the PLP claim he will not find himself on the winning end of the bargain.

“We in the PLP Northern Bahamas Campaign are absolutely certain that Dr. Rollins, one of several dynamic young professionals that have been chosen by the PLP as candidates for the next general election, will defeat Mr. Laing in the same convincing manner that Mr. Moss would have trounced him if he had remained in Marco City.”

Happy Holidays

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LOCAL NEWS

DEBATE IN COURT OVER WHO TO BLAME FOR FAKE PASSPORT STAMP

By LAMECH JOHNSON
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

DEBATE was sparked in Magistrate's Court yesterday over whether the blame for a fake Immigration Department stamp should rest with the Colombian woman in whose passport it was found, or with the department itself. The issue came up before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez during the arraignment of Rosa Montoyaz, 29, of Colombia. She was

charged and convicted of being in possession of a fraudulent document. Montoyaz was also charged with overstaying, along with Hugo Rodriguez Diaz. Both pleaded guilty to the charge. It was alleged that on Friday, December 16, Montoyaz was found at the Bimini International Airport with a fake Immigration Department stamp in her passport, granting her an extension of stay in the Bahamas. Before a plea was made,

the defence, led by attorney Dennis Richards, explained that the accused had been under the impression she would be granted an extension of stay. Some of the blame for the situation was placed on the language barrier, but it was also argued that there was an "obvious" internal problem at the Department of Immigration, as the accused obtained the stamp at the airport from an official. "The department has a

problem and they ought to find out who is using their stamps," Mr Richards told the court. The defence asked Chief Magistrate Gomez to discharge Montoyaz, who was due to return to Colombia at 2pm on Copa Airlines. However the prosecution, led by Immigration officer Kendal Rahming, argued that the problem had nothing to do with the department, and that if the accused wanted an extension, she should have

gone to the proper authorities – "not a civilian or someone other than the department". Chief Magistrate Gomez disagreed, telling the prosecutor: "Once it's an Immigration stamp, whoever is using it, it is Immigration's problem." The defence further questioned how the mark from a stamp in the department's vault ended up in the accused's passport. The prosecutor asserted that "the stamp that was in

the defendant's passport is not an Immigration stamp." He added that Montoyaz would not be before the courts, "had she did the right thing". Having pleaded guilty of overstaying, Montoyaz and Diaz were fined \$800 each by Chief Magistrate Gomez. They face two months in prison if they fail to pay. Montoyaz was also cautioned about the process for receiving extensions in the future.

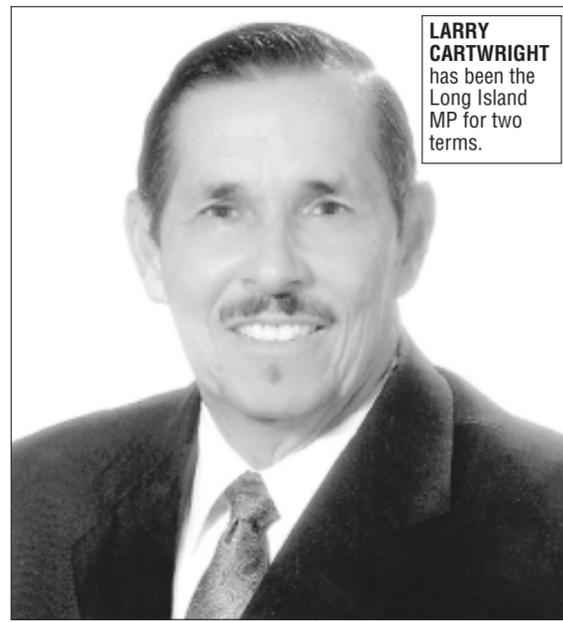
Cartwright 'will not stand in election unless asked'

By SANCHESKA BROWN
Tribune Staff Reporter
sbrown@tribunemedia.net

LONG Island MP Larry Cartwright said yesterday he will not run in the upcoming general election unless expressly asked by his constituents. Speaking with *The Tribune*, Mr Cartwright said he promised the Long Island community two terms and now that his time is up he is willing to step down. "In 2002, when I was campaigning I asked for two terms. I got that. In order for me to go a third time my constituents would have to ask for me personally. I would need to have the support of the people. Right now I can't say if I have it because I haven't even looked into that yet," he said.

