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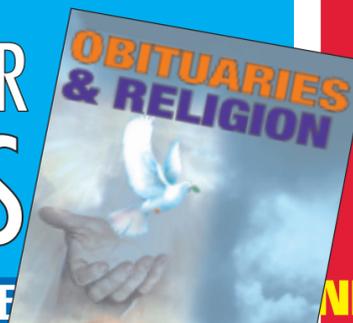
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Jobless link to spike in crime

Police blame drug users for rise in offences

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
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JOBLESS young men, who abuse drugs and alcohol and are shielded by their respective communities, have "predominantly" contributed to the nine per cent jump in crimes against the person last year.

A two per cent decrease was recorded in the overall category in 2010.

After revealing overall crime statistics, Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade yesterday charged that police faced extreme challenges in 2011 as a result of the proliferation of illegal guns and an apparent total disregard for human dignity and life by young people in conflict.

"We have continued to speak about this category of serious crime which is perpetrated by relatively young Bahamian men who are unemployed and seem to

have no interest in seeking gainful employment," Mr Greenslade said.

"To feed their habits and to supply their wants, these men continue to commit acts of robberies in our communities. Once they have committed their illegal acts, they return to the safe haven in communities where their crimes are shielded by family, friends, and acquaintances."

Attempted robbery and murder cases soared with 39 per cent and 35 per cent increases respectively.

Cases of rape, which saw a decrease in 2010, surged 37 per cent overall. While cases of rape in Grand Bahama saw a 47 per cent drop, cases in New Providence and the Family Islands climbed 56 per cent and 67 per cent respectively.

Addressing the media at his annual "Meet the Press" session at the Paul Farquharson Centre at Police Headquar-

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POLICE COMMISSIONER Ellison Greenslade addresses the media during a press conference on national crime statistics.
Photo: **Felipe Major/Tribune Staff**

ARRESTED AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FOR 10 YEARS

By LAMECH JOHNSON
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A FUGITIVE on the run for 10 years was finally arrested on Christmas eve in waters off Bimini.

But when he appeared before a magistrate yesterday, he offered no explanation as to why he had ducked his drugs trial since 2002.

Avery Sargent appeared before Deputy Chief Magistrate Carolita Bethell to receive a date for his trial in which four of his co-accused were already convicted and sentenced.

He and four men had been arrested following a major marijuana drug find in waters of South Andros on January 20, 2002.

However when they were expected to appear for trial in June of that year, Sargent did not show up.

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AGA KHAN ROLE 'COULD AFFECT VOTE'

By DANA SMITH
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A COLUMNIST in one of the UK's most popular dailies told his readers the government's approval of the Aga Khan's development plans for Bell Island could have an impact on the upcoming election.

The controversial development of the island in the Exuma Land and Sea Park attracted a great deal of criticism, with many hitting out at Mr Deveaux for accepting a ride in the Aga Khan's luxury helicopter to a film screening in Abaco.

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CONSTRUCTION CHIEF IN COURT

By LAMECH JOHNSON
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A PROMINENT figure in the Bahamas construction industry appeared before a magistrate yesterday.

Peter Whitehead, 61, was in court to plead not guilty to making a false declaration to a US customs officer, and failing to declare he had funds exceeding \$10,000.

It is alleged that on Friday,

See page 8

MP 'USED AS A SCAPEGOAT' BY FNM

By SANCHESKA BROWN
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PLP candidate Alex Storr has accused the FNM of using Long Island MP Larry Cartwright, as "a scapegoat" for the mess it created in his constituency.

Mr Storr, who is the PLP's candidate for Long Island, said the FNM has to take responsibility for neglecting the people of Long Island.

"The FNM has left a sour

taste in the mouth in the people of Long Island," Mr Storr claimed.

"They are making Larry Cartwright take the fall for their dismal performance in that constituency when they are the ones to blame. They paid no attention to the constituents for too long and now they will reap what they sow. These people are ready for a change and real representation."

Mr Cartwright, who is the current MP for Long Island,

confirmed that he will not run in the 2012 general election unless expressly asked by his constituents.

He said he promised the Long Island community two terms and now that his time is up, he is willing to step down.

The Tribune reported yesterday that Montagu MP Loretta Butler Turner has been nominated as the FNM candidate for Long Island replacing Mr Cartwright.

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LOCAL NEWS

Bahamas realtor starring on HGTV

A BAHAMIAN realtor with ERA Dupuch played a starring role on the well-known HGTV channel, helping to find a rental property that satisfied the requirements of a professional expatriate couple.

"This couple had just moved from Dubai, and were excited about having jobs that landed them in Nassau, but were apprehensive about what properties they could find to match their high standards and expectations in a rental property," said Kyla Ralston, who was selected by the casting producer in the UK to work with the popular TV show that attracts some 20 million viewers in the US weekly.

"They wanted to take advantage of living on an island surrounded by beautiful waters for diving, fishing, swimming, snorkeling. Direct access to the beach was very important. They do not have

children, so issues we usually take into consideration, like proximity to good schools, was not material to the search."

The couple were seeking a beachfront home or condo, at a rental rate of between \$2,500-\$3,500.

House Hunters International has filmed in the Bahamas a number of times. Last year, HGTV viewers voted Harbour Island the fifth best place to live in the world.

But the episode featuring Ms Ralston was slightly different. The search was not for an exotic getaway, nor on a Family Island, not a purchase, but a rental. The search started two months earlier. The episode with Ms Ralston and the couple was filmed from December 9-11, for airing in spring 2012.

"We had to identify three apartments that matched their budget and wish list,"

said Ms Ralston. "It was my responsibility to find the apartment that best matched their criteria."

Ms Ralston went through listings, searching for comparables, and produced the required number -two on Cable Beach and one in Love Beach. For the next three days, the film crew put in 12-hour days, with Ms Ralston along for every step of the journey.

In the end, the 'perfect' apartment turned out to be the very one the couple spotted the first time and agreed on then.

"I was very proud that I was selected to do the show," said Ms Ralston, who believes her past experience in film provided producers with extra comfort. She said it was great exposure for the Bahamas, for the industry, its professionalism and the variety of properties available.



FINDING THE RIGHT NEST – HGTV's House Hunters International film crew captures a special bird resting moment while on location in New Providence during an episode shoot of the well-travelled show.

BURGLARY AND DRUG CHARGES FOR ACCUSED

A PINWOOD Gardens man was arraigned before two Magistrates yesterday morning on various charges, including housebreaking and possession of drugs with intent to supply.

Damal Campbell, 27, first appeared before Deputy Chief Magistrate Carolita Bethell in Court Eight, Bank Lane.

It is alleged that on December 30, the accused was found in possession of seven pounds of marijuana with intent to supply.

Campbell pleaded not guilty and was told by the deputy chief magistrate that he would not be granted bail. "Under the Bail Act that was amended, this court does not have the discretion to grant bail," she said. "Therefore bail is denied."

The matter was adjourned to May 28 for trial and the accused was escorted out of

court in handcuffs.

Minutes later, he appeared in Court One before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez to be charged with a break-in at a home that occurred the day before he was arrested on the drug charge.

It is alleged that on December 29, he broke into the home of Kennedy Pinder in Pinewood Gardens and stole an iPod Touch, gold chain, digital camera and watch, together valued at \$1,729.

He is also accused of receiving the watch.

The accused denied the allegations and pleaded not guilty. He will return to court in May for trial.

JAMAICANS ADMIT OVERSTAYING

By LAMECH JOHNSON
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FIVE Jamaican women, arraigned in Magistrate's Court yesterday afternoon, pleaded guilty to overstaying their time in the Bahamas.

Abigail Williams, Stacy Henry, Darcia Gilroy, Shamara Hall and Raquel Cockins were arrested and detained December 21, after it was found that they had overstayed their time from a week to four months.

The women apologized to Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez and gave their individual reasons for committing the offence.

Separately charged before the chief magistrate, Grade Two Immigration officer Kendal Rahming told the court that two days after Williams was arrested and detained, her Jamaican passport was submitted to his department by police.

The passport showed that Williams had come to Nassau on November 27 as a visitor with permission to stay for 14 days.

Prosecutor Rahming said the visiting period ended on December 11. He said that the accused did not inquire about or receive an extension to stay.

Williams explained that she did apply for an extension and overstayed because "I wanted to stay for Junkanoo."

