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**FIND OUT WHO WON WHAT AT JUNKANOO - pages 11-14**



# Murders bring total to 123

**FIVE STABBED DURING PARADE**

By LAMECH JOHNSON  
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

POLICE reported at least five stabbing incidents during the Boxing Day Junkanoo parade and are appealing to young men to leave any weapons they would think of bringing to Junkanoo, at home.

Speaking to the press yesterday morning during the peak hours of the parade, Supt Stephen Dean of the National Crime Prevention Office made the request to young people, in particular young men.

**SEE page 7**

**ARSONIST BLAMED FOR SCHOOL FIRES**

3By CHESTER ROBARDS  
Tribune Senior Reporter  
crobards@tribunemedia.net

POLICE suspect an arsonist was responsible for two fires at the Carlton E. Francis Primary school yesterday. The fire completely destroyed one classroom.

Walter Evans, Acting Director of Fire Services, said the fire, which devastated classroom three at the school, was reported at one o'clock. The second fire, which was discovered only after firefighters contained the first fire, was confined to a trash bin in classroom number six, he said.

Two other schools mysteriously...

**SEE page 2**

## Two deaths add to bloody tally

By DANA SMITH  
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

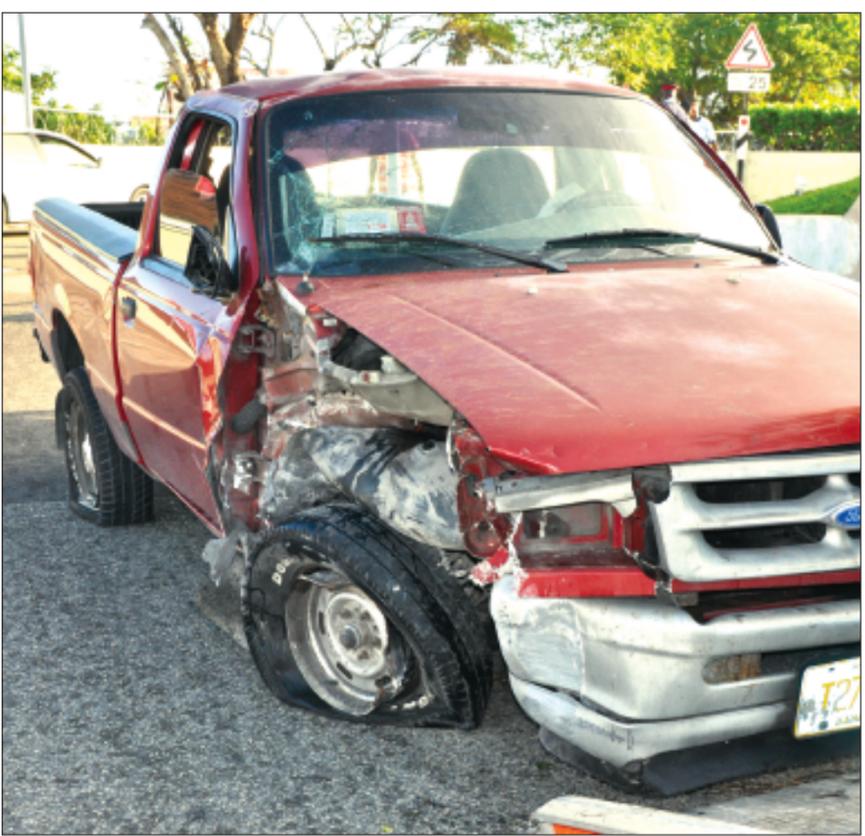
WITH less than a week to the new year, a bloody Christmas weekend brings the country's murder count to 123 for 2011.

A Christmas morning drive-by and a Christmas eve shooting left two men dead,

and three women hospitalised.

Around 4:30am on Christmas day, 27-year-old Bruce Sands Jr, of Prince Charles Drive, was driving his burundy coloured 1997 Ford Ranger on East Bay Street. He and three women friends,

**SEE page 8**



THE WRECKAGE of a Ford Ranger on East Bay St in the wake of a drive-by shooting which killed the driver and left three passengers injured.  
Photo: Jamal Davis

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LOCAL NEWS

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**THE DAMAGE**  
after the fire,  
thought to have  
been started by  
an arsonist.

# Arsonist blamed for school fires

**from page one**

riously caught fire this year. Police have yet to say what caused those fires.

Desmond Bannister, Minister of Education, was at the scene of the fire yesterday to

assess the damage.

Mr Bannister said the school will try to have the classrooms repaired and ready to be occupied before students return from the Christmas break.

He also denounced the arson attack on the school, calling it an "attack" on "education."

"We're very concerned about this trend, where persons come into our school when the children are out and set fire to the classrooms," Mr Bannister said.

"All of us abhor any attempts to interfere with the education of children. This is a primary school and it's despicable to see what has

happened."

Mr Evans revealed that several other classrooms were broken into, though he could not say whether anything had been stolen from the buildings.

And while the school is typically protected by security around the clock, Mr Bannister revealed that the daytime security guard had taken sick leave yesterday. He said the incident was being investigated.

"Any attack on their education is an attack on our society, and all of us ought to be outraged and all of us ought to want to do something about it," Mr Bannister said.

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LOCAL NEWS

# Four men hunted for armed robberies

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

POLICE are on the hunt for four men responsible for two separate armed robberies, which occurred on Friday. Meanwhile, two more men were taken into custody in connection with another armed robbery that occurred the same day.

The robberies come in the wake of a new crime prevention initiative announced by police in which officers are trying to reduce incidents of armed robbery by visiting businesses and promising a higher police presence in shopping districts.

Around 8:40pm, police received information that a Mackey Street business was

robbed by two men. Police immediately responded and on arrival at the area saw two men in a champagne-coloured Chevy Tahoe, fleeing the area.

Officers pursued the SUV, which came to a stop in the area of Abraham Street off Kemp Road.

Police searched the vehicle and found a handgun, ammunition, as well as cash believed to be the property of the business.

The men, ages 21 and 32, both of Marathon Road, were taken into custody in connection with the armed robbery.

Earlier that evening, around 5:15pm, two men entered VIP Restaurant in the Ritchie Plaza on Soldier Road, armed with hand-

guns.

The men robbed the restaurant of an undetermined amount of cash before fleeing the area on foot.

A similar incident occurred around 7:10pm. Two men, one of whom was armed with a handgun, entered Ricky's Beauty on Bahama Avenue off Market Street, demanding cash.

The culprits robbed the business, as well as its patrons, of an undetermined amount of cash and jewellery, and then fled the scene on foot in an unknown direction.

Police are investigating all incidents and appeal to members of the public who may have information regarding the robberies to contact the police.



POLICE OFFICERS on watch outside the Burger King after the armed robbery.

# MASKED GUNMEN IN BURGER KING RAID

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

FREEPORT – Two masked gunmen robbed the Burger King Restaurant near Queen's Highway of an undetermined amount of cash on Saturday.

According to witnesses, the suspects fled the scene in a dark purple coloured vehicle, which was reported stolen last week during an armed robbery at a residence in Royal Bahamia Estates.

Asst Supt Loretta Mackey, press liaison officer, said sometime shortly before 9.30am two dark men armed with guns, and wearing masks and dark clothing, entered Burger King on Yellow Pine Street.

The gunmen demanded cash from the employees. After robbing the business, they were seen leaving the

scene in a dark purple coloured Skyline vehicle.

ASP Mackey said the get-away vehicle that was used by the suspects to escape was reported stolen on December 19.

A resident of Dominica Avenue, Royal Bahamia Estates, reported that two masked men robbed him of his 1995 dark purple coloured Nissan Skyline car, license plate No. 52058, just as he arrived at his residence.

Ms Mackey is appealing to anyone with information that can assist the police with their investigations into both robberies to call 350-3107/8, 352-9774/5, or 911.

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## Caution mutes US response to N Korea

THE OBAMA administration's cautious response to the death of North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il reflects unease and uncertainty about the leadership transition in the reclusive country that has confounded US presidents since Harry S Truman.

For the past 60 years, the "hermit kingdom" has vexed the United States and its allies with war, nuclear tests, missile launches, belligerence and bellicose bombast. But since he took office, President Barack Obama has had to deal with the country at perhaps its most secretive point: an unclear succession at the very top at a time of deep concern about the stability of the regime.

Thus, the administration's carefully worded public messages have underscored the administration's desire for better relations with the autocratic nation and its concern about the welfare of the North Korean people. They are also gentle reminders that Washington expects Pyongyang to follow through on denuclearisation pledges and improve ties with its neighbours, particularly South Korea.

The kid gloves treatment accorded to the North's youthful new leader, Kim's twenty-something son Kim Jong Un, has attracted criticism from some who see this as a moment to make a forceful case for dramatic reform and regime change.

But without solid intelligence of the opaque transition process and fearful of misunderstandings that could lead to provocations with the notoriously erratic North, US officials concluded that the best course is to say little, wait and watch.

Indeed, the administration's initial reactions to Kim's death have contained little substance at all and were couched in niceties.

"All I can say is that we're monitoring the situation closely," White House press secretary Jay Carney said on Wednesday as North Korean state media broadcast pictures of wailing mourners, apparently overcome with grief. "Kim Jong Il had designated Kim Jong Un as his official successor, and at this time we have no indication that that has changed."

Carney added: "We hope that the new North Korean leadership will take the steps necessary to support peace, prosperity and a better future for the North Korean people, including through acting on its commitments to denuclearisation."

Those comments echoed words from Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton. On Monday, more than 16 hours after Kim's death was announced, she was the first senior US official to comment publicly on the developments. In intentionally vague comments, she called for "a peaceful and stable transition in North Korea" and expressed hope that it would not affect "regional peace and stability". Ironically, it was Clinton who first stirred the pot about a possible succession crisis in North Korea.

Nearly three years ago, on her first trip to Asia as secretary of state, she stunned diplomatic circles with a frank appraisal of US concerns amid rampant speculation about

the health of Kim Jong Il, who had suffered a stroke in 2008, and his choice of a successor.

"If there is a succession, even if it's a peaceful succession, that creates more uncertainty and it also may encourage behaviours that are even more provocative as a way to consolidate power within the society," Clinton told reporters on her way to South Korea on Feb. 20, 2009.

Her remarks on a previously taboo subject sparked great debate. In Seoul the next day, she expressed surprise at the uproar, noting that reports of Kim choosing his youngest son Kim Jong Un to succeed him had "been in the news for months".

"I don't think that it's a forbidden subject to talk about succession in the hermit kingdom," Clinton said. "In fact, it seems to me it's got to be factored into any policy review that one is undertaking. ... I think it would be irresponsible for it not to be factored into what you were thinking about."

That same month, US diplomats were scrambling to collect any information they could about Kim Jong Un from South Korean, Chinese and Japanese officials and experts, according to leaked State Department cables published by WikiLeaks.