"I spoke to the branch in Long Island and indicated to them that I intend to keep my promise unless I am specifically requested. As far as whether or not I will receive the nod from my party to run again I do not know. That's up to the council and the leader of my party. "I am available if they need me. My contract is up, but it can be renewed." *The Tribune* understands Mr Cartwright will not be asked to run again and the FNM has unofficially selected Brad McPhee to represent the party in Long Island. Sources say the people of Long Island are no longer throwing their support behind Mr Cartwright and want "fresh, new representation." When contacted Mr McPhee confirmed that he has thrown his hat in the race

for Long Island. He said: "I have made an application to be the representative in Long Island for the FNM. I didn't speak to anyone yet in terms of how my application is but I do know they are considering it." Mr McPhee also admitted that he has also heard that the people in Long Island want new representation. "I heard they want me to represent them. I go there once a month. My family has businesses and homes in Long Island so I have attachments there. I am hoping to get the nod. I have served in the FNM as the president of



LARRY CARTWRIGHT has been the Long Island MP for two terms.

Torch Bearers and also vice chairman," he said. "There is a lot that needs to be done in Long Island and I know that I can get it done. If they don't choose me I'm fine with that and I will support whoever is chosen and I will run wherever my party asks me to. They know what's best." It has also been rumored that Loretta Butler Turner, the current MP for Montagu, has thrown her hat into the race for Long Island.

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RUMOURS DEVEAUX WILL NOT BE CANDIDATE

MARATHON MP Earl Deveaux has become the latest victim of political speculation, as some observers think he will not be an FNM candidate in the upcoming elections. According to a source within the party, those attending a recent meeting for Marathon FNM were told as much. While refusing to comment, Mr Deveaux suggested the claim was nothing but a rumour. "I have nothing to say. If you want to know something, you can contact the leader of my party, Mr Hubert Ingraham. You can also contact Jones Communications management, since that seems to be the source of this misinformation," he said. Those who do think Mr Deveaux is on his way out of Marathon believe he will be replaced by businessman and FNM deputy chairman Michael Turnquest. Mr Turnquest received the FNM candidacy for the Kennedy constituency in the 2007 general elections, but he was defeated by former Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) candidate, Kenyatta Gibson. Party chairman Carl Bethel said he had no information on the matter one way or the other, and could not comment on speculation. The chairman could not comment as to when Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham is expected to make his candidate recommendations to the FNM Central Council, but said "the Prime Minister is on an aggressive schedule" and is "fully engaged in the process". In an earlier interview, Mr Ingraham said: "The FNM does not expect every single person who is now a member in the House of Assembly for the Free National Movement to be nominated again – the FNM expects to be able to bring into the House, into its parliamentary fold, a number of new persons." When contacted for comment yesterday, Mr Ingraham

said when the party has completed its internal selection process, it will present a complete slate of candidates to the public. Mr Ingraham said his party is "not like the PLP", and will not conduct its business in public. Rather, he said, the FNM will focus on "putting together a very good team of candidates for the public to consider." The prime minister said his party will not be forced into decisions by the newspapers or the PLP. "We are a focused group with leadership, and we do precisely what we want to do," he said.

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SHERLOCK HOLMES	T	1:00	3:50	N/A	6:35	N/A	10:00
SHERLOCK HOLMES	T	2:00	4:45	N/A	8:40	N/A	N/A
ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS	A	1:15	3:40	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:30
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ADVENTURES OF TIN TIN	B	1:15	3:25	N/A	6:05	8:30	10:35
SHERLOCK HOLMES	T	1:05	4:05	N/A	7:05	N/A	10:05
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	A	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:30
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Obama: Two-month tax cut only option

CAREENING toward a politically toxic tax hike, President Barack Obama implored House Speaker John Boehner on Wednesday to get behind a two-month stopgap until a longer deal could be struck early next year, calling it the only real way out of a mess that is threatening the pay cheques of 160 million workers and isolating House Republicans.

In a weary Washington, the outreach accomplished little. All sides seemed to end the day where they began, with heavy political and economic consequences at stake.

Boehner remained insistent on a full-year extension of the existing payroll tax cut before Jan. 1, urging Obama to haul Senate Democrats back to town to talk to his chosen negotiators. "Let's get this done today," Boehner told Obama, according to a speaker's aide, who required anonymity to characterise a private conversation.

But the Capitol was emptying out fast, and the Senate showed no inclination to return, having already passed a bipartisan two-month tax cut it thought had settled the matter. For taxpayers, and for an economy starting to show some life again, the standoff was all holiday gloom.

Barring any action by Congress, Social Security payroll taxes will go up almost \$20 a week for a worker making a \$50,000 salary — that's \$40 less for a typical pay cheque or \$1,000 over the whole year. Almost 2 million people would lose unemployment benefits as well.

The political risks seemed only to deepen, too, particularly for House Republicans. They appeared poised to take the biggest blame for a tax increase even while pushing for a deeper one.

The reliably conservative editorial page of The Wall Street Journal blasted both Boehner and Sen. Mitch McConnell, the GOP leader, for how they handled the matter. "The GOP leaders have somehow managed the remarkable feat of being blamed for opposing a one-year extension of a tax holiday that they are surely going to pass," the paper's editorial said.