In response to the explana-

tion, the amused chief magistrate replied, "That's the best excuse I've ever heard. I wanted to go to Junkanoo too."

"You got to see it on TV?" he asked. "No, sir," she replied.

As immigration denied claims that she had filed for an extension, she replied that she had done so two days before her visiting time was to expire.

She nevertheless apologized to the chief magistrate "for overstaying my time in your country."

Chief Magistrate Gomez in response told her that "because of the circumstances, you'll pay a fine of \$500 or one month at Her Majesty's Prison."

He advised her to file for an extension the next time so that she would not "miss the parade." He also recommended early deportation.

The remaining four defendants also pleaded guilty as they stood before Chief Magistrate Gomez.

Prosecutor Rahming informed the court that on December 21, the four women were arrested in an apartment on McKinney Avenue after a search of their passports revealed that they had overstayed their time.

Henry had overstayed by a little more than a week while Gilroy and Hall had both overstayed by three weeks.

It was revealed that Cockins had been in the country since the beginning of August, 2011.

Henry was the first of the four to explain the reason behind her actions. She said she had been given 30 days in the country and had updated her ticket to return home on December 28, so that she could be married. She admitted that she had not filed for an extension. Her fiancé, Melvin Smith, produced relevant papers showing that her explanation was legitimate.

Gilroy, who stayed three weeks longer than allowed, said it was "because I like the country and I wanted to spend Christmas here." She too admitted that she didn't apply for an extension.

Hall's reasons were similar, although she added that "I wanted to spend Christmas and New Years in a different country." She added that she had experienced complications with AirJamaica concerning her tickets.

Before Raquel Cockins could explain why she was in the country since August Chief Magistrate Gomez asked: "You were looking for permanent residency, Ms Cockins?"

"I'm very sorry, I truly am," was her reply.

He fined Cockins \$1,500 or a month in jail as she had overstayed longer than her co-accused.

Hall and Gilroy were fined \$1,000 each, which if they fail to pay they too will face a month in prison. Henry was cautioned.

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We also announce the appointment of
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Miss. Kim Kikivarakis is an Honours graduate of the University of Miami and the College of The Bahamas and a licensed Appraiser and Broker, having most recently worked in these capacities with a major local real estate company. She holds the international designation of REALTOR and is an international member of the National Association of Realtors (NAR) of the United States. She is a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) and has worked for several years at a senior level of Deloitte & Touche in their Real Estate Group in New York City where she has gained extensive experience and knowledge of real estate developments, valuations, property management and sales markets.
We also announce the appointment of
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LOCAL NEWS

DELAY IN EXTORTION RULING

By LAMECH JOHNSON
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THE ruling on the discharge or arraignment of three men suspected in a \$500,000 extortion attempt was delayed in Magistrate's Court.

Shakatoure Thompson, 23, Robert Smith Jr, 24, and Robert Smith Sr, 61, appeared before Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez yesterday to learn whether or not he would dismiss the charge against them or allow it to proceed in a preliminary inquiry.

It is alleged that the three men, between September 12 and October 17, 2010, attempted to extort half a million dollars from Todd Culmer.

They had appeared in Court One, Bank Lane before the chief magistrate on Tuesday afternoon.

However, before their arraignment could commence, defence attorneys Ian Cargill and Krysta Smith argued that the indictment was taking place past the date set by the statute of limitations. It, therefore, was not properly before the courts.

The prosecution countered that the law made provisions for a Magistrate to proceed with a pre-trial in circumstances where police ran out of time for their investigations.

Chief Magistrate Gomez had delayed the matter to yesterday morning to make a decision.

He granted Smith Sr a bond of \$5,000 while remand-

ing the two accused to prison after prosecution informed the court that Smith Jr and Thompson, with pending charges already before the courts, had breached bail conditions.

However, when the accused returned to court yesterday, the matter was adjourned to January 10 in Court Five, Bank Lane, where the charges were initially supposed to be dealt with.

In the meantime, the chief magistrate told Smith Jr and Thompson that they would be granted the same bond as their co-defendant.

However, he added that they were going to be attached to the electronic monitoring system.

Before these charges, Smith Jr had been on bail, granted by the Supreme Court last July, 10 days after he had been charged with the June 17 shooting death of Winfield Smith. He also had an outstanding warrant of arrest from Court Six, where his second charge of car theft is continuing.

Thompson had also been on bail after he had been charged last September in connection with an armed robbery at the Island Luck web cafe, Carmichael Road. He also has a possession of dangerous drugs case before the courts.

The two men, with Smith Sr, will return to court on Tuesday, January 10, before Magistrate Derece Rolledavis in Court Five at the new Magistrate's Court complex, Nassau Street.

Reward offered to catch litterbugs

By KHRISNA VIRGIL
kvirgil@tribunemedia.net

BAHAMAS National Trust officials are offering a \$2,000 reward for information on the person or persons who dumped debris in the Bonefish National Park.

BNT executive director Eric Carey said it was dismaying to find the pile of construction scraps and rubble yesterday morning, particularly after the "breath-taking" tribute to the nation's wetlands by the Valley Boys during the New Year's Day junkanoo parade.

"We believed that by having the group use the wetlands as a theme, that it was an indication that we were gaining success in creating awareness about the importance of these systems," he said.

The BNT makes presentations on the importance of preserving wetlands to nearly 10,000 students a year. Of that number, almost 7,000 visit the Bonefish Park.

Mr Carey said he can't understand why someone would use the park as a dumping ground.

He said: "It could have only been an idiot who would drive down here and think, 'I'm going to dump this out here'."

"But, you would find, that same idiot would not have a hundredth of an ounce of decency that would lead him to think, 'Wow, I can't dump that here'."

"We spent a lot of time cleaning this area, formerly a place where people came to burn cables to extract copper."

Mr Carey said the BNT is now working with the government to extend its system of boardwalks and other infrastructure throughout the park. He said the government has seen the park's potential as a source of income for Bahamians.



A \$2,000 REWARD is offered for information on who might be responsible for dumping at Bonefish Pond, which has left to be cleaned up by National Trust volunteers.

Photos: Tim Clarke/Tribune Staff

"We hope that people would use the Self-Starter Programme to jump-start their guide businesses. The park is also seen by the government as recreation for tourists," he said.

As for the reward, Mr Carey said: "We want to send a clear message to people that this is not acceptable. Any information that leads to finding who is responsible for the dumping, will be handled to the full extent of the law."

An environmental health official said the penalty for dumping of this kind could be anything from a \$500 to \$10,000 fine, and could include a spell in prison.



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ILLEGAL DRUGS WARNING

By CELESTE NIXON
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THE Pharmacy Council has warned Bahamians of the dangers of the illegal sale of pharmaceuticals and use of black-market drugs.

During a press conference at the Ministry of Health yesterday Bahamas Pharmacy Council chairman Philip Gray warned that use of unregulated prescription drugs and black-market drugs supplied by non-pharmacists, could be putting Bahamians' health at serious risk.

He said: "The sale of prescription items with no oversight of a pharmacist is unacceptable — the black market sale of pharmaceuticals is an even more dangerous practice."

The Bahamas Pharmacy Council is a government body that regulates and controls pharmacy practices, the practices of licensed professionals and sets industry standards and guidelines.

Since its establishment two years ago, Mr Gray said the council has been following a strategic plan that now moves its attention towards the protection of the country's borders in regards to the entry and exit of medications and the "eradication of illicit and illegal pharmacy practices."

In particular, Mr Gray said the council is "deeply concerned" by the side street sales of medication by non-pharmacists and sale of black-market pharmaceuticals, which have been imported into the country illegally. As the government cannot control the chain of distribution and the origin or quality of the drugs that can be "extremely dangerous."

He said: "I want to warn the general public that, that is extremely dangerous — you put yourself at greater risk than cost because you may be getting something that is potentially lethal."

"When investing in your health, you should ensure that you go to a legitimate registered pharmacy, which will have pharmacists and licences on display," said Mr Gray.

In addition, he said it is important that the public be informed by a professional about all medications they are using, including over the counter drugs, which can react to prescription drugs.

While Mr Gray could not say how prevalent these illegal transactions are, he said the council is currently in the preliminary stages of investigating several entities with the assistance of the Customs Department and the Police Force.

"Such practices by non-pharmacists will be dealt with forthwith and prosecuted to the full extent of the law — we vehemently suggest that such activity cease immediately," he said.

The council is also urging the public to come forward

with any information regarding illegal pharmaceutical sales.