Unfortunately for the Americans, their interlocutors had sharply divided opinions, according to the cables. Some predicted the North Korean regime would collapse politically within two to three years of Kim Jong Il's death. Others foresaw a power struggle between the young and untested Kim Jong Un and rivals in the elite but differed over who would prevail. Others believed there would be little change.

One apparent area of convergence, however, was that most South Korean experts believed the challenge for the younger Kim would come after his father's death. Thus, as North Korea's transition is under way, the lack of clarity has put US policy on hold.

Before Kim's passing, the administration had been expected this week to announce the resumption in food aid to North Korea and a potential bilateral meeting on nuclear disarmament. Although the State Department said there had been brief exchange with North Korean officials in New York on Monday, both initiatives are now in flux pending the end of the North's mourning period.

The administration says it is respecting that mourning period by understanding that North Korean officials will not be available for discussions. Yet it has steadfastly refused to express any sympathy for the death of Kim, whose Stalinist regime is accused of having one of the worst, if not the worst, human rights records in the world.

While showering the late Czech democracy leader Václav Havel with effusive eulogies, American officials have refused to even utter the word "condolence" in relation to Kim.

"With regard to the C-word," State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said Tuesday, "I think we didn't consider it appropriate in this case."

By Matthew Lee of the Associated Press

# Zhivargo unfairly targeted

EDITOR, The Tribune.

AS A CONSTITUENT of Marco City, I am very ambivalent about the decision of the Free National Movement party to move Mr Zhivargo Laing to the Fort Charlotte constituency in New Providence. Laing, who is the Minister of State for Finance, has represented Marco City since May 2007. He had also represented Fort Charlotte from 1997 to 2002. He defeated the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) Member of Parliament for that constituency Franklyn Wilson in the 1997 General Elections. He lost his seat to Alfred Sears in 2002.

According to the Press, the decision to not run Laing in Marco City was recently made by the FNM Council. I understand that he has already been introduced to FNM supporters in that Nassau constituency. I am surprised that this decision was made at this juncture. If anything, I initially thought that the party would have moved Laing to either the new Central Grand Bahama constituency or even to the East Grand Bahama constituency. Both of these constituencies are considered to be safe seats for the FNM. Instead, the party has made the decision to move the minister of state for finance to the shark infested waters of the PLP in New Providence. In my view, this is a very risky move by the FNM. I say this because Sears has won that seat by comfortable margins in the last two elections. Perhaps the prime minister has a very good plan in place to help Laing win that seat which can rightly be called a PLP stronghold. As far as I am concerned, the FNM will be the underdog in New Providence heading into the general elections. I believe that Laing stands a better chance of winning in Grand Bahama.

According to the Press, the PLP will be running Dr Andre Rollins in Fort Charlotte. Dr Rollins used to be a member of the National Development Party (NDP). He ran in the Elizabeth bye-election in February 2010. If my memory serves me correctly, he came in fourth place in that election contest behind the PLP's Ryan Pinder, the FNM's Dr Duane Sands and Cassius Stuart of the Bahamas Democratic Movement (BDM) party. By all accounts,

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

Dr Rollins is very dynamic and intelligent. Even though Laing faces an uphill battle in Fort Charlotte, he can still win that seat. Nowadays, anything is possible in Bahamian politics.

I am one of several Grand Bahamians who is saddened by the news that Laing will be leaving Marco City. The FNM party has yet to give a reason for this abrupt decision. Just recently Laing held his annual Marco City Christmas Party at Independence Park, Freeport City. This was on Saturday, December 17. One can only surmise that the FNM party was still in the proverbial "valley of indecision" regarding Laing's future in Marco City on the day the party was held. I can tell you that some FNM supporters in Marco City are not too happy about this decision.

Some PLP political analysts are now saying that Laing and the leadership of the FNM have made the decision to move the Marco City incumbent to Fort Charlotte because the party knows that he would be defeated by the PLP's Gregory Moss. These PLP political analysts believed that Marco City residents would have rejected Laing because of the present recession in the nation's second City. The PLP public relations machine has done a good job at getting people to believe that Laing, as the minister of State for Finance, had run Grand Bahama's economy aground. These people have conveniently ignored the Great Recession that has devastated the economy of our number one benefactor, the United States of America. They have also ignored the fact that Grand Bahama has been in this recession since the year 2000, or thereabouts. That is some seven years before Laing became the MP for Marco City.

The detractors of Zhivargo Laing have also conveniently forgotten to remind residents on Grand Bahama that the Christie administration also experienced difficulty in jump-starting the economy between 2002 and 2007. The only thing that I can point to on Grand Bahama that came under the PLP's watch is the Ginn Development. And to say that Ginn has been a major disappointment would be a "major understatement." Granted, the economy on Grand Bahama wasn't as bad as it is now. But it was bad nonetheless. My point is this, you cannot place the blame

for Grand Bahama's economic woes at the doorstep of the minister of state for finance. If the PLP wins the upcoming general elections, they too will experience difficulty in fixing Grand Bahama's economy. Mark my words.

All the same, I too believe that Laing was in for the fight of his political life in Marco City. This was due to the fact that his detractors had waged a relentless campaign against him over the past two years. Laing was relentlessly attacked in the Press by his political opponents, including Bahamas Press. Critics have accused Laing of not being a good member of Parliament for Marco City and of doing a horrible job of managing the national economy. As I have stated already, you cannot chide Laing for our economic woes. With respect to him not being a good representative, I think that he has done a decent job, considering the fact that we are in the midst of a devastating global recession. Moreover, there are many members of Parliament whose level of performance is nowhere near Laing's. Yet Laing is the only MP who has been relentlessly targeted by these people. This is unfair. Laing is one of the few MPs who is always available to his constituents at his Marco City constituency office in Mayfield Park. He is also one of the best debaters in the House of Assembly. If you listen to these people, one would think that Laing has done absolutely nothing in Marco City. Laing's detractors have given people the impression that the Marco City MP had totally neglected Grand Bahama during the past four-and-a-half years. Now they are the very ones saying that he has abandoned the residents of Marco City.

Marco City is losing a remarkable MP. He will be greatly missed. The residents of Fort Charlotte are fortunate to have such a fine candidate in Laing. I hope they give him an opportunity to represent them again in the House of Assembly.

In the final analysis, Laing's decision to leave Marco City is understandable, at least from a political standpoint. His detractors have caused too many residents on Grand Bahama to view him with a jaundiced eye. After what they have done to him in the Press, I really don't blame him for leaving Marco City. I wish Laing all the best in Fort Charlotte.

KEVIN EVANS  
Freeport,  
Grand Bahama,  
December 22, 2011.

## Can we look forward to 2012?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

As 2011 closes, surely we reflect and hopefully look positively forward, but can we?

As Her Majesty said during that awful year in which Princess Diana died and so many royal flushes I suggest The Bahamas has gone through the same - 2011 really was a horrible year.

- 120 murders and an horrific number of other crimes.
- Financial crisis requiring the government to borrow to the hilt.
- Oh those roads!
- Electricity bills which we could not afford.
- Power cuts because BEC decided to do maintenance in the summer.
- Traffic jams everywhere.
- Far too many Revs in front of the courts.
- Justice system in chaos.
- House of Assembly lowers its standards almost to the street.
- Lack of accountability of government.

Editor - 2012 can't be any worse?

My fear government has

just borrowed \$51 million to seek water leaks...the roads even those made good will be dug up again when it is easy to check if the meters are being by-passed...surely if it were leaks we would see traces of water, we don't.

Tourism - Jamaica is boasting that it will have a healthy winter season but not a projection from fast-talking Minister Vanderpool Wallace.

Speedweek really was all that expense worth it? Surely a lot of noise and nothing really achieved...Sir Sterling is an unknown, yes a great in his days, but when was his days?

The traditional Christmas Carols which this year will surely not be heard anywhere except in a church - Peace on Earth can it be achieved this Christmas?

The old slogan - "Better in the Bahamas" now means something totally different.

Wake up my people, wake up.

W THOMPSON  
Nassau,  
December 19, 2011.

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Saturday 31st December - Closed  
Monday 2nd January - Closed  
Tuesday 3rd - Normal Hrs

**322-7994**

# Customs staff opt not to strike

By AVA TURNQUEST  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

CUSTOMS and Immigration officers opted to work during the holidays despite union directives to withdraw labour over a pay dispute.

Bahamas Customs Immigration and Allied Workers Union vice president Sloane Smith yesterday said members who made the "individual choice" to work were most likely intimidated by senior officers.

While workers have opted not to strike, Mr Smith said lingering issues of communication, good faith, and respect still remain. The union is agitating for a strike certificate after a successful vote on December 2.

Mr Smith said: "If they did work, there must have been something management must have said."

"We don't have a difficulty if (management) were paying for (Sunday) and (Monday). If they have made the decision to pay appropriate rates, they didn't tell (union) and this is the issue.

Last night, a Customs supervisor at the Lynden Pindling International Airport confirmed the department was fully staffed.

The strike threat was announced during a protest outside the Ministry of Labour on Friday. The BCI-AWU is the official bargaining agent for Customs and Immigration officers.

Officials advised members

not to work on Christmas and Boxing Day as they would not receive holiday pay.

In an interview with *The Tribune* yesterday, Mr Smith said it was a common year-end tactic to bait jaded employees with the promise of monies owed to them. He added that if any negotiation was made between management and staff over holiday pay, it signaled a "total" lack of respect to bypass the union.

"These (issues) aren't the crux of everything," Mr Smith said.

"We're in the process of completing an industrial agreement proposal, and we can't just ignore what has been done wrong. What's to say they're going to honour (new agreement) and they don't honour what was in the previous one."

Grievances are widespread and long-standing, Mr Smith said, including health and safety concerns, proper vacation leave and allowances, promotions, disciplines and discharges.

Friday's demonstration follows a protest staged last month outside their administrative complex on Thompson Boulevard. Some 200 employees were said to have participated.

Yesterday, Mr Smith said concerns raised have yet to be resolved, even on minor matters such as staff parking.

Union representatives met with the Immigration director, Customs comptroller, and a conciliator last week; how-



**CUSTOMS** and Immigration staff worked during the holidays despite a threat to carry out industrial action over pay.

ever, Mr Smith said the meeting was fruitless as those present did not have the authority to engender a definitive outcome.

Among the concerns were:

staff members not being paid hazard allowances where workers suffer from dusty substances; staff not being confirmed after years of work without any credible or legal

reason; persons being disciplined for lateness while they should not be as it is defined as more than four times per calendar month. Such action has resulted in employees not

being confirmed or promoted; employees shift premiums, call allowances or overtime not paid appropriately; reimbursements for courses of study outstanding.

# MAN IN HOSPITAL AFTER BEING SHOT IN ROBBERY

A MAN is in the hospital after being shot during a robbery in broad daylight.

The 23-year-old victim was walking on Bishop Way, off Soldier Road, shortly after 11am on Thursday when he was approached by two men who demanded his cash. One of the men was armed with a handgun.

During the incident, a number of shots were fired, injuring the victim. He was taken to Princess Margaret Hospital, where he is detained in stable condition.