In a year of legislative brinkmanship remarkable even by Washington standards, the latest fight spilled into the lap of Republican candidates running for president.

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich chastised Congress, particularly the Senate, for failing to extend the 2 percentage point tax cut for a full year.

"They can't figure out how to pass a one-year extension, so the Senate leaves town?" Gingrich remarked while campaigning in Iowa. "It's an absurd dereliction of duty."

Rival Mitt Romney refused to take a position, again steering clear of Washington's hot policy debate.

"I'm not going to get into the back-and-

forth on the congressional sausage-making process," the former Massachusetts governor told reporters after events in New Hampshire. "I hope they're able to sit down and work out a solution that works for the American people."

But the White House made clear the time for talks were over for this year.

"The negotiating has happened already," presidential spokesman Jay Carney said, referring to the Senate bill the White House insists was sealed with Boehner's blessing.

Boehner disputes that he ever gave a nod of support to the two-month tax cut that many in his caucus oppose.

He and other House members call it a poor and unworkable tax policy.

Obama also called the Senate's Democratic leader, Harry Reid, and praised him for the bipartisan tax-cut bill with McConnell that passed the Senate.

Obama did most of the talking in his 10-minute call to Boehner. The president made clear to Boehner that this was essentially his last legislative chance: There was no other option under consideration except the two-month tax bill, no surprise last-minute deal, and no real chance that Reid was calling the Senate back, according to an administration official who spoke anonymously to describe the private phone call.

From Boehner's perspective, the only real progress was that Obama had shown engagement with the speaker that he had not in weeks, according to an aide who also spoke anonymously to describe internal thinking. Obama for months has called for a year-long extension of the tax cut; he would prefer that it be deepened, too, although that idea never went anywhere in Congress. Obama reiterated to Boehner that he wants to work out a full-year deal with Congress but there is no time for that to be done right now.

Overall, the stalemate has centred on how to pay for another year's tax cut without adding to the deficit. That is the debate ahead — if the two-month deal gets done first.

Boehner's reaction gave no hints of a breakthrough, even though House Republicans appear increasingly isolated. They're not getting support from Senate Republicans and are battling against a president whose approval numbers, while not impressive, are better than theirs.

Obama was to have left Washington by now for a Christmas vacation in Hawaii, where his wife and two daughters have been since the weekend.

Instead, after speaking to Boehner and Reid, he found a different escape from the White House.

He took his dog, Bo, and went holiday shopping.

By Ben Feller,
AP White House Correspondent

Tough times, and tough decisions

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THE Great Depression of 1929 was probably the worst global economic depression of the 20th Century. This raged on for at least 10 years. Many economies crumbled and there was widespread poverty. In most US States, being hungry was a normal action and many families suffered from starvation. Thriving companies became bankrupt, jobs were unavailable and underemployment was the order of the day. Analysts say that Black Tuesday, which occurred in October 1929, was the start of the Great Depression. The United States came out of the Great Depression and World War 2 stronger than ever before. Franklin D Roosevelt was the President of the United States at the time and his leadership during one of America's darkest hours is nothing short of genius.

In 2001, Enron, the great American energy, commodities and services company which declared revenues of over 100 billion in 2000 declared bankruptcy. Analysts are still investigating this company and this is now used as a model of how not to conduct business. In December 2007, the world saw another economic meltdown. This meltdown continued and took a sharp turn for the worse in September 2008. This economic meltdown has been called the Great Recession.

Greece's economy is a prime example of where the Bahamas should not want to be. They are in fiscal crisis and are looking for bailout after bailout to keep its economy running. Who do you think will come to the Bahamas's aid if we need a bailout? Certainly not the United Kingdom. They seem to be hell bent on making life tougher and tougher for Caribbean countries. The answer is no one. The United States has its own share of problems that they are trying to deal with. We need to ensure that we take steps now to empower Bahamians and change our fiscal path. We can't expect a positive economic outlook, if we don't have the will to make the necessary changes that are crucial for a sustainable future.

It's all about keeping tight controls on what we spend and what we collect. Some economists say that government

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

spending is the best way to tackle a recession, while others say that the private sector should be the driving force. I am not an economist by any means but I believe that tough times call for tough leadership.

Tens of thousands of public servants have lost their jobs in Greece. Last year Cuba laid off more than 500,000 workers from the public sector. The United States has seen a deflating economy with little sign of immediate recovery. This is as a direct result of the world economic slowdown in 2008.