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THE DEVIL INSIDE	NEW	1:15	3:40	NA	6:15	8:40	10:50
WAR HORSE	NEW	1:05	4:05	NA	7:05	NA	10:05
THE DARKEST HOUR	T	1:15	3:40	NA	6:15	8:35	10:40
WE BOUGHT A ZOO	B	1:00	3:25	NA	6:00	8:20	10:30
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE	T	1:10	3:50	NA	6:30	NA	10:00
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE	T	2:00	4:45	NA	8:40	NA	NA
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON TATTOO	C	1:00	4:30	NA	8:50	NA	NA
ADVENTURES OF TIN TIN	B	1:10	3:30	NA	6:00	8:30	10:35
SHERLOCK HOLMES	T	1:00	3:50	NA	6:35	NA	10:00
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	A	1:15	3:40	NA	6:15	8:40	10:30
THE TWILIGHT SAGA	T	1:00	3:25	NA	6:00	8:25	10:50

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THE DARKEST HOUR	T	1:15	4:35	N/A	6:10	8:40	10:55
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE	T	1:00	4:00	N/A	7:00	NA	10:30
THE GIRL WITH THE DRAGON	C	1:05	4:35	N/A	8:45	NA	N/A
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	NA	10:05
ALVIN & THE CHIPMUNKS	A	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:35	10:30

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Published Daily Monday to Saturday

Shirley Street, P.O. Box N-3207, Nassau, Bahamas
Insurance Management Building., P.O. F-485, Freeport, Grand Bahama

Why air traffic controllers are being blamed

YESTERDAY morning, a Bahamian pilot e-mailed us an advisory sent out from the US Embassy. It was intended only for US citizens with travel plans, but got wider distribution than intended. Apparently the advisory was not posted on the general US Embassy Travel Advisory web site for general consumption.

Dated January 3, 2012 the message read:

"The US Embassy is transmitting the following message to alert US citizens that, due to a labour dispute with air traffic controllers, travellers have experienced significant flight delays at the Lynden Pindling International Airport in Nassau, the Bahamas. US citizens using this airport should plan accordingly."

It then advised US citizens travelling or residing overseas to enrol in the Smart Traveller Enrolment programme for further information.

The dissemination of this information by the Embassy for the convenience of its citizens was the direct result of the chaos caused at the airport on Christmas day by the air traffic controllers, who chose that day to prove their power and "go slow". No one is questioning the cause of the Christmas day travel fiasco at the airport. Even the traffic controllers admit that they were on "go slow" in connection with their union's contract negotiations.

However, when there was a repeat performance on New Year's Day no one was prepared to accept the explanation of the Nassau Airport Development (NAD) official who said that air traffic controllers had "made every effort to expedite arrivals and departures" on New Year's day.

The NAD official blamed the chaos on flight congestion caused by the saturation of Miami airspace. Still others pointed out the added confusion caused by an increased volume of unscheduled private aircraft, which had to also be accommodated for takeoff between the increased arrival and departures of commercial aircraft. Whoever or whatever the cause, there was mismanagement somewhere in the system at the airport on Monday. Having gone through Christmas, the new year's holiday should have been anticipated, and better planned. For example, were there enough traffic controllers on duty for the extra traffic that should have been expected? Were there enough senior staff in the tower to assist with the congestion? Should tower staff be better trained to cope with such situations? We can swirl around in circles asking questions, but reaching no conclusion.

It is being insisted that the chaos was not due to industrial unrest. It is true that the controllers' union had made a statement that their industrial action had been called off in anticipation of contract negotiations — although in the background there was

another union making growling noises and keeping everyone in suspense.

However, the air traffic union has only itself to blame after what transpired — as a direct result of their actions — on Christmas day. No amount of explaining, or denying will completely dispel the suspicion that they also had something to do with the inconvenience caused to all passengers at Pindling International Airport on Monday.

This should be a lesson to the union. Tourism is an essential industry that cannot be trifled with by a handful of unionists. Their irresponsible behaviour affects the jobs of too many people — Bahamians at all levels of the economic scale — for them to demonstrate their power by showing how they can cripple the country's economy.

And so the controllers might well have been doing their best on Monday, industrial action might have in no way contributed to the nation's embarrassment in the shabby manner in which our most important customers were treated on Monday, but as the saying goes: "Go tell that one to the Marines!" No one else is listening.

Christmas day was the air traffic controllers' undoing. It was their behaviour on that shameful day that instigated the US Embassy's warning to its citizens to beware of the airport because of a "labour dispute with air traffic controllers". It was his experience on Christmas Day that caused the Jet Blue pilot to lose his cool a week later. It was the memory of that day that caused him to tell his passengers that they had "work to rule" controllers to blame for their discomfort. It was also those thoughts that caused him — after more than a three-hour wait with a plane full of unhappy passengers — to threaten what would happen if the tower did not give him immediate clearance for take off.

DNA leader Branville McCartney has predicted that employees at Atlantis will be laid off in the next six months because of the recent business deal between Kerzner International and Brookfield management company. If the unions — most of whose contracts with government are falling due within the next three months — think only of themselves in these negotiations and not of the nation, and if they demonstrate the irresponsible behaviour that we have seen recently, there will be more than Atlantis workers unemployed. And it won't be because of any business decisions, it will be because when an election nears unionists force politicians to make concessions that the country cannot afford, and which would not be granted at any other time of the year.

As one observer commented this week, today's union leaders are a different breed, they are not nation builders.

Clarify the rules on 'flipping'

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IT WAS not very long ago when the former Director of the Department of Lands and Survey came under fire for allowing that agency to grant land to members of his immediate family.

From the information published in the print media, very small sums were paid for these properties. Once these persons would have taken possession of the land, in short order they were "flipped" ie they were sold for hundreds of thousands of dollars more than the initial purchase price. There appeared to be something terribly wrong at this Department.

As a result of the prevailing or perceived inconsistencies, a Commission of Inquiry was appointed to investigate and call for records and persons as may be necessary. To my recollection the Commission of Inquiry was convened, individuals were subpoenaed and questioned at length concerning the acquisition of land and/or matters pertaining thereto. The questioning included those who obtained parcels of Crown land, for themselves and or their relatives.

Most, if not all of us, would agree that these are hard economic times and as such it is inconceivable that the Commission is still in session after convening more than a year ago. Further, it is hard to imagine such a costly and important inquiry being con-

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

ducted without some meaningful conclusions to share with the Bahamian public.

It is important for us to remember that such proceedings are conducted at the Bahamian public's expense. This being the case, then it is no more than reasonable and respectful that the findings and recommendations be shared with those who "foot the bill."

Prior to, or during the time of the appointment of the Commission of Inquiry, a promise was made to the Bahamian people. A list of all recipients who were granted Crown land over a specified period of time was to be compiled and shared with the public. In addition, any further granting of Crown Land was to be put on hold until further notice. Did we ever receive that notice?

The mere fact that a Commission of Inquiry was appointed suggests that there may have been issues of impropriety and malfeasance. The purpose then of the Commission was to bring clarity to the situation and thus absolve those inadvertently accused, and penalize the wrong-doers. The Bahamian people need to know three things:

(1) Where is the promised list of persons who are recipients of Crown Land grants;

(2) Has the hold on the granting of Crown Land been lifted;

(3) Is there a final report from the Commission of Inquiry?

There are many Bahamians who can benefit from the grant of a small portion of Crown Land so that they can claim ownership of a piece of the rock. Unfortunately, for many years now the trend is to grant large acreage to many who can well afford to purchase for themselves and those who cannot are denied even a quarter of an acre.

There are thousands of acres lying dormant and as speculation having been in many instances acquired under the pretext of the establishment of some industrial or agricultural entity. Such development we can be assured would definitely help the unemployment situation.

We need to know whether any recommendation has been made to prevent future "flipping" of land granted to an individual for a specific purpose(s). Lastly, what are the controls in place now, to prevent future hoarding of acreage upon acreage, by those desirous of speculating with real estate and not following through with the intended use as stipulated on the application for the land.

The Bahamian people need to know.

MICHAEL E TURNER
Nassau,
November 21, 2011.

Fred Mitchell, the PLP and real property taxes

EDITOR, The Tribune.

On Tuesday, 22nd November, 2011, I caught the last five minutes of the NB-12 9pm programme. Fred A Mitchell, Jr, presumably in his capacity as a PLP member, was being interviewed and suggested that government needed to get creative and should consider waiving all Real Property Taxes outstanding for the years prior to 2007.