Also, in another incident, police confiscated a 32ft tender boat that was suspected of being stolen.

About 2:30pm last Thursday, officers of the South-eastern Division, Central Intelligence Branch, and the Internal Security Division executed a search warrant on a residence at Baillou Hill Road.

There, officers seized the vessel as well as a handgun and quantity of ammunition.

Two men, ages 36 and 26,

were taken into police custody in connection with incident, following the search.

Around 8:45pm on Thursday, a 26-year-old man was arrested after he was found in possession of a quantity of suspected marijuana.

The man, of Braziletta Street in Pinewood Gardens, was arrested by police at Gum Tree Avenue and Buttonwood Avenue, both in Pinewood Gardens.

Police are investigating all the incidents.

## STORES HELP CHILDREN

SUPER Value Food Stores and Kelly's Home Centre teamed up to treat more than 50 underprivileged children from the Big Harvest Community Sunday School on Woods Alley to a party and gift selection at Kelly's.

Rupert Roberts jr, president of Super Value, and Mrs Nancy Kelly, and their staff, personally catered to the children.

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Clarks ORIGINALS

LOCAL NEWS



POLICE head out on the streets.



ONE suspect is detained during the evening.



OFFICERS brief the media before the raid.

# A night on the streets with the Bahamas police

OFFICERS of the Royal Bahamas Police Force invited the press to attend a Rapid Strike evening raid through the streets of New Providence.

Supt Stephen Dean and press liaison officer Sgt Christlyn Skippings said Thursday night's special raid was to allow the Bahamian public to see for themselves the work that the police are doing to make the capital a safe place for citizens, not only during the holidays, but on a daily basis.

The three-hour raid began at the National Crime Prevention Office with a prayer for safety.

Once the press were outfitted with bullet proof vests for their protection, a group of officers took reporters from *The Tribune* and other media houses from police headquarters on East Street North, through a section of eastern and southern New Providence.

While the tour was mostly quiet, as officers said word had apparently got out that

the police "were not playing around", *The Tribune* was able to capture on film two arrests.

A young man was caught in the Fox Hill area with a foil wrap containing what was suspected to be marijuana.

And in Ridgeland Park

West, officers arrested two other young men found inside an unlicensed 1994 green Honda Accord.

The vehicle's license had expired in October and its windshield was cracked.

The vehicle also matched the description of one that had been stolen.



A VEHICLE is stopped during the evening by officers.

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## MAN TO BE CHARGED WITH MURDER

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

Bahama.

### FIREARM FOUND

FREEPORT – A 25-year-old Freeport man will be charged with murder in the Freeport Magistrate's Court today.

The charge is in connection with the stabbing death of 34-year-old Tyrone Anthony Dames at Hudson Estates on December 22.

According to reports, police were called to a domestic-related matter at a residence off Triana Drive.

When police arrived, a man was discovered dead with stab wounds in the upper part of his body.

The incident has been classified as the eighth homicide for the year on Grand

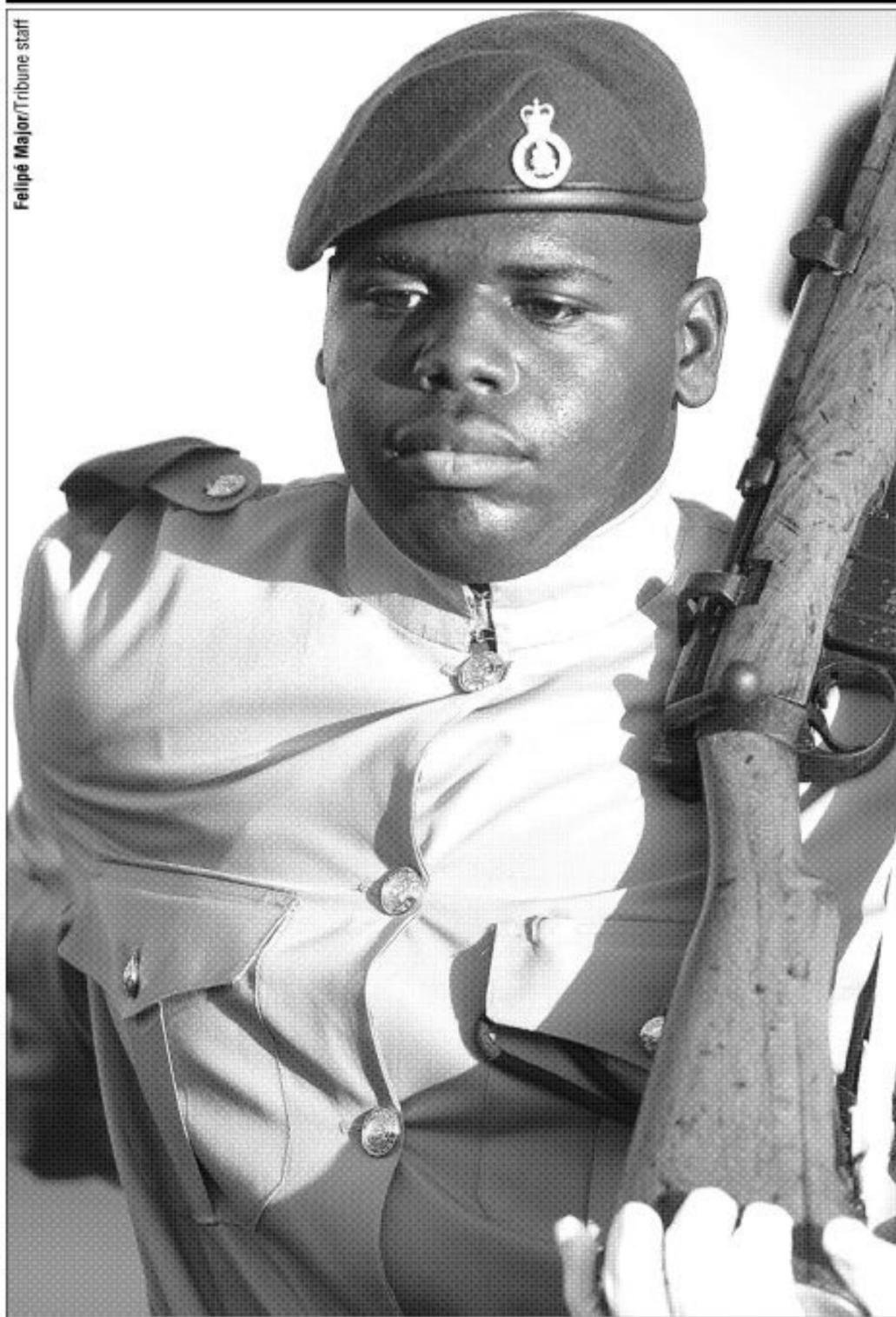
In other crime news, a firearm was discovered in bushes in the Eight Mile Rock area, early Christmas morning.

Asst Supt Loretta Mackey reported that at about 1.40am on Sunday, December 25, officers from the Eight Mile Rock Police Station were directed to a bushy area in King Subdivision.

A brown rifle case, containing a brown, Marlin .22 rifle, was found and collected by officers.

Ms Mackey said no arrests have been made and police are continuing their investigations in the matter.

Felipe Major/Tribune staff



ONE OF the new recruits to graduate at Her Majesty's Prison.

# 'Slackness at prison is over'

By CELESTE NIXON  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

THE days of "slackness" at Her Majesty's Prison are over, National Security Minister Tommy Turnquest warned a group of new guards.

Mr Turnquest told the 52 members of 'A' Recruit Squad 2011 that they are joining the prison service at a time when "foundational and generational changes" are taking place.

Offering them a list of principles to follow so as to conform with these changes, he said: "The first principle is that no inmate must be allowed to escape.

"This is your primary responsibility, therefore it is incumbent upon you to be vigilant and thorough in carrying out your tasks at all times.

"There can be no room in a prison environment for short cuts, negligence, slackness, laziness, carelessness or indifference.

"The public has the right to expect that they would be protected by you from the unlawful escape of inmates, particularly dangerous, violent ones."

Mr Turnquest assured the recruits that any corruption, carelessness or negligence will lead to serious disciplinary measures.

Among the other principles outlined by the minister were:

- that orderliness and discipline must be maintained at all times to maintain a secure environment and instil inmates with "a sense of routine, punctuality, responsibility, decorum, decency, cleanliness and civility."
- that all inmates must be treated fairly, as human beings and that their

dignity must not be violated.

• that officers must display "ethical rectitude" at all times, and not only oppose "complicity, criminality, corruption and compromise," but also expose it.

"The days of 'hear no evil, see no evil' are gone and must never return if we are to achieve a first-class penal institution," said Mr Turnquest.

"Today's environment demands a Prison Service that is transparent and accountable.

"Good, law-abiding prison officers, who I am pleased to say are in the vast majority, must never turn a blind eye when a fellow officer attempts to traffic all manner of contraband into the facility."

According to the minister, the changes happening at the prison are part of a "philosophical paradigm shift, from an orientation of banishment and punishment to an era of rehabilitation for the successful reintegration of inmates into society."

He said the prison is also placing a renewed emphasis on career-long learning for established officers while insisting on a certain level of academic achievement for recruits.

"The evidence is also clear that there is a generational shift taking place.

"Indeed, efforts are now underway to engage in an orderly process of succession planning through in-service scholarships both at home and abroad," Mr Turnquest said.

"Further, you will see the introduction of rank examinations and in-house correctional leadership courses, over the next five years."

## Official hopes most resort workers will keep jobs after restructuring

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – As Old Bahama Bay Resort moves to restructure its operation, an official said he hopes most of the workers will be kept on by the condo owners.

The resort will transfer all lodging responsibility – which includes room rentals, bookings and reservations, maintenance, security, housekeeping, and accounting – over to the condo owners on January 18.

Derek Gape, senior project manager at Old Bahama Bay, said the resort will only retain control of the marina, pool, and beach, and that workers in these areas will not be affected by the move.

Asked to respond to reports that 30 employees will be laid off, Mr Gape said: "We are trying to restructure how the hotel is actually oper-

ating and so the condo owner group, we are working with them diligently so we can offer a smooth transition for them to become very much involved in the lodging aspect of the hotel.

"We are hoping it will still be a very fruitful partnership. It is very essential that they succeed and very essential and critical that we succeed.

### Abandon

"It is not as if we are going to abandon anyone or anything; we are trying to invite people to the table and share in the cost and operation of the hotel.

"As you know the foreclosure that happened in October has added a new dimension to the project. We have asked all stakeholders to come in and participate and share in the all the costs.

"And so a lot of people who work directly for me now

that are involved in the lodging aspect, we are not going to be managing anymore.

"We are hopeful that a lot of the people who were working for us, will actually transfer and be absorbed by the condo owners."

Mr Gape said the house-keeping, laundry and restaurant services have been sub-contracted out to former employees, who continue to use the resort's facilities.

"It is easier that way and it also gives those former workers an opportunity to be business people," he said.