The government of the Bahamas had a downsizing exercise at the Broadcasting Corporation of the Bahamas. The Bahamas government sold BTC to Cable and Wireless and over 300 people received severance packages. These decisions were unpopular at the time, but given our economy's lack of diversification, the government has little options in trying to control our current expenditures. The sale of BTC and the voluntary severance packages was a good idea, but if the sale was to Bahamians, I think our economy would have seen an added boost in the short and long terms.

In a Tribune Business Report dated December 5, 2011 the headline read, "IMF: Fiscal Reform Delays May 'Jeopardise Recovery'". The IMF warned that the borrowings associated with the Government's infrastructure upgrades had made the fiscal position more "vulnerable." The report in essence is calling on the Bahamas government to take an unpopular stance with regards to fiscal policy, which is to curb spending. The trouble for the government is that it finds itself between a rock and a hard place.

With an election looming, the governing party in its bid to be re-elected is now issuing an abundance of small contracts and they have lifted the freeze on salary increases to public servants. According to Tribune Business report, the IMF gave the Ingraham administration "a veiled rap on the knuckles for its decision to lift the public sector wage freeze imposed in the 2010-2011 Budget, urging that the Government's wage bill, a percentage of GDP, to be

slashed to the pre-crisis level.

I believe that Mr Ingraham is a leader who has no qualms about making tough decisions. But he and all eventual leaders have to be tougher. Lifting the freeze on public wage increases, allowing straw marker vendors to conduct business in the new straw market despite only being current for 2011 and the government's lackluster efforts to collect real property tax are just some of the areas where the government needs to be tougher. It is evident from the IMF report that the Bahamas needs to drastically curb its spending and run a budget surplus, something that we haven't done since Independence. This is a mammoth task but reduced borrowing and shaving the public service which is overstaffed with many underachieving workers are steps in the right direction.

Which administration has the will to reduce the public service and ensure that the tax structure in the Bahamas is updated and enforced in order to get our fiscal policy back on track? Which administration has the will to jail and fine public thieves? I would admonish the government that if and when it restructures our tax system that they need to ensure that the rich and the poor are taxed proportionately to their income. The poor should not be expected to pay the same taxes as the rich.

The new leader of the Bahamas government will be The Rt Hon Hubert Ingraham, The Rt Honourable Perry Christie or the Honourable Branville McCartney. The new leader's job will be a tough one. From day one, I hope that he will come to the Bahamian people with his cabinet and lay it all on the table. There is no magic wand in the Bahamas and all Bahamians will have to bite the bullet some more, so that we can ensure a sustainable future for the next generation. We will not get a Theodore Roosevelt as our Prime Minister after the next general election, but we will need nothing short of a tough leader who can make tough decisions in these tough times.

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LOCAL NEWS

China takes part in global push

China's Foreign Trade
Part one of three

Submitted by the
Chinese Embassy, Nassau

On December 7, 2011, the Chinese government published a White Paper on China's Foreign Trade. As most Bahamians are keen to learn about China's development, in particular, China's foreign trade, we, the Chinese Embassy, have submitted

the White Paper for publication.

CHINA has participated in and helped push forward the reform of the global economic governance mechanism.

The Chinese government actively advocates a "balanced,

inclusive and mutually beneficial" multilateral trade system, and strives to establish a fair and equitable new international economic and trade order.

As a large developing country with a rapidly growing economy, China plays an active role in the G20 and BRICs summits, Doha Round talks, and other international dialogue and cooperation mechanisms.

China does its best to assume international responsibilities that suit its development level and strength. China continuously consolidates its co-operation with emerging countries in the fields of economy, finance, trade and investment, and works toward an equitable and rational international economic order that benefits all countries.

In addition, China strictly ful-

fills its international obligations regarding export controls. It consistently advocates the complete prohibition and thorough dismantling of all weapons of mass destruction, and firmly opposes the proliferation of such weapons and their carriers.

China's relevant laws clearly prescribe that the state may take necessary measures to restrict the import and export of goods and technologies relating to fissionable materials or the materials from which they are derived, as well as the import and export relating to arms, ammunition or other military supplies.

China earnestly abides by international conventions regarding export controls, and fulfills its non-proliferation commitments, actively contributing to world peace and regional stability.

Over the past few years, the Chinese government has adopted a wide range of internationally recognised norms and practices, and formed a complete export control system covering nuclear, biological, chemical, missile and other sensitive items and technologies, providing legal grounds and institutional guarantees for the better realisation of the goal of non-proliferation.

The primary factors determining whether a country's foreign trade is in surplus or deficit are its economic structure and the international competitiveness of its products or services. China does not pursue a foreign trade surplus intentionally. There has been a certain amount of deficit in China's services trade for a long time, and the trade in goods was in deficit for most of the years prior to 1990.