The implication being, as I understood it, that this would assist government in then getting the message to Bahamians about the dire need for them to pay their taxes and would actually assist government in collecting taxes going forward.

What a load of nonsense! Why would I ever pay my taxes if I thought I might get an amnesty in future if I waited long enough! In any event, over the years government has regularly given amnesties on Real Property Tax surcharges if a person paid the outstanding taxes in full. In fact there is currently such an amnesty in place for commercial properties.

Why do our Honourable Members of Parliament continually support those who fail to honour their basic obligations as members of society (not paying property taxes, not paying national insurance payments and the like) and who are otherwise breaking the law (numbers houses) instead of acknowledging and giving credit to law-abiding citizens.

In my view, government should do what it is supposed to do and actively go after those who have failed to meet their obligations. They have been doing this, selectively it seems, for National Insurance contributions. Why not for Real Property Taxes? And if Fred Mitchell wants to get creative then I think he should get creative by waiving property taxes for the next five years for all persons whose taxes are presently current. In a nutshell it seems that the ideal world of Fred Mitchell is one where those who pay their taxes are fools and those who don't can expect Gov-

ernment to eventually absolve them of their responsibilities while they sit back and laugh at all the foolish taxpayers.

Why is Mr Mitchell making such a suggestion anyway? Sometimes it makes one wonder if it might be because our Honourable representatives are themselves not all such honourable citizens.

I would like to take this opportunity to challenge Fred Mitchell and every current Member of Parliament and every prospective electoral candidate in the upcoming elections, whether PLP, FNM or DNA to disclose how much they personally, and any company in which they have an interest, owe in Real Property taxes. Further, I challenge these same persons to disclose the status of the Real Property taxes for any property they own or have an interest in. In fact, given the current discussions on the National Insurance and Business Licence fees in relation to the straw market vendors, I challenge these same persons to disclose the status of any Business Licence fees and National Insurance contributions for which they, or a business or company in which they have any interest, are responsible.

A BAHAMIAN TAX-PAYER IN GOOD STANDING
Nassau,
December 7, 2011.

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PLP candidate tells of his hopes

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

DESPITE seeking election in a constituency that has been FNM for the past 10 years, PLP candidate Arnold Forbes insists he has a good chance of winning.

Discussing his work in Mount Moriah, which began more than 18 months ago, Mr Forbes said he and his team are now ready to tackle the concerns of constituents.

He said: "I believe that I bring to the table a representative who would care for his people. I would not be an absentee one."

"I believe it is most important that people see me on a regular basis and that I am there to deal with problems in the community."

"Most of the people I've touched are simple, with simple needs that have not been met."

"In me, they have someone who will make sure their needs are met."

Topping the list of concerns for residents, Mr Forbes said, is the need to feel safe and secure.

"Most people have concerns over the crime situation and not coming back to their homes to find someone in it. They want to feel safe and



PLP CANDIDATE Arnold Forbes.

come home to meet their home intact," he said.

The president and director of Del Sol Productions Ltd and Bahamia Ltd said Mount Moriah constituents are also feeling the economic pinch and many are unemployed.

"People want jobs," he said. "In every home that I've been to, there are people who just

want to work.

"They want to provide for themselves."

Mr Forbes will be up against one of the leaders of the FNM, Minister of National Security Tommy Turnquest, but the challenger is feeling confident, and is already making plans to hit the ground running after the election.

He said: "Mount Moriah needs a food bank. There are people in the constituency, specifically children, who are going to bed hungry every night."

A community after-school programme is another initiative Mr Forbes wants to introduce right away.

"Idle hands are the devil's workshop, so the children need to have something to do after hours. In that, the education problem can be addressed," he said.

"As far as crime is concerned and people not being able to get jobs, a lack of proper education is in the forefront," he said.

In the coming four to six weeks, Mr Forbes hopes to canvas the areas of the constituency he has not yet visited.



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LOCAL NEWS

PLP criticises govt for decline in tourism

By LAMECH JOHNSON
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THE Progressive Liberal Party criticised the government for the decline in the country's number one industry and second largest employer since 2008, especially on the island of Grand Bahama.

In a press release issued by the PLP, opposition spokesman on Tourism Obie Wilchcombe said the government's "mismanagement" of the country's tourism sector has had negative backlash for those involved in the industry.

"The Government's mismanagement of the sector has caused a record high level of unemployment, hotel closures, layoffs and immeasurable human suffering," he said.

Mr Wilchcombe added that

"the year 2010 recorded one of the lowest stopover arrivals since 1985 and already 2011 numbers are below 2010 by some 4 per cent."

He chided the government, saying that they had not "articulated an effective plan" to reverse the trend. The opposition MP accused tourism minister Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace of trying to "mask his abysmal performance" by spotlighting the increase in cruise ship visitors.

"It is a fact that stopover visitors are down. It is a fact that the government refuses to produce the figures for the TOTAL expenditure of visitors for the years 2008 through 2010 and 2011."

He ultimately accuses the governing party of not placing top priority on Bahamians and said the "relaxed, neglect-

ful and lackadaisical approach to this critical area of our economy has resulted in The Bahamas losing its premier position in the region."

Speaking on Grand Bahama where he holds a seat as MP for West End and Bimini, the former minister of tourism said that despite "numerous promises" by the government to "improve" the lives of Grand Bahamians, "one hotel after another has either gone out of business or is operating at minimal levels."

He further stated that "thousands of workers have been misplaced and countless families have had their lives disrupted as breadwinners have moved to other Islands to eke out a living and too many Bahamians have become virtual economic refugees in their own country."

He said that the government failed to build on the successes of the PLP on that island concerning tourism as "our team was successful in facilitating increased airlifts into Grand Bahama, namely West Jet, Spirit Airlines, Jet Blue and Virgin Airlines."

Speaking on hotel closures and those still open, he said the government "has not done enough to attract sufficient stopover visitors to fill the significantly reduced number of hotel rooms in Grand Bahama."

Mr Wilchcombe wants the country and more importantly Grand Bahama to know that the PLP "are ready to get to work" and promised that if elected to office, they will move quickly to "revitalize, diversify and grow our tourism product by partnering with the Grand Bahama Promotion Board to guarantee airlift to Grand Bahama."

"We will also retool and equip the Hotel Corporation so as to give the necessary support and incentives to smaller boutique Bahamian owned hotel properties," he said.