Mr Gape reported that business at the resort has picked up for Christmas. "This year's bookings are up and this Christmas will be a good one for us. January and February are usually slow periods, but we are optimistic about the Spring," he said.

He noted that bookings for March, April, and May are up compared to last year.

## FIVE STABBED DURING PARADE

FROM page 1

"We had numerous incidents during the Junkanoo parade," he said. "At this point we can confirm about five minor stabbing incidents in the vicinity of the Junkanoo area."

Supt Dean appealed for an end to the violence, as officers of the Royal Bahamas Police Force dealt with a number of incidents in the downtown area, including the

stabbing, as the 2011 Boxing Day Junkanoo Parade started on time on Bay and Shirley Streets.

"We want to say in particular to our young ones, guys especially, who are coming out here, 'please, leave the knives at home. Don't bring them out here because the police will arrest you,'" Supt Dean said.

"We've made numerous examples of persons this morning."

He said police are actively

investigating those incidents, which led to police having "one or two arrests relating to those incidents."

"Also additionally, we have arrested some 10 to 15 persons for various offences as far as drugs, disorderly behaviour, outstanding warrants, causing harm, you name it," he said.

"We've made numerous arrests during the parade and unlawfully carrying arms, that's one of the significant ones."

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LOCAL NEWS

Joint Memorial Service



REGINALD LIGHTBOURN  
1924 - 2011



BARBARA SMITH  
1927 - 2011

The Joint Memorial Service for Reginald Lightbourn and Barbara Smith will be held at Ebenezer Methodist Church, Shirley Street on Wednesday, 28 December, 2011 at 11am.

Barbara's interment will take place in Spanish Wells at the Methodist Church on Friday, 30 December, 2011 at 11:30am

Police want to question two men in connection with fraud

By CELESTE NIXON  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

POLICE are searching for two men in connection with a fraud investigation.

Officers want to question Michael George Cates, 39, whose last known address was Carmichael Road. Cates is described as being of light brown complexion, medium build, and standing 5' 8" tall.

Police do not know the second man's name but have released a photograph of him.

His address is also unknown, but the man is described as being of dark brown complexion, medium build and standing 5' 8" tall. Anyone with information



MICHAEL CATES



UNKNOWN MAN

concerning the whereabouts of either of these men is urged to contact police by calling 911 or 919; the Central Detective Unit on 502-9991/9910;

the National Crime Prevention Office on 302-8430/1; or leave an anonymous tip by calling Crime Stoppers on 328-TIPS (8477).

Governor General spends night in hospital

GOVERNOR-General Sir Arthur Foulkes enjoyed a Christmas dinner with his large family at Government House yesterday after spending a night at Doctor's Hospital.

Sir Arthur was admitted to hospital Friday afternoon after feeling unwell during the funeral service at Christ Church Cathedral for Canon Neil Roach.

Senator Dr Duane Sands escorted the governor-general from the church.

Sir Arthur was kept in hospital overnight for observation. After undergoing a series of diagnostic tests he returned to Government House on Christmas eve. His son, Labour Minister Dion Foulkes, said he believes his father was over tired.

Murders bring total to 123

FROM page 1

who were in the car with him, had just left an event at a local nightclub.

Just east of the Harbour Bay Shopping Centre, at least two men in a black Honda Accord pulled alongside them

and opened fire, injuring Mr Sands and causing him to lose control of his vehicle.

The truck crashed into a wall at Scotia Trust, before overturning. The culprits in the Honda Accord drove past the wrecked vehicle and fled the scene.

All four occupants were taken to hospital by EMS.

Mr Sands, a newly-hired technician at the Bahamas Electricity Corporation, was shot in his upper body and died in hospital of his injuries

The three passengers received minor injuries as a result of the crash and remain in hospital.

A man who had arrived at the scene that morning, called the sight "horrific."

"I thought it was just a regular traffic incident until I got closer and saw that it was much more," he said. "A man looked lifeless behind the wheel of the truck before the paramedics quickly removed the body."

"The seats were bloodied and there was bits of flesh and what-have-you on the seats." The man continued: "It was horrific!"

On Christmas eve, shortly after 8pm, another man died of gunshot wounds.

The unknown victim, of Major Road in Yellow Elder Gardens, was discovered with gunshot injuries at Melvern Road, also in Yellow Elder Gardens.

He was taken to the hospital by EMS where he later died.

According to police reports, residents in the area heard gunshots before the victim was found.

Police are currently investigating both incidents and anyone with information is asked to contact police at 911, 919; the Central Detective Unit at 502-9991, 502-9910; or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS



AN unidentified man stands in front of a destroyed building at the site of a bomb blast at St Theresa Catholic Church in Madalla, Nigeria, on Sunday. An explosion ripped through a Catholic church during Christmas Mass near Nigeria's capital Sunday, killing at least 25 people, officials said. A radical Muslim sect claimed the attack and another bombing near a church in the restive city of Jos, as explosions also struck the nation's northeast. (AP)

## Nigerians fear more church attacks after 39 killed

By JON GAMBRELL and LEKAN OYEKANMI Associated Press

MADALLA, Nigeria (AP) — Women returned to clean the blood from St Theresa Catholic Church on Monday and one man wept uncontrollably amid its debris as a Nigerian Christian association demanded protection for its churches.

At least 35 people died at St Theresa and dozens more were wounded as radical Muslim militants launched coordinated attacks across Africa's most populous nation within hours of one another. Four more people were killed in other violence blamed on the group known as Boko Haram.

Crowds gathered among the burned-out cars in the church's dirt parking lot Monday, angry over the attack and fearful that the group will target more of their places of worship.

It was the second year in a row that the extremists seeking to install Islamic Shariah law across the country of 160 million staged such attacks. Last year, a series of bombings on Christmas Eve killed 32 people in Nigeria.

Rev Father Christopher Jataudarde told The Associated Press that Sunday's blast happened as church officials gave parishioners white powder as part of a tradition celebrating the birth of Christ. Some already had left the church at the time of the bombing, causing the massive casualties.

In the ensuing chaos, a mortally wounded man had cradled his wounded stomach and begged a priest for religious atonement. "Father, pray for me. I will not survive," he said.

At least 52 people were wounded in the blast, said Slaku Luguard, a coordinator with Nigeria's National Emergency Management Agency. Victims filled the cement floors of a nearby government hospital, some crying in pools of their own blood.

Pope Benedict XVI denounced the bombing at his post-Christmas blessing Monday, urging people to pray for the victims and Nigeria's Christian community.

"In this moment, I want to repeat once again with force: Violence is a path that leads only to pain, destruction and death. Respect, reconciliation and love are the only path to peace," he said.

The UN Security Council condemned the attacks "in the strongest terms" and called for the perpetrators, organisers, financiers and sponsors "of these reprehensible acts" to be brought to justice.

The African Union also condemned the attacks and pledged to support Nigeria in its fight against terrorism.

"Boko Haram's continued acts of terror and cruelty and absolute disregard for human life cannot be justified by any religion or faith," said a statement attributed to AU commission chairman Jean Ping.

On Sunday, a bomb also exploded amid gunfire in the central Nigeria city of Jos and

a suicide car bomber attacked the military in the nation's northeast. Three people died in those assaults.

After the bombings, a Boko Haram spokesman using the nom de guerre Abul-Qaqa claimed responsibility for the attacks in an interview with The Daily Trust, the newspaper of record across Nigeria's Muslim north. The sect has used the newspaper in the past to communicate with the public.

"There will never be peace until our demands are met," the newspaper quoted the spokesman as saying. "We want all our brothers who have been incarcerated to be released; we want full implementation of the Sharia system and we want democracy and the constitution to be suspended."

Boko Haram has carried out increasingly sophisticated and bloody attacks in its campaign to implement strict Shariah law across Nigeria. The group, whose name means "Western education is sacrilege" in the local Hausa language, is responsible for at least 504 killings this year alone, according to an Associated Press count.

Last year, a series of Christmas Eve bombings in Jos claimed by the militants left at least 32 dead and 74 wounded. The group also claimed responsibility for the August 26 bombing of the United Nations headquarters in Nigeria's capital Abuja that killed 24 people and wounded 116 others.

## US Coast Guard repatriates 149 Haitians, Cubans

MIAMI (AP) — The US Coast Guard says it has returned almost 150 migrants to their Caribbean homelands after intercepting their boats at sea. A total of 112 Haitian migrants were returned to Cap-Haitien, Haiti, on Friday. A Coast Guard crew on a routine patrol discovered their sail

freighter west of Great Inagua, Bahamas.

Officials say the vessel was "grossly overloaded" with 87 men, 19 women and six children. The migrants were given life jackets and transferred to the Coast Guard cutter.

The Coast Guard says it also returned eight Cuban

migrants Wednesday and 29 Cuban migrants Friday to Bahia de Cabanas, Cuba. Officials say the migrants were picked up at sea in two separate incidents. All the migrants received food, water and medical care aboard Coast Guard vessels before being repatriated.

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LOCAL NEWS

# The disappearing dollar makes it a blue Christmas insight

WORLD VIEW



CARIBBEAN people are fun-loving and at Christmas they particularly enjoy celebration in the spirit of the Season.

A brave attempt has been made by many throughout the region to maintain that spirit this year.

But, across the Caribbean, it is a blue Christmas that not even the reduced Christmas lights and decorations can dispel.

In the majority of countries,

the poor economic conditions are the principal cause of gloominess; in others, political uncertainty is also a factor.

With the exception of Guyana and Suriname, the

economies of every one of the 15 Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries experienced either a contraction of its economy or negligible growth in 2009 and 2010. This year has proven to be no better.

Tourism, the main money earner for many of the Caribbean island-countries, has declined significantly over the past three years. While some countries have claimed increased tourist arrivals, the increase – if it is real – has not shown itself in greater income.

If there are more – or as many – tourists arriving in Caribbean destinations as before, they are spending less – not surprisingly given the challenging conditions in the United States and European Union (EU) countries from which the majority of the region's tourists come.

It is likely that, without remittances from nationals resident abroad, many people in the region would have been unable to indulge in Christmas shopping and putting on the table the food and drinks that have been the staple of Christmases past.

According to Guyana Newspaper Editor, Adam Harris, this observation is as true for the mainland country, Guyana, as it is for the island-states of the region.

A World Bank study reveals that among the top ten countries in the world for receiving remittances in 2009 as a percentage of their Gross Domestic Product (GDP) are four CARICOM countries: Guyana (17.3 per cent) at number three, Jamaica (13.8 per cent) at four, Grenada (8.7 per cent) at eight and St Kitts-Nevis (7.3 per cent) at ten.

In terms of actual total remittances, another Caribbean country, Barbados, ranked just behind Guyana, receiving US\$0.2bn to Guyana's US\$0.3bn. The study shows that global remittances further increased in 2010.

This shows the immense dependence Caribbean countries now have on remittances from their nationals abroad. The World Bank places the contribution of remittances to Caribbean economies at a higher level than official development assistance (or aid) for all of them.