After 1990, with large-scale industrial outsourcing and relocation, China enhanced its competitiveness in manufactured

goods. Growth in exports overtook that of imports, turning the overall deficit to a surplus in trade in goods. In 2005 China's surplus in trade in goods reached 100 billion US dollars for the first time, which was followed by vigorous growth for four consecutive years. In 2008 the surplus hit 298.1 billion US dollars, the highest point in history, before slowing down gradually.

The surpluses in trade in goods for 2009 and 2010 were 195.7 billion US dollars and 181.6 billion US dollars, down 34.4 per cent and 7.2 per cent year-on-year respectively.

In 2010, China's surplus in trade in goods accounted for 6.1 per cent of the total import and export volume and 3.1 per cent of the GDP. Of the nine nations with the largest trade balances (favourable or unfavourable), China was not high up in the league table in terms of the two ratios.

The fact that China is enjoying a surplus in trade in goods reflects its position in the international division of labour at the current stage. China now has relatively big advantages in the processing and assembling of industrial products, and is the largest producer and exporter of industrial products. The US, the EU and some other countries and regions are the major end consumer markets.

With the transfer of large numbers of labour-intensive processing and assembling sectors to China from Japan, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Taiwan, Hong Kong SAR and other nations and regions, their surpluses with the United States and Europe were also transferred to China.

The result is that while China is currently enjoying a surplus in trade in goods primarily with the United States and Europe, it also has long-term trade deficits with Japan, Republic of Korea, ASEAN and other major intermediate countries.

In 2010, China's surpluses in trade in goods with the US and the EU were 181.3 billion US dollars and 142.8 billion US dollars, respectively, and its total deficit in trade in goods with Japan, Republic of Korea and ASEAN was 141.6 billion US dollars. The deficit in trade in goods between China's mainland and Taiwan reached 86 billion US dollars. To produce and export industrial products, China needs to import large quantities of primary goods, thus creating a deficit in trade in goods with certain exporters of primary goods.

It is the country's different level and status of participation in the international division of labour in manufacturing and the services industry that leads to China's big surplus in trade in goods but a long-term deficit in services trade.

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Woe to Evildoers

Micah 2:1-5

Woe to those who devise iniquity, And work out evil on their beds! At morning light they practice it, Because it is in the power of their hand. They covet fields and take them by violence, Also houses, and seize them. So they oppress a man and his house, A man and his inheritance. Therefore thus says the LORD: "Behold, against this family I am devising disaster, From which you cannot remove your necks; Nor shall you walk haughtily, For this is an evil time.

In that day one shall take up a proverb against you, And lament with a bitter lamentation, saying: 'We are utterly destroyed! He has changed the heritage of my people; How He has removed it from me! To a turncoat He has divided our fields.' " Therefore you will have no one to determine boundaries by lot In the assembly of the LORD.

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LOCAL NEWS

Close friends die within hours of one another



REG LIGHTBOURN, above, and Barbara Smith, below, who both died early on Wednesday.



TWO close friends died early Wednesday morning in the Intensive Care Unit at Doctors Hospital.

Barbara Smith (nee Malone) died at about 3am Wednesday at the age of 84 from toxic shock due to peritonitis from a ruptured appendix. Reg Lightbourn, 87, died about two hours later of a brain aneurysm, following a fall at home earlier in the day.

Mrs Smith was the eldest daughter of out island commissioner Ronald Malone, originally of Hope Town, Abaco, and Una Malone nee Higgs of Spanish Wells, Eleuthera. She married Royal Air Force serviceman Roy Smith on Harbour Island in 1944.

Mr Lightbourn was the son of Charles Lightbourn of Lightbourn Lane, Nassau, and Evelyn Lightbourn nee Fernander, also of Nassau. He was a long-time charter boat captain and dockmaster at Brown's Boat

Basin. From 1971, he worked at Sawyer's Food Products on Claridge Road.

He died a few days before his 36th wedding anniversary and is survived by his wife, Norma (nee Perpall), three children, Deborah Mckellar, Susan Burnett and Jimmy Lightbourn, and six grandchildren.

Mrs Smith died a few days after her 84th birthday and 67th wedding anniversary. She is survived by her husband, Roy, her sister, Janice Kamrath, brother, Ronnie Malone, two children, Luanne Brown and Larry Smith, and three grandchildren.

A joint memorial service will be held at Ebenezer Methodist Church on Wednesday, January 28 at 11am. Mrs Smith will be buried on Friday, January 30 in the Methodist Churchyard at Spanish Wells. Mr Lightbourn will be cremated and his ashes scattered over the sea near Porgy Rocks.