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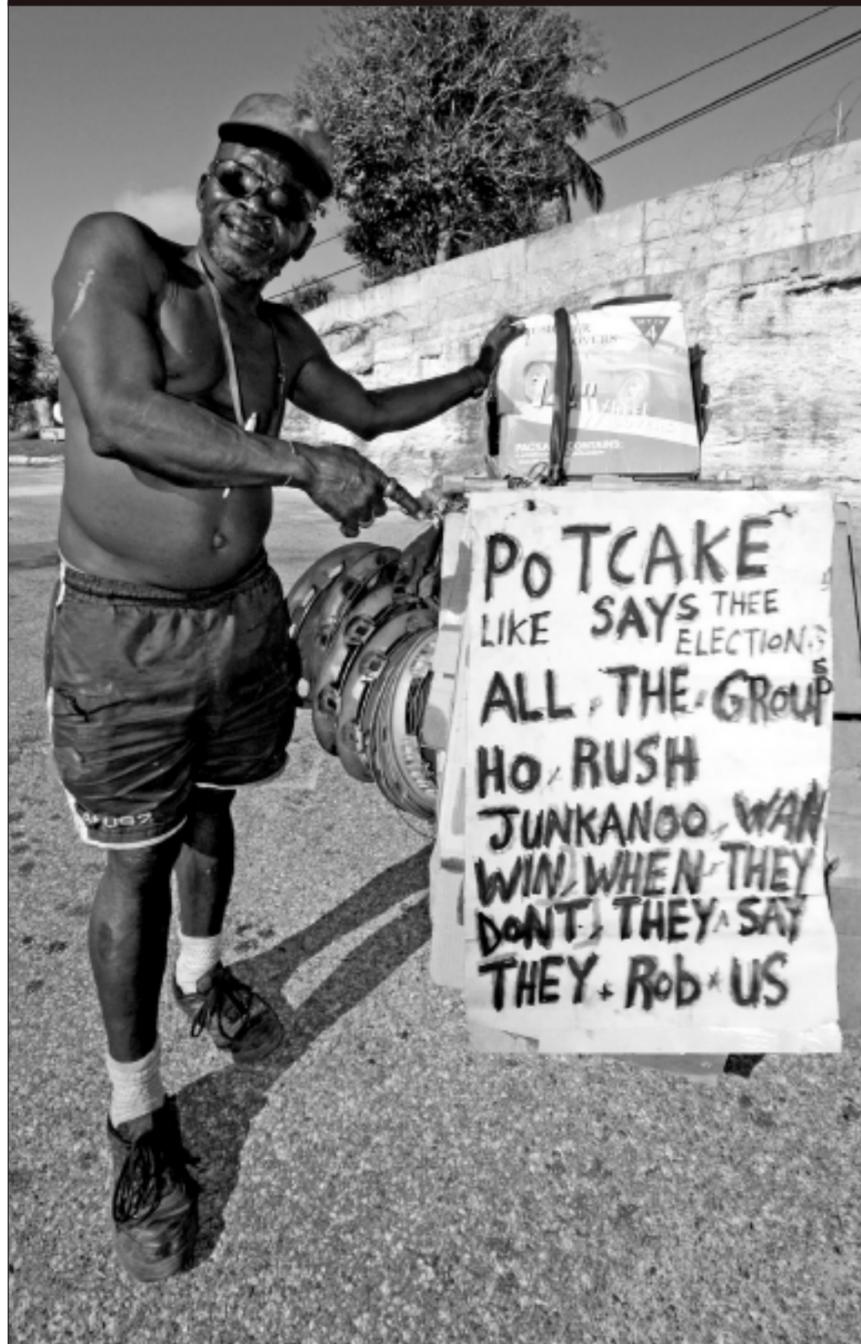
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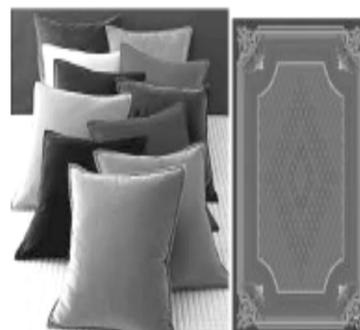
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LOCAL NEWS

MAN CHARGED WITH SERIES OF OFFENCES

FREEPORT – A 41-year-old male resident of Eight Mile Rock was charged with several serious offences in the Freeport Magistrate's Court on Wednesday.

David Dean, a resident of Sapodilla Road North, Hanna Hill, appeared in Magis-

trate's Court Two before Magistrate Andrew Forbes. He was charged with assault with a deadly weapon, disorderly behaviour, resisting arrest and two counts of causing damage.

The charges stem from an incident that occurred at Hanna Hill on December 28

where the accused is alleged to have threatened some young boys and officers with a cutlass. Dean pleaded "not guilty" to the charges and was remanded to Her Majesty's Prison until April 2 for the trial in the Eight Mile Rock Magistrate's court.



DAVID DEAN is escorted into court by officers, where he faced a series of charges, including assault.

DNA 'is run like a business'

By CELESTE NIXON
Tribune Staff Reporter
cnixon@tribunemedia.net

THE DNA is putting an entirely different spin on election campaigning, the party's leader claims.

With the election fast approaching and voter's cards soon to be issued, Branville McCartney said this novel approach is paying off and they are ready to take over the reigns of the country.

"We have gone about it differently from any other party in the history of the Bahamas – we run this like a business," he said.

Instead of giving away party paraphernalia, the DNA actually sells hats and t-shirts. And, whenever a candidate participates in a fundraiser, he or she gets a percentage of the profit to use for their individual campaigns, Mr McCartney said.

This fair, transparent method of campaigning is a

indication of how the party will approach governance, he said.

"We don't want to be subjected to any special interests. We want to run the Bahamas in a way that is beneficial to all Bahamians and not just particular groups," Mr McCartney said.

Speaking with the *Tribune* earlier this week, Mr McCartney declined to reveal the party's budget, but said the DNA will not be spending the tens of millions some say is required for an election campaign.

He said: "If we were to ever get that kind of money, we would give it to the less fortunate or help build up person's circumstances – we are not about to buy votes or spend money foolishly, we have calculated our costs down to the tee".

When contacted yesterday afternoon, FNM chairman Carl Bethel declined to comment on his party's projected election spending, saying:

"These are not matters that are discussed. I will not discuss it. I know it costs a lot of money and we will see how much it costs when the election gets here."

Mr McCartney said the DNA is ready for the election and will name its full slate of candidates shortly.

"We are ready for the prime minister to ring the bell. We are ready to run the country if the Bahamian people will have us. It is time for positive change," he said.

Denying reports that the FNM and DNA are forming a coalition, Mr McCartney said the rumours are nevertheless "encouraging" as evidence of his party's strength.

He said: "You are going to hear a lot of things, that is just the political season.

"They can come with all they want – God willing we will win the next election, and the fact that they are doing it only shows that we are doing something right."

UNOFFICIAL JUNKANOO RESULTS

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – The Superstar Rockers are the unofficial winners of the 2012 Anthony "Huck" Williams New Year's Day Junkanoo Parade, with the Swingers coming in second by a near margin of five points.

According to the unofficial results released for the Division A Group Category, the Rockers received a total of 1,337 points to take first place.

The group won five of the 10 individual categories,

including Best Banner, Best Individual Lead Costume, Best Free Dancers, Best Off The Shoulder, and Best Costume as a Group.

The Swingers received a total of 1,332 points for second place. They also took the top spots in four categories: Best Choreograph Dancers, Best Performance on West Pioneers Way, Best Group Performance, and Best Music.

The Majestic Crusaders was third, with a total of 1,135 points. The Best Execution of Theme went to the group.

Kingdom Culture placed fourth, with 1,046 points. The Classic Dancers and

Bayshore Warriors were fifth and sixth, with 923 and 767 points, respectively.

In the Division B Category, the Harbour Boys received a total of 770 points for first place. That group won the Best Individual Lead Costume and Best Off The Shoulder categories.

The Arawak Invaders was second, with a total of 650 points.

Rotary Club International took third place, receiving a total of 583 points; the Bushwhackers came in fourth place with 435 points; and Sting was fifth with 420 points.

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The evidence is all around. Our Christmas trees are blanketed with snowy white Angels of Hope, and your homes are lit by Candles of Hope. Did you know that in Nassau when you donate just \$1 for an Angel of Hope, it literally buys one meal for a child in need through Hands for Hunger? Your generous gifts of love are being matched by Furniture Plus to provide an additional meal and other life-giving services to so many in our communities. It's all about believing that we can make a difference, from the smallest donation to the largest, adding it all together so that everyone can benefit.

So thank you for partnering with us throughout 2011 for our "My Favourite Things" campaign. Your friendship has certainly been our favourite thing! We're grateful that you allowed us to help YOU "create the beautiful home...and community...you desire" by shopping at home in The Bahamas, participating in our product giveaways, donating to charity, and "liking" us on Facebook.

Our doors, and our hearts, are open as we look forward to 2012. We promise to work even harder to bring you the best product selections, financing offers, and charitable giving opportunities possible.

Thank you for your business in 2011.
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LOCAL NEWS

Jobless link to spike in crime

from page one

ters yesterday, Mr Greenslade underscored the impact of suspect murders and public resistance on the 50 per cent detection rate of murders committed in 2011.

Murder cases increased by nine per cent in 2010. At last year's briefing, the detection for murders committed in 2010 stood at 70 per cent,

with 66 of the 94 murders solved.

Of the 127 murders recorded last year, 13 of the 16 women killed were domestic incidents. Three cases involved victims between the ages of 11 and 16 years old.

"Many of the suspects or persons of interest in many of the murders recorded for 2011, died at the hands of

assailants before they could be arrested and questioned by the police," Mr Greenslade said.

"What is unfortunate is that some sectors of our society are acutely aware of where these murder suspects are, but will not turn them in."

A five-year police study, released earlier this year, revealed that most murders

occurred in the Southeastern policing division, and stemmed from arguments between acquaintances.

The majority of last year's murder occurred in the Southern division, with the Southeastern and Southwestern divisions trailing closely.

Yesterday, Mr Greenslade confirmed that the majority of murder cases in 2011 occurred on Saturdays and between the hours of 4pm and midnight, which was also revealed in the study.