The contribution of remittances has come at a price. For example, eight CARICOM countries are among the top ten in the world for high emigration rates of tertiary-educated people. They are: Guyana, (89.0 per cent), Grenada (85.1 per cent), Jamaica (85.1 per cent), St. Vincent and the Grenadines (84.5 per cent), Haiti (83.6 per cent), Trinidad and Tobago (79.3 per cent), St. Kitts and Nevis (78.5 per cent), and St. Lucia (71.1 per cent).

Canada has been the only market that has remained consistent or shown an increase in tourists (and visiting nationals) arrivals in some Caribbean countries. This is due to the increase in the value of the Canadian dollar against the US dollar to which most Caribbean currencies are pegged at a fixed exchange rate.

But, even the Canadian window may begin to narrow in 2012 as Canadian exports to the US and the EU begin to drop against increasingly worsening economic conditions in both areas. This will have an adverse affect on employment in Canada with a natural constraint on holiday travel. Certainly, the Euro – the common currency of the majority of EU countries – shows every sign of declining in value next year especially if conditions in some of the sick

countries in the EU not only worsen but spread.

The United Kingdom, which is part of the EU but outside of the common currency, has severe problems of its own.

Austerity measures imposed by the government have occasioned enlarged unemployment and less disposable income.

Along with this, a punishing Air Passenger Duty applied by the UK government on flights to the Caribbean has raised fares to levels that encourage travel to other destinations where the duty is lower.

Throughout the islands of the Eastern Caribbean and Barbados, businesses have complained of a drop in sales.

In Barbados, the head of the Chamber of Commerce has warned that businesses will not be able to maintain employment at 2011 levels.

Thus, unemployment in Barbados – now said by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) – to be at 12 per cent might rise as the New Year progresses.

Unemployment in many Eastern Caribbean countries is already at 20 per cent and higher.

Jamaica is now experiencing election fever with general elections to be held on December 29.

Political commercials are competing with Christmas carols on the radio and jostling advertising for Christmas sales on television and the newspapers.

The Jamaica economy is also in the doldrums and an IMF Stand-by loan facility has been stopped because the government failed to meet the criteria for continued disbursement.

At the end of the election, how to deal with Jamaica's troubled economy to create jobs and improve welfare for the vulnerable and the needy will still remain the biggest issues facing the government.

Political uncertainty also exists in Barbados and Guyana. In Barbados, both the governing and opposition parties have unresolved internal conflicts that are provoking the sense of jeopardy caused by economic difficulties.

In Guyana, where the economy has grown consistently over the last three years, and where new investments – particularly by Canadian companies in gold and bauxite mining and in oil exploration – offer bright prospects, an uneasy political peace exists in a situation in which the Peoples Progressive Party/Civic is running a minority government while two opposition parties – A Partnership for National Unity and the Alliance for Change – control the Legislature.

Christmas there may not be blue, but there is an overhang of political ambiguity that only genuine goodwill and co-operation among the political parties can dispense.

Considerable worry about the prospects for 2012 has made this Caribbean Christmas blue.

Responses and previous commentaries: [www.sir-ronaldsanders.com](http://www.sir-ronaldsanders.com)

The writer is a consultant and former Caribbean diplomat

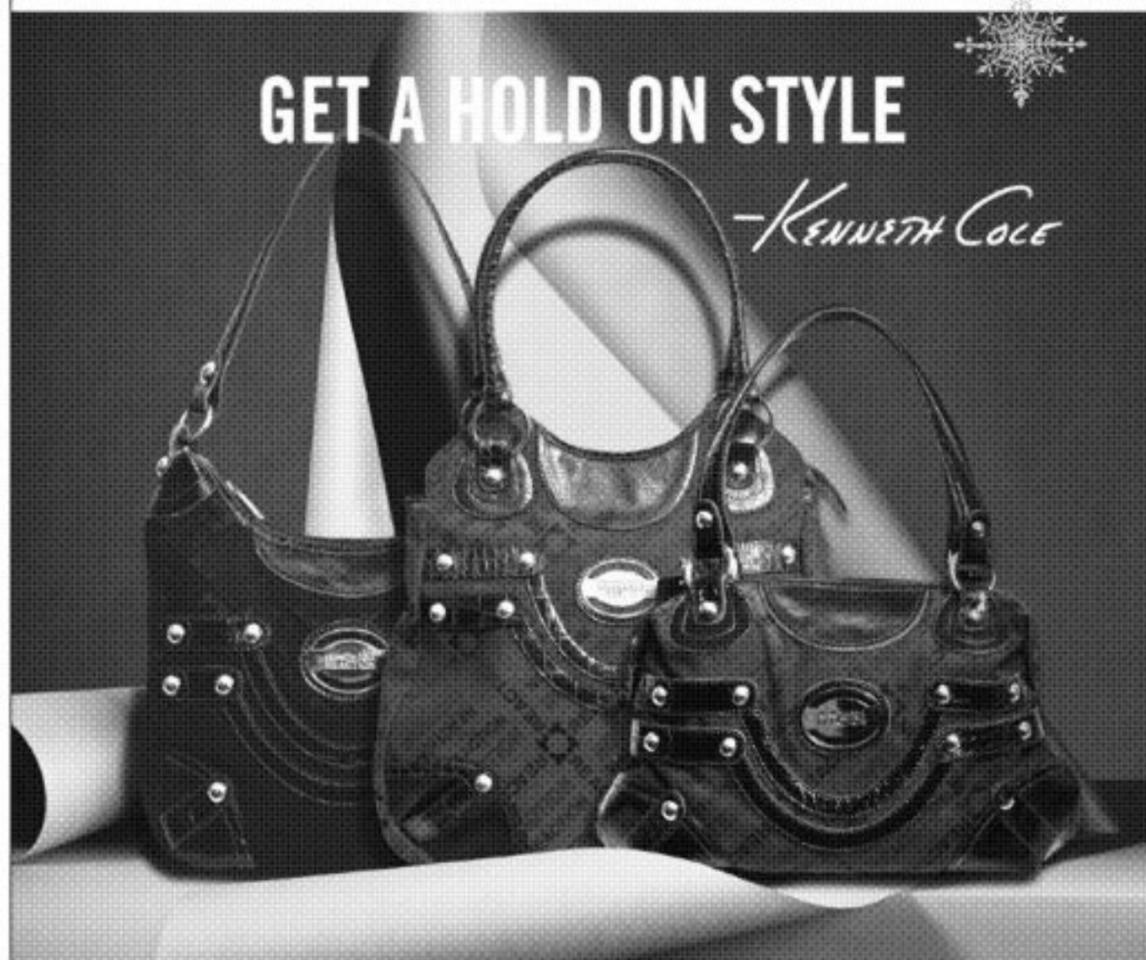
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# Saxons the big winners in Boxing Day parade

By LAMECH JOHNSON  
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THE SAXONS were victorious at yesterday's Boxing Day Junkanoo parade, with One Family pulling in behind them in second place.

The Roots Junkanoo group finished in third place, followed by the Valley Boys, Prodigal Sons and Music Makers.

This year's Boxing Day Junkanoo parade kicked off exactly at midnight and without incident yesterday as more than a dozen groups showed up on Bay and Shirley Streets to win the coveted champion's crown.

Six Category A groups and a greater number of Category B groups stormed the main strip of downtown in the glowing costumes and huge banners, attempting to sway thousands of spectators with their music, vibrancy and energy.

Getting the ball rolling in the senior division was the Valley Boys whose theme was the "Myths and Legends of Ancient Greece". They were followed by the Roots Junkanoo group which came with the message of "Salvation".

The Music Makers focused their theme on "Great Events for a people in search of faith hope and love". Meanwhile, "Building a better Bahamas through Bahamian-Chinese relations, China is here" was the theme used by Prodigal Sons played on the recent relations between the People's Republic of China and the Bahamas.

Following them was the One Family that performed in honour a Salute to Jackson Burnside: As we knew him." The Saxon Superstars, which brought the largest float ever seen at a Junkanoo parade, and sponsored by FYP, closed the line up with their "Encounter the Magic of Atlantis" theme.

In between these six major groups were such smaller groups as Colours, One Love, Red-land Soldiers, Pigs, Sting and Conquerors for Christ.

The Tribune spoke with a number of the spectators who came out either to watch their favourite group perform or simply just to enjoy the sounds and display of an historical event.

Joane Moree expressed disappointment at the length of time the groups took to reach Rawson's Square. On the groups themselves, "I think that One Family and Roots looked really pretty. Their costumes were well done and as you can see the One Family has the crowd going. But we still have to see the Saxons."

Former journalist Lisa King particularly liked One Family's theme and how well it was executed.

"I think they came here to perform and the theme they chose was an excellent one. Jackson Burnside was, of course, one of the founding fathers of the group itself, but he did so much for not only the group but Junkanoo and the expression of our culture too."

"I think they came to win." Tony Wilsher, a resident from the UK described the parade, music and costumes as simple "rich, fantastic and very good." His Bahamian wife, Paulette Brown-Wilsher said today's parade was "an absolute improvement from the last one I attended some 10-15 years ago."

However, not everyone had high praise for the parade. David Hayes felt that this year "was out of rhythm."

"I wasn't particularly into the length, the period between the various performances. I felt kind of a lack of energy and enthusiasm in some of them, though there were some specific performances like Sting for example who had a real cultural significance."

"When they had the actual artist come and sing the song in front of the Prime Minister, it was a really special moment. I think that actually the best moment of Junkanoo so far."

Also, Minister of State for Environment, Phenton Neymour, gave his view and general thoughts about the parade. "I'm having a very good time here at Junkanoo. Of course New Year's is something I always look forward to and is one of the more exciting times for me, particularly the Boxing Day parade."

"The groups had some really good performances. I'm quite impressed with Roots so far, they gave an excellent show. Of course, I'm a Valley, but I had to give compliments to them. I think they demonstrated their ability to compete with the two big boys."

Minister of State for Culture, Charles Maynard, who gave his opinion of the last parade in 2011, explained the reason for some of the delays in the parade.

"I think we had some fantastic performances today. We had a couple of groups who had some issues that caused some delays in the parade, but we had some good presentations and as time progressed during the morning, I think the fans really got into it."



THE very striking float at the start of the parade for the Saxons, who were the last group to take the stage in the parade. Photos: Joann McPike



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## POSITION AVAILABLE

BTC provides a range of voice, data telecommunications and managed services to The Bahamas and are moving from a fully owned government entity to a fully commercial model of operations. To help us do this we are seeking a talented, experienced individual to lead the company's transformation in the Marketing, Retail and Sales functions in the role of:

### VP, CHANNELS & MARKETING

The successful candidate will transform BTC's approach to product positioning, pricing and distribution by developing all channels and taking an end to end "go to market" approach as well as set the direction for us to create a customer centric, performance-based sales culture in the organization.