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LOCAL NEWS

from page one

DNA emails cash row

respects your decision to stand down and is appreciative of your notice as such. This will allow us to work expediently to secure another highly qualified and suitable candidate who can ensure the party's success in the constituency," Mr Humes wrote. Speaking with *The Tribune* yesterday, Mr Humes said there was a series of events that led up to Mr McKinney's decision to not seek the candidacy. "This was the deciding factor - he decided it for us by

saying if we could not give him these assurances he can't announce. We said we can't give you these assurances after this long time, we thank you but must move on," he said. According to Mr Humes, Mr McKinney was a "select candidate" from June and was supposed to announce his candidacy on December 14, however, because of prior obligations his announcement was delayed to December 18. Mr Humes said despite

making several efforts to contact Mr McKinney, he did not hear from the talk show host for many days, until his campaign funding requests were received by executive members of the party. He said the party wants people who are loyal and trusts what it is doing. He questioned whether Mr McKinney had just been using the DNA "as an opportunity." This interpretation, Mr Humes said, is backed up by

Mr McKinney's prior support for other parties. He said moving forward, the DNA will be looking for members who are serious about the party's mission. "At this stage we have to move on - there is no moving back," Mr Humes said. Last night, Mr McKinney told the press he did not see how his letter "could in any way indicate any impropriety." "This is a necessary thing for a campaign," he said.

"(DNA leader Branville McCartney's) newest position now is that every candidate must fund their own campaign 100 per cent. Well my friends, that is ludicrous, that is foolish, that is political novice. He is a political novice." Responding, McCartney said: "If you want to be a candidate, you ought to be responsible enough to help finance your own campaign by fundraising and otherwise."

He said the DNA intends to help all its candidates, but what Mr McKinney was asking for was too much. Mr McCartney said: "What Mr McKinney wanted was a number of other monies for work that he's done already - 60 per cent of what he's done already and then 60 per cent of his financing. "We could not commit to that. In terms of funding we will do what we have to do. But not 60 per cent. If you can't deal with it then fine, but not 60 per cent. But what we do for one, we'll have to do for all."

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COSTS COULD BE CUT ON HOUSING

"(Housing) put in the sewer system, pay for it, we provide a base of clients for the utility corporations. So they get the benefit of the homeowner paying upfront for that cost and then they charge them again to use it." Mr Major said: "Infrastructure expansion should be a government responsibility and not on the homeowner to provide the expansion of (the government's) network. I think that would drastically reduce the cost of housing." While he admitted it would require greater investment from utility companies, Mr Major explained the expense would pay for itself as the corporations benefit from an

expanded customer base. "There should be a programme, a system by which the government has an agenda in terms of where am I moving in terms of infrastructure development." "At the beginning of the year," said Mr Major, "housing can sit down with BEC and Water and Sewerage and say 'look this is the area we're proposing to go, provide the infrastructure for that area.'" Infrastructure development for new subdivisions are contracted privately, and include water, light, and roads, all of which are "extremely expensive", he said. Mr Major said he has been making the recommendation for years, but the prospect has never been considered. "Right now, they are just taking over and saying thank you very much when it's finished, at no expense to them whatsoever," he said. "The homeowners paid for all of that, all those costs. (Housing costs) would be greatly reduced if we were able to take those costs out."

Minister of Public Works and Housing Neko Grant did not return *The Tribune's* calls.

PLP CHOOSE PERRY GOMEZ from page one

the candidacy process had not yet been finalised. Dr Gomez is reportedly retiring from the government post in January, and will represent the party for that area in the upcoming general elections. The youngest brother of Anglican Archbishop Drexel Gomez and a political newcomer, Dr Gomez was said to have strong family ties to the island of Bimini. Dr Gomez's appointment comes after standing MP for the area, Vincent Peet, recently confirmed he will not be seeking renomination. After much debate and "prayerful deliberation", Mr Peet, an attorney by profession, said he will now focus on his legal practice. It was speculated that Mr Peet was being dropped as a PLP candidate after he was accused of mismanaging \$180,000 worth of client funds. In a press statement, Mr Peet confirmed the existence of a "matter" regarding client funds, but said no legal action is pending between himself and the client. Dr Gomez did not respond to calls placed last night.

SEARCH FOR TRIO OVER ROBBERIES

POLICE are searching for three men in connection with two separate armed robberies in one day. The first incident occurred at 1:30 pm on Tuesday when an employee of Classic Boutique was robbed of his jewellery at gun point. The robber fled the scene. The second robbery happened almost an hour later at Beverly's Kitchen on Carmichael Road. According to police, two men, one of whom had a hand gun, robbed the restaurant and its customers of an undetermined amount of cash. The culprits then left the scene on foot in an unknown direction. In other crime news, police are investigating the shooting of a 19-year-old Farrington Road male. Yesterday morning, according to police reports, the victim got into an argument with another man who pulled a gun and shot him in the leg. The victim was then taken to the hospital in a private vehicle where he was treated and released. While police are investigating, they are urging members of the public to contact the nearest police station with any information they might have.