While noting the unrelenting efforts, and admirable response of officers to the crime surge, Mr Greenslade admitted that widespread

increases taxed the \$8.5 million allocated at the start of the year.

The cases of manslaughter and unlawful sexual intercourse were the only crimes against the person that saw decreases in 2011.

The statistics reveal that crimes against property increased by 7 per cent in 2011, an 8 point drop over the increase posted in 2010.

Mr Greenslade said: "Persons using and addicted to drugs continued to wreak havoc in our communities as they committed property offences to steal valuables which they traded for cash and drugs."

"Some 'Cash for Gold'

stores also provided an easy outlet for many criminals to pawn their stolen wares in return for cash."

Crimes of stealing from a vehicle, stolen vehicles, and housebreaking continue to climb with last year posting increases of 47 per cent, 7 per cent, and three per cent respectively.

Cases of burglary, shop-breaking, stealing recorded decreases of 11 per cent, 21 per cent, and two per cent respectively.

While reported crimes in Grand Bahama posted an eight per cent increase, the Family Islands saw an 11 per cent decrease overall.



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AutoCAD 2012 Advance

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March 2nd, 2012 (6 weeks) Friday's only 6:00-8:00pm

Microsoft Projects

April 14th, 2012 Saturdays only 9:00-1:00pm

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MP 'USED AS A SCAPEGOAT' BY FNM

from page one

Mr Storr said Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham shuffled the seats as the final act of a desperate man.

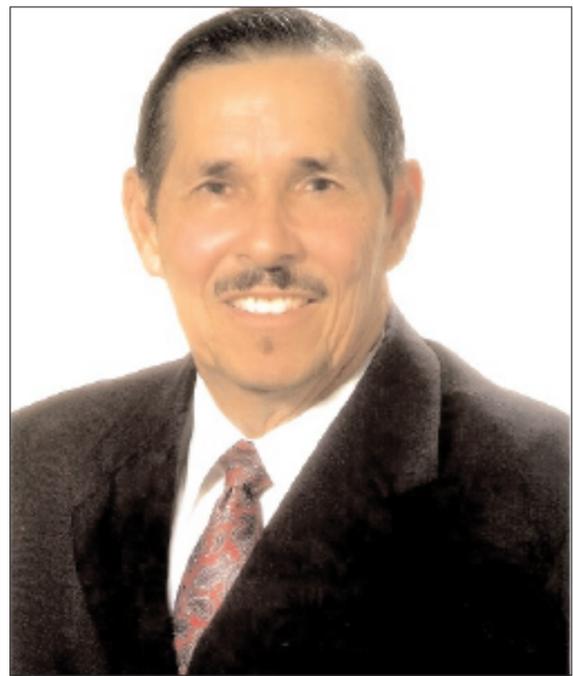
"The Prime Minister is shuffling the seats because he knows his current MPs are facing challenges in their constituencies," said Mr Storr.

"He hopes by moving them around and presenting them as new faces in new constituencies it will help him win the election. However, I believe the masses will not fall for his tricks. Long Island as always has been perceived as an FNM stronghold, but I will change that."

The FNM has yet to publicly announce any candidates.

Party chairman Carl Bethel said the party is still in the process of ratifying candidates.

"Some individuals are cam-



paigning already, but we are still ratifying people," he said.

"It's not a quick or easy thing. When we finish the process we will announce who will be running and where.

After we identify potential candidates we have to do background checks. A lot of things have to be done before a person can be presented to the public."

NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 138 (4) (a), (b) and (c) of the International Business Companies Act, 2000, notice is hereby given that:-

- (a) **KURIL HOLDINGS LIMITED** is in dissolution;
- (b) The date of commencement of the dissolution is the **15th day of December A.D., 2011** and
- (c) The Liquidator is C.B. Strategy Ltd., of 308 East Bay St.

C.B. Strategy Ltd.
LIQUIDATOR

CONSTRUCTION CHIEF IN COURT

from page one

December 30, the owner of Gunite Pools and Osprey Development, made a false declaration to an officer of the US at the pre-clearance hall at the Lynden Pindling International Airport.

Whitehead reportedly told the officer he was not in possession of funds exceeding \$10,000.

Whitehead also allegedly failed to declare he was carrying \$50,532 on his person.

Deputy Chief Magistrate Carolita Bethel granted bail after the prosecution offered no objection.

The case was adjourned to July 20.

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Temple Christian High School

ENTRANCE EXAMINATION

2012 - 2013

Temple Christian High School will hold its Entrance Examination on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2012** at the school on Shirley Street from 8:00 a.m. - 12 noon for students wishing to enter grades, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

Application forms are available at the High School Office. The application fee is twenty five dollars (\$25.00). Application forms should be completed and returned to the school by Friday, February 3rd, 2012.

For further information please call
394-4481 or 394-4484

LOCAL NEWS

Warning to taxi drivers

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - Taxicab drivers who illegally charge visitors a round trip fare could face having their public service license suspended, Deputy Controller of Road Traffic Basil Rahming has warned.

Mr Rahming has called on those engaged in such an illegal practice to cease immediately as it is a violation of the Road Traffic regulations.

"The Department continues to receive complaints of taxi drivers plying between the Lucayan Harbour and Port Lucaya collecting round trip fares from cruise ship passengers, upon their arrival at their destination. He said that visitors/passengers are only lawfully obligated to pay a one-way fare on arrival at Port Lucaya.

Mr Rahming said collect-

ing the same passenger for a return trip, to the point where their original journey began, is a separate, distinct transaction for which another fare must be paid on arrival at that location.

A concerned taxicab driver went public with the issue in a local newspaper last week about colleagues charging cruise ship passengers round trip fares to take them to Port Lucaya and back to the harbour.

But, he said when visitors are ready to leave the taxi driver is not available to take them back to the harbour so they have to wait.

Mr Rahming said that the department will begin prosecuting any taxi driver found to be engaged in the illegal practice.

He stressed that if convicted, cab drivers may have their public service driver's licence suspended.

Mr Rahming noted that last

year two drivers were taken before the Road Traffic Tribunal and had their licences suspended.

Grand Bahama Taxi Union president Kenneth Woodside is aware of the illegal practice by some cab drivers taking passengers from the harbour to Port Lucaya.

He said the issue has been an internal dispute. He does not think that a cab driver's licence should be suspended.

Mr Woodside explained that sometimes visitors pay cab drivers in advance or make some other arrangement with them.

"If they pay in advance or agree to tour or some other arrangement..., cab drivers should be parked and available to (the passenger) any time," he said.

President Woodside said they have a working relationship with tourism and there have been no complaints from visitors recently.

TRAINING SEMINARS FOR PETS

THE Nassau Agility and Obedience Club and the Bahamas Kennel Club will hold two special training seminars on Saturday, January 7, from 9:30 am to 1pm at The Retreat on Village Road. A special introduction to the Dog Agility seminar will be held on Sunday, January 8, at the Village Road Training Centre. The seminars will be taught by Carol and Jon Mett, American Kennel Club judges from Savannah, Georgia.

"Our annual Dog Show will be held March 17 and 18 on Paradise Island. There are many wonderful dogs in the Bahamas that should be entered in the show. Unfortunately many people feel that they are not qualified to show their dogs, but with some guidance and handling tips owners can become excellent show handlers," said Lynn Gape, Vice President of the Bahamas Kennel Club (BKC).

"The first seminar on Saturday will introduce dog owners into tried and true ways to handle your dog. We encourage young people who love their pets and want to enter the show to attend this seminar as there is a special class for junior handlers."

The second Saturday seminar will introduce Rally Obedience. Rally is a fun and exciting team sport for dogs and their handlers. Dog and Handler teams navigate a course with numbered signs indicating different exercises to perform such as Sit-Down-Sit, Straight Figure 8, Right Turns, Left Turns Send Over Jump, Recall Over Jump. Teams navigate the course at a brisk, continuous performance without direction from

the judge. Handlers are encouraged to talk to their dogs during the performance. All dogs, purebred, mixed breeds and dogs with disabilities are encouraged to participate. The NAODC will hold a Novice Rally Trial immediately after the seminar for participants to practice their newly learned skills and maybe even go home with a rally title.