**This role is expected to:**

- Drive BTC's revenue growth and market share by developing and implementing a winning marketing and sales strategy for the Bahamas business.
- To craft a new competitive commercial strategy for all aspects of the BTC operation including sales through all channels and marketing and the integration of the business into the LIME operating model to take advantage of all economies of scale and leverage commercial opportunities.
- To mentor, coach and develop local talent and expertise where possible.
- To support all teams to meet and or exceed the division's sales revenue, gross margin and Operating Expenditure (OPEX) objectives, through the development and execution of go to market strategies for all market segments, ranging from Retail consumers to SME to large Corporate businesses by active review of their operational plans against targets, monitoring progress and developing recovery actions to ensure focus is maintained and objectives achieved
- To review the design of the commercial organization structure, propose and implement changes as justified including assessing local capability, producing skills gap analyses, making recommendations on recruitment and actively assisting the people execution plan.

**The ideal candidate will be a Bahamian with:**

- A minimum of ten years practical experience in a commercial competitive business where you have developed the commercial strategy and operated at the senior management level. Experience in the telecommunications industry would be an asset.
- Sound knowledge of the different market segments in the Bahamas with the ability to devise a successful strategy for each.
- Good track record of using a range of channels to market and appreciation of the advantage presented by these in a telecommunications or other competitive commercial entity.
- Demonstrated capability of winning in face of competition.

**Does this challenge interest you?**

If you meet these requirements, and want to join a company that is transforming into a commercially focused service provider, please go to the BTC corporate website at [www.btcbahamas.com/jobs](http://www.btcbahamas.com/jobs) for more information on how to apply for this role.

Submit resumes to the  
**OFFICE OF THE SENIOR VP OF HUMAN RESOURCES**  
 by the close of business on January 10th, 2012.



# An awesome display of



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**POSITION AVAILABLE**

BTC provides a wide range of voice, data telecommunications and managed services to The Bahamas and are moving from a fully owned government entity to a fully commercial model of operations. We are currently seeking a talented individual and experienced individual for the role of :

## Vice President, Legal, Regulatory & Carrier Relations

The successful candidate will coordinate and administer the legal, regulatory and Carrier functions and assist in developing the corporate strategy and policy for BTC.

**THE ROLE IS EXPECTED TO:**

- Ensure the Legal & Regulatory requirements for BTC are in compliance with all regulations and law
- Ensure that all of BTC's litigation is pursued professionally with legal and ethical excellence
- Ensure that separation and security of systems between the Legal and Regulatory function and the Carrier function is fit for purpose
- Ensure a commercial orientation and leadership of the Legal regulatory and carrier functions

**THE IDEAL CANDIDATE WILL BE A BAHAMIAN WITH:**

- At least upper second class honours degree in Law.
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Strategic thinking and planning
- Strong negotiating and influencing skills
- At least ten years practical experience in commercial law at a senior management level.
- A sound appreciation of the regulatory environment in the Bahamas.
- Good track record of handling legal and regulatory matters in a telecommunications company would be desirable.

**DOES THIS CHALLENGE INTEREST YOU?**

If you meet these requirements, and want to join a company that is transforming into a commercially focused service provider, please go to the BTC corporate website at [www.btcbahamas.com/jobs](http://www.btcbahamas.com/jobs) for more information on how to apply for this role.

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# colour, music and energy



Photos by Joann McPike

## Tribune Trivia

### THURSDAY'S QUESTION

How many visitors is the Buena Vista distillery aiming to attract in its first full year of operation?

### THURSDAY'S ANSWER

150,000

### THURSDAY'S WINNERS

Eurydice Kemp	3pts
Donnalee Rolle	2pts
Tishrea Grey	1pt

Click the 'Like' button on the Tribune News Network Facebook page to play Tribune Trivia

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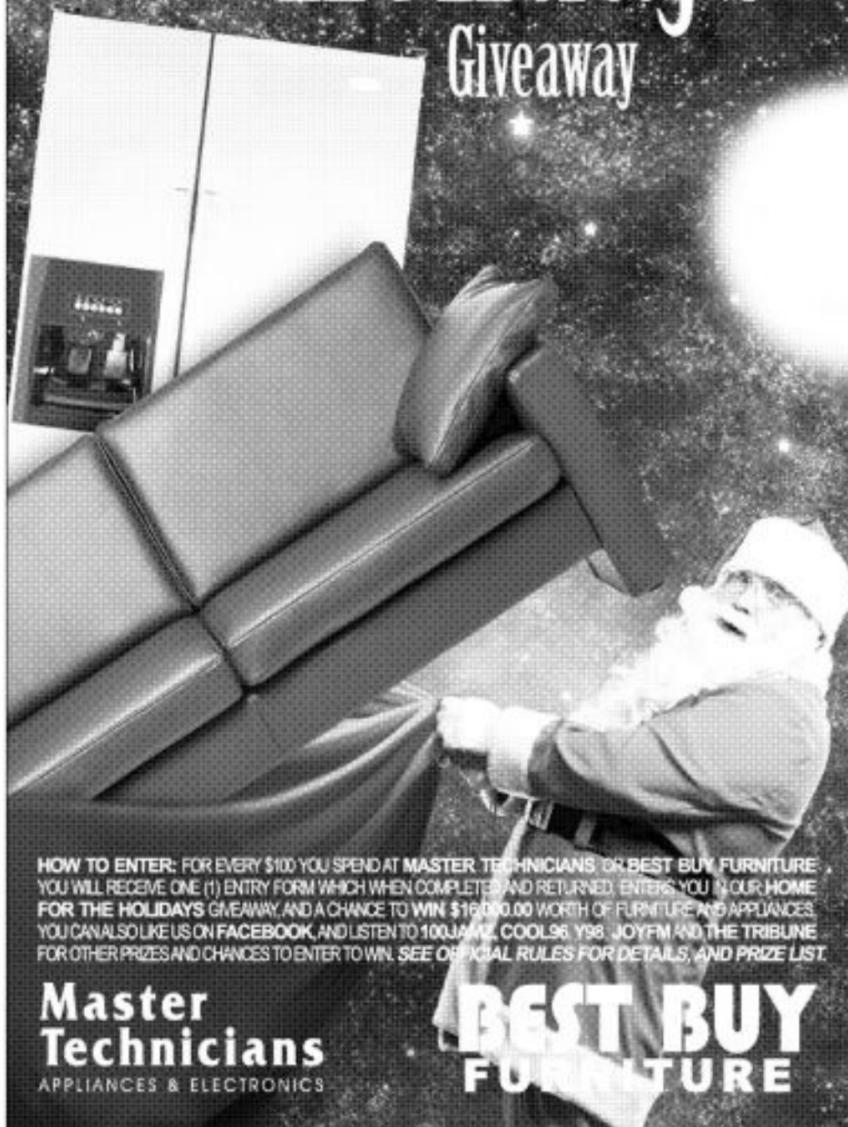
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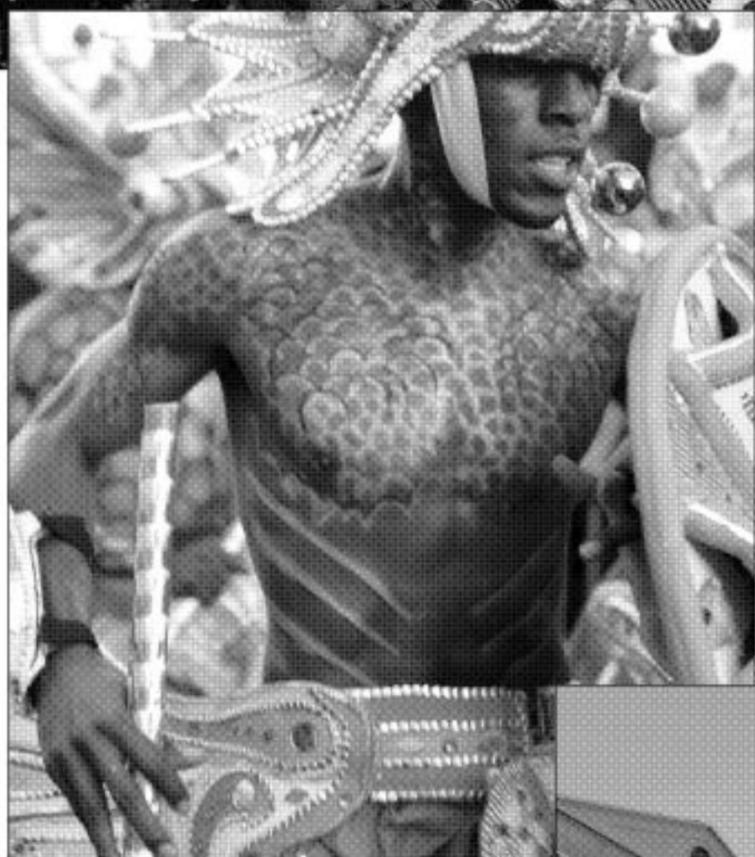
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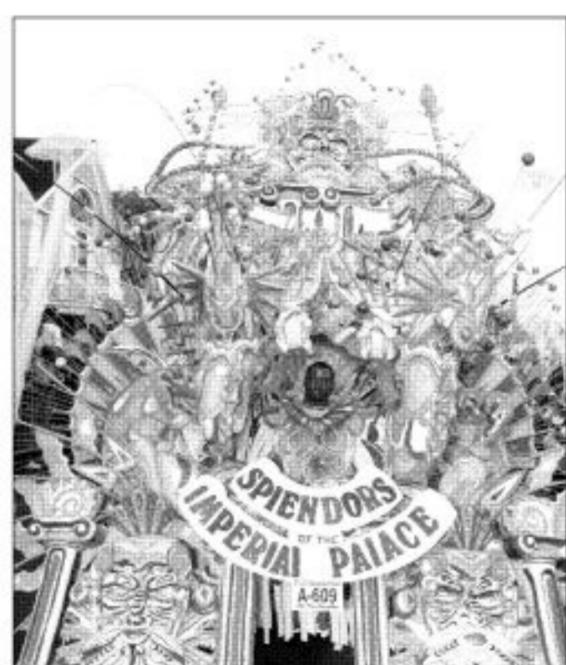
LOCAL NEWS



Photo: Steve Hunt



Photos: Joann McPike



# Talks afoot to make future parades more enjoyable

By DANA SMITH  
dsmith@tribunemedia.net

THE chairman of the New Providence Junkanoo Corporation said that big plans are part of talks for future parades in an effort to make them safer and more enjoyable.

In a recent interview, Silbert Ferguson said there have been discussions of the Junkanoo parade starting earlier, rather than at the usual late midnight hour.

"There has been talk about moving the parade to 10pm, the night before, so that

everybody gets a chance to perform," Mr Ferguson said.

Admitting that it's "a big change," Mr Ferguson hopes that in doing this, not only will all the participating Junkanoo groups complete their routines earlier, but the time change might be more convenient for families who want to attend.

"Families can all get out and see it," Mr Ferguson said. "(They) can see the first half of the parade and if they want to leave — they can leave a little earlier."

Also in talks is how those

attending the parades can get more safely to and from the parade.

"In my initial meeting this year with the police... one of the things we were discussing was the safety of our customers coming from their cars to the parade and going back," Mr Ferguson said.