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LOCAL NEWS

A final farewell to Ron Darville

BY DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – The late Ron Darville, deputy chairman of BAIC, was laid to rest yesterday following a funeral service at Christ the King Cathedral attended by Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and many FNM supporters.

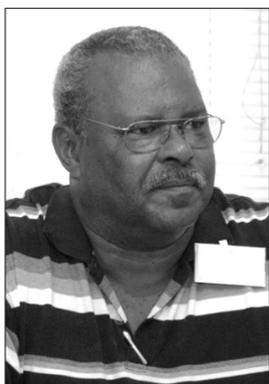
Mr Ingraham said Mr Darville was a man of “deep-seated convictions” who believed in the Bahamas and sought to better the country.

Minister of State for Finance Zhivargo Laing and Public Works Minister Neko Grant were also in attendance, as were FNM MPs Vernae Grant and Kenneth Russell.

“We have gathered to bid a final farewell to a much loved husband, father and dear friend whose life has been cut short by a terrible tragedy. Our hearts reach out to all the bereaved family whom we shall keep in our prayers,” Mr Ingraham said.

The Prime Minister said Mr Darville’s contribution to the development of the country and service to the Free National Movement were outstanding.

“I am happy that in 2009 I



RON DARVILLE, who died following a family tragedy.

was able to acknowledge Ron’s contribution to our national development with the award of the British Empire Medal in recognition of his outstanding community service,” he said.

“Those of us who knew Ron well know that he was first and foremost a family man who loved and cherished his wife and children dearly. This makes the manner of his death all the more painful.

“For it was in seeking to intervene in a terrible tragedy involving his son, who suffered from a dreadful psychosis, that Ron met his demise,” Ingraham said.

During the early morning hours of November 3, Michael Darville, 26, went on a bloody rampage, violently attacking his father, Ron, and brother, Joseph, with a cutlass at the family’s home on Dampier Drive.

He also went to a neighbouring house and attacked a family of three.

He was tracked to an apartment complex on Sumerville Drive, where he was shot and killed by police.

The victims were admitted to hospital. Ron Darville was later airlifted to Nassau for further medical treatment.

He died on December 10, the same day his son was buried.

Prime Minister Ingraham said: “It is important for all of us to acknowledge that Ron’s love for his son, and indeed the love of his entire family for that son, kept the young man close to the family notwithstanding his disturbing illness.”

He extended condolences to the Darville family for their loss.

“We in the FNM and indeed throughout the wider Bahamian community grieve with you and extend to you our heartfelt condolences,” Mr Ingraham said.



RON DARVILLE’S family leaves church and, right, Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham gives an address during the service.

Mr Darville was an FNM vice chairman, a member of the Grand Bahama FNM Council, and an executive of the FNM’s Marco City Branch.

Although born in Sandy Point, Abaco, he spent most

of his adult life in Grand Bahama.

Mr Darville owned the once popular Lobster Reef Restaurant and Bar and was a Butler and Sands executive for 25 years.



A PACKED CHURCH at Ron Darville’s funeral.

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LOCAL NEWS

Man questioned over cheque

from page one

sums ranging from \$7,000 to \$8,000 which claim to be salary from companies such as Bahamas Food Services and Bahama-sair.

He uses forged driver's licences as identification to endorse the fraudulent cheques.

Police stated the driver licences are under several aliases, including Roy Sands, Carl Edgecombe, Herbert Evans, and Paul Evans.

"Thus far he has been successful at cashing a number of cheques," Inspt Edgecombe said.

The man has cashed "roughly six" fraudulent cheques, overall. In the last two weeks alone, he's gained more than \$16,000.

Inspt Edgecombe advised businesses that cash cheques to be diligent and to watch for potential forgeries.

"There are crooks among us who will do their best to defraud you out of money," he said.

He advised banks and other cheque-cashing merchants that if they suspect a cheque is fraudulent, call the business or person who allegedly issued it to confirm if it's genuine. Or, call the police.

Sgt Deborah Thompson, of the CDU, offered advice to cheque-cashing businesses.

"We are advising merchants, when they are accepting driver licences as a form to endorse and cash cheques, scrutinize that licence to make sure it is genuine," she said.



INSP MATTHEW EDGECOMBE showing a fraudulent cheque with Sgt Deborah Thompson in the background. Photo: Dana Smith/Tribune Staff

According to Sgt Thompson, a genuine driver's licence, when held to a light source, will have iridescent colours that a counterfeit licence cannot recreate.