The Nassau Agility and Obedience Club (NAODC) is working with Purina to introduce Agility to The Bahamas. The Club has recently completed its training

area on Village Road and on Sunday, January 8, there will be a special introduction to Dog Agility Seminar with trials in the afternoon. Dogs participating in this seminar should have had Beginner Obedience Training, but interested persons are encouraged to attend. According to Tonya Gay, President of the NAODC, "We are working hard to train and have our own Bahamas Agility Team. Last year the Puerto Rican Agility Team appeared at our show and we want to have our own Bahamas Team this year."

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ROBBERS STRIKE AT FERRY BOAT

FREEPORT - Ferry Boat operators were robbed of cash by two armed masked men at the dock in McLean's Town in East End, Grand Bahama.

The culprits fired a shot in the air as they escaped in a stolen getaway vehicle, which was later recovered by police in bushes in East End shortly after the robbery.

According to reports, operators of the Ferry Boat Service were approached at the dock by two masked men

armed with handguns shortly before 5.30pm on Tuesday.

The culprits took cash, tickets and two cellular phones. They fired a shot in the air while fleeing the scene in a dark-coloured vehicle.

While investigating, police recovered a dark purple Nissan Skyline vehicle used in the robbery in bushes near Stat Oil terminal. The vehicle was stolen on December 19 from Dominica Avenue.

Two masked gunmen -

about 6ft tall - approached the owner as he arrived home at 9.30am and robbed him of the car. The same stolen vehicle was later used in an armed robbery on December 24 at the Burger King Restaurant on Yellow Street.

Police are also still searching for a stolen 2006 blue Ford Explorer, license plate number 40400.

Anyone with information is asked to call police on 350-3107/8, 352-9774/5 or 911.



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LOCAL NEWS

AGA KHAN ROLE 'COULD AFFECT VOTE'

from page one

Daily Mail columnist Richard Kay wrote this week that the purchase of Bell Island has been criticised by "less wealthy locals" who "disapprove of foreign investors moving to the islands" and possibly causing ecological damage.

"Now, the Aga's purchase of the island has become a key issue in the Bahamas forthcoming general election. Environment Minister Earl Deveaux has come in for criticism on radio shows," the column said.

The Bahamas National Trust has also been heavily

criticised by conservationists, who feel the agency should have blocked further development in the world's oldest land and sea park.

According to *Tribune* sources, the Aga donated \$1 million to the National Trust after he purchased the island.

13 police discharged as complaints fall

By AVA TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
aturnquest@tribunemedia.net

THIRTEEN police officers were discharged from the force last year as complaints against the police dropped 26 per cent.

Deputy Commissioner Quinn McCartney confirmed yesterday at the police's annual "meet the press" session that 287 complaints against officers were made in 2011.

Nine officers were discharged for ceasing to be an efficient or effective police officer, under section 21 of the Police Act, and three officers were not kept on after their contracts expired.

One officer was discharged because of a criminal offence, Mr McCartney said.

Of the complaints received

last year, 146 were assault claims, 63 were claims of unethical behaviour, and 21 concerned unlawful arrest allegations.

Providing timely feedback on complainants, and implementing accountability measures were among the objectives listed in the Commissioner's Policing Plan for 2012.

Under priority five, "professionalising service", the force has pledged to continue to train all officers in areas of ethics, good governance, professional standards and customer service.

"We have heard far too many complaints from members of the public relative to unethical and unprofessional behaviour by police officers," the plan says. "We understand the untold damage that

this can do to the reputation and credibility of the force. We also understand that this can also severely erode public confidence in the police force."

It added: "Without the confidence and support of the public, members of the force cannot be effective in the discharge of their duties."

The plan outlines six priorities:

- tackling crime and allaying the fear of crime
 - improving community safety
 - positive youth engagement
 - enforcing the rules of the road
 - protecting national borders
 - professionalising service
- The plan can be found on www.royalbahamaspolice.org.

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HANDGUN DISCOVERED BY POLICE ON STREETS OF FREEPORT

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT – The vigilance of police officers has resulted in the recovery of an illegal firearm off the streets on New Year's Day.

Assistant Supt Loretta Mackey, press liaison officer, reported that sometime around 8.30am on Sunday, January 1, officers were on mobile patrol at Adventurers Way when they saw a

man digging in a grassy area.

On checking the area, they discovered a grey and black .380 pistol, with four live rounds of .380 ammunition.

Ms Mackey said the officers of the Central Detective Unit are following significant leads into the matter – the first firearm seizure for 2012.

Meanwhile in Nassau, mobile patrol officers recovered two firearms in separate

incidents over the holiday weekend.

The first firearm – a handgun – was found in a bushy area west of Sir Milo Butler Drive shortly before 1pm Saturday.

The second handgun was uncovered with a quantity of ammunition, in bushes at Adventures Way off Marshall Road. The discovery occurred sometime around 8.30pm Sunday.

Police investigations are continuing.

ARRESTED AFTER BEING ON THE RUN FOR 10 YEARS

from page one

The trial, after numerous delays, finally went ahead with his co-accused found guilty of marijuana possession with intent to supply.

A warrant of arrest was issued for him. It was cancelled by Chief Magistrate Roger Gomez last week when the accused appeared before him.

The chief magistrate adjourned the drug matter to yesterday before Court Eight for a fixture hearing.

Before giving the accused a trial date, she asked him if he wished to explain why he had disappeared since 2002.

"Not at this time," he replied.

She informed him that because of his absence, the trial proceeded and concluded with the conviction of his co-

accused.

She said she would not go through the trial again and would consult with her superior to determine which court he would be tried in.

After consultation, Sargent was told he would appear before Magistrate Guilimina Archer at Court 10, Nassau

Street, to receive a date for trial.

On the issue of bail she said: "I will deny bail as you've been at large for ten years."

Sargent was escorted out of court and put in a holding cell before being taken to Her Majesty's Fox Hill Prison.

TEACHING VACANCY

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- D. Have at least two years teaching experience in the relevant subject area with excellent communication skills.
- E. Applicant must have the ability to prepare students for all examinations to the BJC/BGCSE levels
- F. Be willing to participate in the high school's extra curricular programmes.

Application must be picked up at the High School Office on Shirley Street and be returned with a full curriculum vitae, recent colored photograph and three references to:

Mr. Neil Hamilton
The Principal
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Latest series of postage stamps to celebrate marine life of the Bahamas

THE Bahamas Postal Service released a new series of 16 stamps yesterday depicting the marine life of the Bahamas.

The new issue will remain on the market until the year 2017. The stamps range in price from five to 80 cents and from one to 10 dollars.

The series features a common sea fan, Christmas tree worm, Elkhorn coral, Cushion sea star, Queen conch, Hawksbill turtle, Green moray eel, Bonefish, Spider Crab, Caribbean spiny lobster, Nassau grouper, Yellowtail snapper, Great barracuda, Spotted eagle ray, Caribbean reef shark and Bottlenose dolphin.

The Queen conch is a main ingredient in many Bahamian dishes. It is of economic, social and cultural importance to The Bahamas.

Sea Stars are commonly referred to as starfish due to their shape. They belong to a group of invertebrates called echinoderms which also include sea urchins, sea cucumbers and sand dollars.

The Christmas tree worm is a marine tube-dwelling worm named for its brightly coloured, spiral shaped "Christmas-tree like" tentacles.

Sea fans are fan-shaped soft corals that are made up of tiny colonial animals called polyps. Sea fans attach themselves to reef surfaces so that they lie across the current.

Coral reefs are primarily constructed by living animals called coral polyps which build the largest biological structures on earth.

The Hawksbill turtle is a gentle marine reptile and a key member of the coral reef community. Marine turtles spend most of their lives at

sea. In The Bahamas all species of marine turtles, their nests and eggs are fully protected by law.

The moray eel is a type of fish. Eels are a top predator on the reef that helps to keep fish populations healthy.

Bonefish populations in The Bahamas are healthy and The Bahamas is regarded as one of the most popular bone-fishing destinations in the world.

Spider crabs are a family of long-legged marine crabs of which there are 700 species.

The spiny lobster inhabits coral reefs, mangroves, sea grass beds and the open oceans during different phases of its life's history. The harvest of spiny lobster referred to locally as "crawfish" is a multi-million dollar industry in The Bahamas.

The Nassau grouper is found in the Western Atlantic, Caribbean Sea and the Gulf of Mexico. It is a top reef predator that contributes greatly to the health of the coral reefs. The Nassau grouper is the most important fin fish resource in The Bahamas.

The Yellowtail snapper is one of many species of snappers found in Bahamian waters.