One idea mentioned was public parking.

Those coming from the west to attend could park at Fort Charlotte, while those coming from the east, could park on the Eastern Parade on East Bay Street.

Mr Ferguson said they discussed having a shuttle service to take spectators "back and forth all morning."

However, he said: "We found it was easy to talk it, but it was very expensive to do it."

"Once we got our quotes back, we thought the quotes were a little over the top," he said.

Another idea was to have only the New Year's day parade a paid competition, while the Boxing Day parade would be a free event just for fun.

"It's very expensive to do

a competition twice," Mr Ferguson said.

Although none of these ideas were in effect for this year's Junkanoo parades, these ideas could take effect in the future.

"Everything is in transition and we are seeing what we can do from one year to the next to get better, that's our goal," Mr Ferguson said.

Ticket sales for the New Year's Day parade are on par with last year's sales.

"We had a poor New Year's Day parade, last year," Mr Ferguson said, citing bad

weather and low ticket sales resulting in a dismal crowd.

"New Year's is our Achilles' heel. This New Year's parade is about 25 per cent sold out."

For the New Year's Day parade, several seats are available in all areas.

Mr Ferguson encouraged Bahamians to purchase tickets and come to the parade.

"We have a lot of young people out there and those persons do a tremendous job in making this happen," he said. "Our job is to support them."

NBA ACTION

# Irving struggles as the Raptors rip Cavs 104-96

## Augustin's 19 points lead Bobcats over Bucks 96-95

By TOM WITHERS  
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Rookie Kyrie Irving scored six points and hardly played like the No. 1 overall pick as the Toronto Raptors spoiled the Cleveland guard's NBA debut with a 104-96 season-opening win over the Cavaliers on Monday night.

Irving, who played just 11 games at Duke before turning pro, finished just 2 of 11 from the field — he made a meaningless 3-pointer in the final minutes — with seven assists and one turnover in 26 minutes. The Cavs are counting on the 19-year-old to turn around a team that won just 19 games last season.

Toronto, which went only 22-60 last season, won its first game under coach Dwane Casey, who was an assistant last season for the champion Dallas Mavericks.

DeMar DeRozan scored nine of his 15 points in the fourth for Toronto, which had seven players score in double figures. Jose Calderon scored 15 with 11 assists, Amir Johnson scored 13 with 13 rebounds, Leandro Barbosa scored 14 and Andrea Bargnani 13.

Ramon Sessions led the Cavaliers with 18 and rookie Tristan Thompson, taken three picks after Cleveland selected Irving, added 12.

Alonzo Gee had 15 points and Anderson Varejao 14 and 10 rebounds for Cleveland, which trimmed a 13-point deficit in the second half to 82-80 on Daniel Gibson's layup with nine minutes left,



CAVS' Kyrie Irving tries to get past Toronto Raptors' Jose Calderon (rear) and Amir Johnson (15) in the first quarter of Monday's game. (AP)

igniting a crowd at Quicken Loans Arena which came hoping to see the Irving era start with a win.

But DeRozan came up big down the stretch, scoring nine points in the final six minutes. His jumper from the right corner put the Cavs away in the final minute.

Although it was assumed Irving would start, Cavs coach Byron Scott didn't inform the youngster that he would be on the floor for the opening tip until the morning shootaround. Scott broke the news to Irving by telling him to "put on a red (practice) jersey on." Cleveland's starters wear wine-colored tops during practice.

Scott offered Irving some advice before his first game as a pro.

### Relax

"I told him to relax and have fun," Scott said. "You only get to do this once, where it's your first NBA game. I told him to enjoy the moment, but when that ball gets thrown up to get back to business."

Irving wasn't showing any

nerves before tip-off. He popped on large headphones and listened to music while sitting in a chair in front of his locker before walking over to a large TV screen to watch film of the Raptors.

### Floor

It was only when he got on the floor that Irving seemed a little overwhelmed. He started slowly, missing his first three shots and didn't score his first point until making a technical foul with 3:50 left in the first half. He scored his first field goal five seconds later, banking in a runner from the right side to pull the Cavs within six.

But he forced other shots and the Raptors never let him get into a rhythm.

The Raptors trailed 31-27 in the second quarter before going on a 15-2 tear. Barbosa and Jerryd Bayless hit 3-pointers in the run and Toronto was able to keep Cleveland at bay while building a 52-42 halftime lead.

By STEVE REED  
AP Sports Writer

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — DJ Augustin scored 19 points, rookie Kemba Walker added 13, including two free throws with 9.9 seconds remaining, and the Charlotte Bobcats erased a 14-point deficit to beat the Milwaukee Bucks 96-95 on Monday night in their season opener.

Gerald Henderson added 18 points and nine rebounds for the Bobcats.

Brandon Jennings had 22 points for the Bucks, while Andrew Bogut had 17 points and nine rebounds.

The Bobcats got a huge lift off the bench from Walker and center Byron Mullens, who was acquired in a trade last week with the Thunder. Walker scored nine points in the second half, creating shots off the dribble, and chipped in with seven rebounds. Mullens was 5 of 7 from the field for 10 points.

The Bobcats led 89-81 with 2:10 left, but the Bucks needed less than a minute to erase that deficit. Jennings hit a pair of 3-pointers and Mike Dunleavy added another from the corner to take a 90-89 lead.

Augustin made a driving layup with 36.5 seconds left to give the Bobcats the lead, 93-92.

Dunleavy had a chance to put the Bucks ahead but missed an open 3-pointer with 11 seconds left. Walker was fouled and made both free throws to seal the win.

Walker gave the Bobcats an emotional lift off the bench in his first real game since leading Connecticut to the NCAA championship.

Late in the game he made a nice drive to the basket and a scoop shoot while drawing a foul, bringing Carolina Panthers quarterback Cam Newton, seated courtside, off his seat. Newton and Walker, who both wear No. 1, have forged a friendship.

Stephen Jackson had a frustrating game against his former team.

After downplaying his return to Charlotte before the game, Jackson fouled out and was charged with a technical foul. He was just 1 of 5 from field and finished with six points.

Before the game, Bobcats coach Paul Silas laughed off the notion of this being just another game for the emotional Jackson, saying, "Stephen Jackson is going to try to kill us."

## 'It's been an amazing trip so far'

FROM page 1E

athlete and I don't think a lot of young girls know that that's an option. In that position I feel like I have a responsibility, whether it's softball, soccer, basketball, that there are avenues. It just takes a lot of hard work, dedication and the sky is the limit."

She currently plays professionally in Japan for Team Toyota and also competes on the PFX Tour while continuing to play for the US National Team.

BSF president Burket Dorsett said the visit by Watley can be used as a motivational tool for many of the younger players in the BSF developmental pipeline.

"She was originally scheduled to make an appearance back in 2003 and we could not be more happy now that we are able to make this happen. We hope this can be the first step in establishing a stronger relationship with Natasha and through her work with the BSF and its programme, she can help to create future homegrown softball stars in the near future," Dorsett said.

Her decorated résumé speaks for itself. Natasha's knowledge, experience and accolades shows that she is well versed in the game," he said.

"Ideally, we want many of



NATASHA WATLEY

the younger players to take this opportunity to learn from her and we hope that her visit would encourage them in their pursuit of softball and see where the game can take you throughout the world. It is a viable sport when looking for a means to higher edu-

cation and can even lead to a professional career."

The BSF has hosted a number of international softball stars from the US over the past few years, including pitching sensation Monica Abbott, Crystl Bustos, Angela Tincher and Taryne Mowatt.

## More than 23 teams to compete in basketball classic

FROM page 1E

outstanding senior boys as their teams compete for coveted prizes.

The players have a chance to compete in a high level tournament before they return to school to begin the march towards the prestigious Hugh Campbell Basketball Classic in February.

Pools for the 8th Annual Providence Holiday Basketball Classic:

**Pool A**  
CI Gibson, Westminster, Doris Johnson, Bimini All-Star, Exuma All-Age, San Salvador

**Pool B**  
Sir George's, CC Sweeting, St Anne's, Teleos, CV Bethel, CW Saunders

**Pool C**  
RM Bailey, Agape of Abaco, Queen's College, Central Eleuthera, Temple Christian

**Pool D**  
Eight Mile, CR Walker, Kingsway Acade-

my, Anatol, Jordan Prince Williams, Mastering Yourself

**Tuesday's schedule**  
8am - CC Sweeting vs CV Bethel  
St Anne's vs Teleos  
RM Bailey vs Temple Christian  
CR Walker vs Jordan Prince Williams  
Kingsway vs Anatol

**Break**  
CV Bethel vs St Anne's  
CW Saunders vs CC Sweeting  
CI Gibson vs San Salvador  
Westminster vs Exuma  
Doris Johnson vs Bimini

**Break**  
Teleos vs St George's  
Agape Christian vs Central Eleuthera  
Bimini vs CI Gibson  
Exuma vs Doris Johnson  
San Salvador vs Westminster

**Break**  
EMR vs Mastering Yourself  
Central Eleuthera vs Queen's College  
Temple Christian vs Agape Christian

The Tribune

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INTERNATIONAL SOCCER

# Dempsey goal sends Chelsea to 3rd straight draw

LONDON (AP) — US star Clint Dempsey's goal for Fulham sent Chelsea to a third consecutive 1-1 draw Monday and further damaged its Premier League title hopes.

Reeling from its worst home loss in more than 40 years, Fulham scored just its fifth away goal this season.

Bryan Ruiz eluded Chelsea's Ashley Cole and crossed to Dempsey, who sent the ball past goalkeeper Petr Cech in the 57th minute. It was Dempsey's ninth goal of the season.

Fourth-place Chelsea opened the scoring within two minutes of the second half. Fernando Torres, making his first league start in almost two months, failed to control Cole's cross but the ball fell to Juan Mata, who left-footed it home from the edge of the penalty area.

Chelsea is two points ahead of Arsenal, which hosts Wolverhampton Wanderers on Tuesday, and 11 points behind the leaders — Manchester City and United.

United surged to a second 5-0 rout in a week, beating Wigan behind Dimitar Berbatov's hat trick. The result left City clinging to the top spot on goal difference after being held to a 0-0 draw by West Bromwich Albion.



WILSON Palacios (right) vies for the ball against Aston Villa's Gabriel Agbonlahor during their English Premier League match Monday. (AP)

Third-place Tottenham, 10 points behind the Manchester teams but with two games in hand, plays at Norwich on Tuesday.

Sixth-place Liverpool failed to seize on Chelsea's slip, drawing 1-1 at home to last-

place Blackburn.

Blackburn is just a point behind Bolton, which lost 2-0 to a Newcastle team that had not won in six matches. Sunderland climbed four points clear of the danger zone with a 1-1 draw at Everton.

### Stoke draws 0-0 with Aston Villa in Premier League

STOKE, England (AP) — Aston Villa and Stoke were both denied by the woodwork Monday as the midlands rivals settled for a 0-0 draw in the Premier League.