If unsure of the licence, Sgt Thompson

advised companies to ask for an additional form of identification.

"If that individual is unable to produce any, compare that driver's licence against a genuine one," she said.

HAITIAN FINED OVER DOCUMENTS

from page one

Doe", asked Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez for mercy for his client "in the spirit of the season."

Doe, whose real name is unknown even to the Department of Immigration, admitted being in possession of a fake American passport and driver's licence.

The IDs, under the fake

name "Dehun Delmeus", were uncovered on Saturday, December 17, by immigration officials and later confirmed by US Immigration authorities at the Lynden Pindling International Airport.

Before sentencing, Mr Richards asked the chief magistrate to remember the season and asked for leniency for his client who, as a father of four, had little funds.

He said: "Be as lenient as possible. He's a young man without funds. In the spirit of the season, I ask that you have mercy on the defendant."

Chief Magistrate Gomez then fined the defendant \$800 or two months in prison for each count.

He also recommended "early deportation."

Prior to the ruling, Immigration prosecutor Kendal Rahming told how the accused had arrived from Haiti on Flight 701 of Southern Air.

While in the Bahamas immigration hall at LPIA, the accused presented the two documents along with a completed landing card for inspection.

The electronic passport, readable by computers, was swiped to obtain information relevant to the traveller. However, no information appeared on screen.

Officers invited the defendant to an office for further inspection of the document

and comparison between this and another American e-passport under ultra violet light. It was revealed that "Doe" was in possession of a false passport.

The passport, along with the driver's licence, were then confirmed as fake by US Immigration authorities. He was detained at the detention centre and later charged.

Mr Richards said his client, a father of four living in Haiti, was introduced to a man who claimed to be an attorney in the Dominican Republic.

Doe was reportedly told by the attorney that he was in the business of dealing with applications for American passports and driver's licences.

He paid \$1,900 to the man and was provided with the passport.

Mr Richards said his client was told by the passport provider that he "ought not to use the passport for travelling to the United States within seven days" but was allowed to use it throughout the Caribbean. The attorney said his client "has admitted the offences and he has not wasted the court's time".

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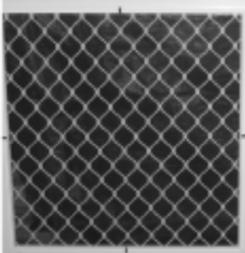
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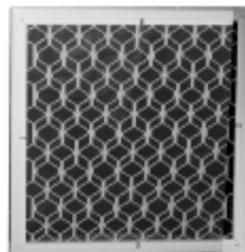
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LOCAL NEWS

Chopard opens new boutique at Atlantis



THE REOPENED boutique has a host of items to buy.

CHOPARD, the world-renowned Swiss luxury house known for their legendary Haute Joaillerie creations and innovative timepieces, has announced its boutique re-opening in the Atlantis Resort.

The boutique originally opened its doors 10 years ago and is now the first in the Caribbean to re-open following the new design concept by renowned architect Thierry W Despont.

Every detail of the new boutique is the vision of Chopard co-president and artistic director, Caroline Scheufele.

The Atlantis boutique articulates the global Chopard

concept, launched in 2007 at the Madison Avenue flagship, and fuses the brand's DNA and history with innovation.

"Built on 151 years of fine craftsmanship, a perennial fascination with modern technology and a singular devotion to the world of art, Chopard's new Atlantis boutique is a must-see shopping destination. It carries boutique exclusives including limited edition 'marine' inspired high jewellery pieces, part of the Animal World collection," said the company in a statement.

Thierry W Despont carried out the boutique commission with unprecedented impact by using state-of-the-art technology. Based on his idea that Chopard represents a blend of century-old family tradition and high-tech creations, he modelled the new boutique as an eco-friendly spectacle,

where the beauty of diamonds and the fine art of watch-making can be experienced.

Caroline Scheufele said: "In 2007, I asked renowned architect Thierry Despont to create a new design for the Chopard boutiques, beginning with our flagship store on Madison Avenue. We worked very closely on the concept in order to keep the atmosphere

of our boutiques warm and homey with luxurious and sensuous fabrics, welcoming wooden floors, and wood panelling.

"When our clients enter a Chopard boutique, I want them to feel as if they were entering a refined and gracious home."

All the furnishings, lighting and vitrines were created and developed especially for Chopard.

Defined areas for high jewellery, high-end watches and accessory collections allow for both private and casual browsing.

"We recently opened boutiques in Bahrain and Bologna, Italy and, for 2012, are planning to reopen in Geneva, Cannes, and Madrid with the new boutique concept," said Caroline Scheufele. "We have a steady but very moderate retail expansion strategy and take time to find the exact location before opening a new boutique."



THE boutique in the Atlantis Resort.

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