Marc Wilson came closest to grabbing a winner for Stoke when his header from a corner in the 69th minute struck the underside of the crossbar before being bundled away on the goaline by Gabriel Agbonlahor. Stoke thought they had scored, but television replays suggested the referee was correct in judging that the entire ball had not crossed the line.

In a first half without many scoring chances, Emile Heskey nearly put Villa ahead in the 21st when his header from a corner struck the left-hand post with goalkeeper Thomas Sorensen well beaten.

Heskey was later substituted with a recurrence of his Achilles problem.



CLINT DEMPSEY (right) celebrates his goal against Chelsea with his captain Danny Murphy during an English Premier League match at Stamford Bridge ground in London Monday. (AP)

# THE WEATHER REPORT

**INSURANCE MANAGEMENT (BAHAMAS) LIMITED**  
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### 5-DAY FORECAST

ORLANDO	TAMPA	WEST PALM BEACH	FT. LAUDERDALE	MIAMI	KEY WEST	ABACO	NASSAU	ELEUTHERA	CAT ISLAND	GREAT EXUMA	ANDROS	LONG ISLAND	MAYAGUANA	CROOKED ISLAND / ACKLINS	RAGGED ISLAND	GREAT INAGUA
High: 82° F/28° C Low: 50° F/10° C	High: 77° F/25° C Low: 52° F/11° C	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 57° F/14° C	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 63° F/17° C	High: 81° F/27° C Low: 63° F/17° C	High: 80° F/27° C Low: 67° F/19° C	High: 80° F/27° C Low: 67° F/19° C	High: 82° F/28° C Low: 71° F/22° C	High: 84° F/29° C Low: 71° F/22° C	High: 82° F/28° C Low: 67° F/19° C	High: 85° F/29° C Low: 71° F/22° C	High: 84° F/29° C Low: 70° F/21° C	High: 84° F/29° C Low: 68° F/20° C	High: 85° F/29° C Low: 68° F/20° C	High: 87° F/31° C Low: 71° F/22° C	High: 84° F/29° C Low: 66° F/19° C	High: 87° F/31° C Low: 70° F/21° C

**UV INDEX TODAY**  
0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11  
LOW MEDIUM HIGH V-HIGH EXT

**TIDES FOR NASSAU**

Time	High	Hi. (ft.)	Low	Lo. (ft.)
Today	9:28 a.m.	3.1	3:07 a.m.	-0.8
	9:51 p.m.	2.5	3:54 p.m.	-0.4
Wednesday	10:11 a.m.	2.9	3:56 a.m.	-0.3
	10:41 p.m.	2.5	4:30 p.m.	-0.3
Thursday	10:57 a.m.	2.7	4:46 a.m.	0.0
	11:30 p.m.	2.4	5:24 p.m.	-0.1
Friday	11:43 a.m.	2.5	5:38 a.m.	0.1
			6:09 p.m.	0.0
Saturday	12:22 a.m.	2.3	6:31 a.m.	0.4
	12:30 p.m.	2.3	6:55 p.m.	0.0
Sunday	1:16 a.m.	2.3	7:30 a.m.	0.6
	1:22 p.m.	2.1	7:45 p.m.	0.1
Monday	2:10 a.m.	2.3	8:29 a.m.	0.6
	2:56 p.m.	2.0	8:34 p.m.	0.1

**ALMANAC**  
Statistics are for Nassau through 1 p.m. yesterday

**Temperatures**

High	81° F/27° C
Low	64° F/18° C
Normal high	78° F/26° C
Normal low	60° F/19° C
Last year's high	75° F/24° C
Last year's low	63° F/18° C

**Precipitation**

As of 1 p.m. yesterday	0.30"
Year to date	41.92"
Normal year to date	51.00"

**AccuWeather.com**  
Forecasts and graphics provided by AccuWeather, Inc. ©2011

### INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP

**Insurance Management Tracking Map**  
Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

**Insurance Management Tracking Map**  
Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

**MARINE FORECAST**

ISLAND	Today	WINDS	WAVES	VISIBILITY	WATER TEMP.
ARABCO	Today: S at 10-20 Knots	4-7 Feet	10 Miles	75° F	
ANDROS	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots	3-6 Feet	6 Miles	75° F	
CAT ISLAND	Today: SE at 8-12 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	77° F	
CROOKED ISLAND	Today: ESE at 10-20 Knots	4-8 Feet	10 Miles	80° F	
ELEUTHERA	Today: SSE at 10-30 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	77° F	
FREEPORT	Today: W at 6-12 Knots	2-4 Feet	7 Miles	77° F	
GREAT EXUMA	Today: SE at 8-12 Knots	4-7 Feet	10 Miles	77° F	
GREAT INAGUA	Today: ESE at 10-20 Knots	5-9 Feet	10 Miles	80° F	
LONG ISLAND	Today: ESE at 10-20 Knots	2-5 Feet	7 Miles	80° F	
MAYAGUANA	Today: ESE at 10-20 Knots	4-7 Feet	10 Miles	79° F	
NASSAU	Today: SSE at 10-30 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	76° F	
SAN SALVADOR	Today: NNW at 6-12 Knots	1-3 Feet	8 Miles	26° F	
RAGGED ISLAND	Today: SE at 8-16 Knots	3-6 Feet	10 Miles	77° F	

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# SPORTS

THE TRIBUNE • SECTION E

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 27, 2011

# Hawks drop Magnum

## INSIDETRAK



**IRVING STRUGGLES AS RAPTORS RIP CAVS 104-96**

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**NFL PREVIEWS: RAIDERS NEED WIN, HELP TO RETURN TO PLAYOFFS**

TURN TO 16.

**UP NEXT FOR TEBOW & BRONCOS, OLD PAL KYLE ORTON**

TURN TO 16.



**DEMPSEY GOAL SENDS CHELSEA TO 3RD STRAIGHT DRAW**

TURN TO 18.

By **RENALDO DORSETT**  
Sports Reporter  
rdorsett@tribunemedia.net

**M**agnum Rolle's path toward stability in his pro basketball career suffered another setback just days before the start of the abbreviated NBA season.

The Atlanta Hawks, his second NBA franchise in as many years, waived Rolle over the weekend.

Rolle signed with the Hawks near the end of last season and re-joined the team following a stint in South Korea. He came into camp out of shape after he said a right foot injury hampered him from maintaining his conditioning.

The Hawks also released guards Pape Sy and Brad Wanamaker along with center Keith Benson, their only draft pick in June.

The Hawks signed Rolle to a reported two-year deal in April but took a serious look at the 6-foot 11-inch, 235-pound forward during their pre-season training camp.

In his final appearance in a pre-season, a 79-77 loss to the Charlotte Bobcats, Rolle saw 12 minutes of playing and scored four points on 1-of-1 from the field and 2-of-2 from the free throw line. He also pulled down three defensive rebounds, blocked a shot, dashed out a pass and picked up four fouls, three alone that came in the third quarter.

The Hawks appear in their first regular season game tonight against the New Jersey Nets at the Prudential Center in Newark, New Jersey.

The Hawks have made an effort to make a movement toward gaining experience by adding to their young core with Kirk Heinrich, Jerry Stackhouse and Tracy McGrady, who signed a one-year deal for the veteran minimum after playing last season with the Detroit Pistons, his third team in the past two years.

The 25-year-old Rolle was hoping to become the fifth Bahamian to play in the NBA, joining Mychal 'Sweet Bells' Thompson, who played from 1978-1990, Rick Fox, who played from 1991-2004, Ian 'Foots' Lockhart, who played during the 1990 season and Dexter Cambridge, who played in 1992.

Eric Gordon, who was traded from the Los Angeles Clippers to the New Orleans Hornets in a deal that sent Chris Paul to the Clippers, has roots in the Bahamas. His mother is a Bahamian and his father is an American but he was born in the U.S.

Rolle was the 51st overall pick in the 2010 NBA Draft by the Oklahoma City Thunder. But he was then shipped to the Indiana Pacers.

Last year, Rolle appeared in five pre-season games for the Pacers



**WAIVED:** Atlanta Hawks, Magnum Rolle's second NBA franchise in as many years, waived him over the weekend.

before he was waived on October 25, 2010. As a member of the

Hawks' pre-season roster, he currently wears number 25.

**More than 23 teams to compete in basketball classic**

By **RENALDO DORSETT**  
Sports Reporter  
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**DURING** the downtime on the local sporting calendar, high school basketball players will again be provided with an avenue for players across the country to display their skills during the festive season.

The Eighth Annual Providence Holiday Basketball Classic is all set to begin this morning at Kendal Isaacs Gym with over 23 teams scheduled to compete in four different pools throughout the week.

"The objective, once again, is not just to get exposure for our young men, but we will provide opportunities for them to obtain athletic scholarships," according to tournament director Kevin 'KJ' Johnson.

"We will be having a number of high school and prep school coaches coming in to view the talent. Maybe a few of them would be able to get off to school."

At the same time, Johnson said they will ensure that the players remain physically fit over the Christmas season.

There will be a total of four pools, comprising of at least six teams each. They will play in a round-robin format with the top two teams advancing to the final four and then the final two in the championship game.

"I think the talent is spread out," Johnson said. "Eight Mile Rock is a very good team. They are the number one team in Grand Bahama. CC Sweeting is the defending tournament champions. St George's is pretty good. RM Bailey is the Hugh Campbell defending champions. C1 Gibson is always in the mix. Westminster always has a pretty good team. So we are looking at a very balanced tournament."

Based on the way the pools are set up, Johnson said the public can definitely come out and be entertained in every game.

"We want the public to come out and check out their local high school teams play basketball," Johnson said. "There's nothing else to do during Christmas because junkanoo is over and they have a break before the New Year's junkanoo. So there's really nothing else to do, so we are trying to keep these young men off the street. A tournament of this magnitude is good for high school, so hopefully they will come out and play their best."

The Providence Holiday Classic comes at the opportune time as it provides an avenue for those senior high school players to sharpen their skills as they prepare for the second half of the season.

At the same time, the tournament provides an opportunity for the public to get a preview of the

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## 'It's been an amazing trip so far'

By **RENALDO DORSETT**  
Sports Reporter  
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An international softball superstar with Bahamian roots, Natasha Watley used her vacation to not only visit the Bahamas - a place she calls her "second home" - but also took an opportunity to establish connections with the local softball community.

Hosted by various government officials in the sport over the last

two weeks, Watley has received international acclaim as a two time Olympic medalist as a member of the US national softball team - the first African-American female to do so - and has starred at the shortstop and first base positions at every level.

"It's been an amazing trip so far. I feel like the red carpet of hospitality has been laid out. Everything has been great, from the sights to meeting the people to the food and everything has

worked out so I have enjoyed my stay here in the Bahamas. Naturally, the Bahamas is like my second home so it's a lot of fun and it's good to be back," he said.

"The young girls I hope to reach out to and eventually meet in the future, one of the things I want them to know is that softball is an avenue you can pursue. Obviously for me it has created many opportunities. I am a professional

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