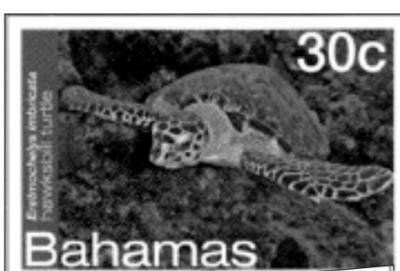
The Barracuda is a top predator in the ocean. It is a curious fish and is commonly seen by divers and snorkelers hovering over shallow areas

and reefs.

Spotted eagle rays are common in shallow water and on coral reefs and can often be observed swimming in small groups.

Sharks are a valuable asset to The Bahamas and contribute approximately \$78 million to the economy annually through dive tourism. In 2011 The Bahamas passed legislation to prohibit the commercial exploitation of all sharks.

The bottlenose dolphin is a marine mammal commonly found in Bahamian waters. Dolphins are highly intelligent and communicate with each other with a variety of sounds.



DROWNED MAN NAMED

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

FREEPORT - The man who was recovered from waters off Eight Mile Rock has been officially identified as 60-year-old Eddie Cambridge of Russell Town, police reported.

Cambridge and another man, both of Russell Town, Eight Mile Rock, were out fishing in an 18ft canoe on December 31 when it capsized near the shore.

As the men were swimming to the shoreline, Cambridge disappeared under the water.

The second man, a 51-year-old resident of Russell Town, made it to shore and alerted police that Cambridge was missing at sea.

A search was launched by Police, BASRA and the Defence Force. The body was later recovered from waters at Hanna Hill, Eight Mile Rock.

Police are still awaiting the results of an autopsy report on the cause of death.

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Synergy Bahamas Spring 2012 Training Schedule

	Course	Description	Schedule
DESIGN	Certified Graphic Designer	Start a career in professional graphic design. Create stunning ads, flyers, cards in the world's most popular design software. Students will explore proper methods for selecting image areas, and modifying and manipulating selections.	Jan 16-Mar 14 Mon & Wed
	Certified Web Developer	Learn from a genuine Adobe certified webmaster and jumpstart your new exciting career in web design and website development.	Jan 21-Apr 21 Saturdays
BUSINESS PROFESSIONAL	Accounting 1	Learn the principles of Accounting in a learning friendly environment. This course provides a starting foundation for students seeking entry level positions in book-keeping/ accounting.	Jan 21-Mar 10 Saturdays
	Certified Business Manager (CBM)	A complete and immersive business management certification program offering international credentials in management and covering some of the most important aspects of professional managerial skills development in the field.	Begins Jan 21 Saturdays
	QuickBooks Pro Accounting	Guess what is the world's most powerful and most used small business accounting management program. Learn from our certified Accountant how to best use QuickBooks Pro in your business environment.	Feb 7-Feb 23 Tues & Thurs
	Microsoft Office 2010 Business User Program	Everyone should have a working knowledge of Microsoft Office as it remains the world's most popular and most utilized business application. Our Microsoft Office Master Instructors will guide you through the latest version of Office 2010. Small class sizes - comfortably paced delivery.	Jan 16-Apr 4 Mon & Wed
	CBP Project Management Certification	Project Management skills and certification are the highest demanded corporate job requirements in the world today. Learn from a fully certified project manager and earn those skills and credentials right away.	Jan 17-Feb 23 Tue & Thurs
	Certified Computer Technician	A complete and comprehensive IT certification program for students pursuing a career as a computer technician. At the end of this program you will have working skills of a true (certified) computer technician.	Begins Jan 17 Tue & Thurs
TECHNOLOGY	CompTIA Network+	There are many different fields in Information Technology. IT networking is one of the highest in demand. If this is your career choice then here is where you begin.	Jan 21-Apr 14 Saturdays
	CompTIA A+ IT Technician	The most demanded and respected entry level IT certification in the world. If you are planning a career in Information Technology - get A+ certified.	Jan 21-Apr 14 Saturdays
	Windows Server 2008: Microsoft Certified IT Professional	This official Microsoft certification course is designed to provide the student with an expert level foundation in Managing and Configuring Windows 2008 Server.	Begin Jan 17 Tue & Thurs

Here's What Our Students Have To Say

"This class was very informative and enlightening. The lecturer was excellent in his teaching and motivational style." - *Jevon Stubbs*

"This course far exceeded my expectations." - *Karlo Octeus*

"I enjoyed my course at Synergy Bahamas. The staff was friendly and the teachers were extremely knowledgeable. I am very happy I decided to come to this institution." - *Candice Sands*

"The course was well delivered and the instructor made the course easy to follow and learn." - *Andrew Fernander*

"It was great, already told many people about the course and very happy that I took it." - *Kenneth Love II*

"The course was a wonderful experience. It engaged my interest, enhanced my abilities and provided a new sense of motivation to expand my IT skills." - *Duran*

"It was very informative and enlightening. It was very intensive but it was worth it." - *Lukson Toussaint*

"Participating in this class was a great experience for me. The instructor was very helpful and made the subject material very clear and easy to understand. I feel very confident and prepared for this examination. Overall it was a great experience for me!" - *Gian Smith*

"I found the course to be quite interesting and would recommend these programs and courses to anyone." - *Nelson Johnson*

"I really enjoyed the course and the professional yet friendly manner of the instructor. The information was well organized and well presented. I loved the interactive presentation by the instructor." - *DeShaun Roberts*

"This entire course was indeed educational and entertaining at the same time. I don't regret one day and will recommend anyone that is interested in training to try Synergy Bahamas!! Thank You Synergy!!!" - *Deniro Wells*

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

KKK SHOP OWNED BY BLACK CHURCH

SOUTH CAROLINA
Associated Press

AFTER a lengthy legal battle between a black South Carolina church and members of the Ku Klux Klan, a judge has ruled that the church owns a building where KKK robes and T-shirts are sold.

A circuit judge ruled last month that New Beginnings Baptist Church is the rightful owner of the building that houses the Redneck Shop,

which operates a so-called Klan museum and sells Klan robes and T-shirts emblazoned with racial slurs. The judge ordered the shop's proprietor to pay the church's legal bills of more than \$3,300.

It wasn't immediately clear if the judge's ruling would mean the shop must close. The shop owner hung up on a reporter when asked about the shop's status, but an outgoing message on the shop's answering machine said it's only open one morning a week.

Two jailed for racist murder

LONDON
Associated Press

A YOUNG black man lay dying in a south London bus stop. His friend called frantically for help while a gang of white teenagers who had stabbed him ran off. Two members of that gang were sentenced Wednesday for the 1993 murder of Stephen Lawrence, but three more remain at large.

Judge Colman Treacy Wednesday sentenced Gary Dobson to at least 15 years and 2 months in jail, and David Norris to at least 14 years and 3 months for the murder of the teenager, and urged police to continue looking for new leads in the case.

He told the men they were guilty of "a terrible and evil crime" committed out of blind hatred.

"A totally innocent 18-year-old youth on the threshold of a promising life was brutally cut down in the street in front of eye witnesses by a racist thuggish gang," Treacy said. "You were both members of that gang."

Police, who have been accused in the last two decades of incompetence and racism in the way they handled the murder inquiry, vowed Wednesday to continue to hunt for the remaining killers.

"The other people involved in the murder of Stephen Lawrence should not rest easily in their beds," said Bernard Hogan-Howe, commissioner of London's Metropolitan Police.

The saga of Lawrence's murder, and his parents' long quest for justice in the face of police indifference, has for



STEPHEN LAWRENCE, who was murdered in 1993.

many come to symbolise Britain's lingering racial trauma.

Lawrence's father Neville said the sentencing of Dobson and Norris for his son's murder was "only one step in a long, long journey".

Dobson and Norris were part of a notorious gang that terrorised part of south London, and many people told police in the days following Lawrence's death who his killers were likely to be.

But the police failed to act until Lawrence's parents held a news conference to criticise the way the police had handled the case. It was the first salvo in a long battle the Lawrence family were to fight with police and courts.

A few days after the news conference, police arrested five men — brothers Neil and Jamie Acourt, Norris, Dobson and Luke Knight. But police lost blood-soaked tissues found near the site of the attack, and failed to search the Acourts' house properly for weapons. Police eventually charged two with murder, but the state abandoned the case, saying there was insufficient evidence.

Lawrence's family, mistrustful of state prosecutors, brought a private prosecution against the same five men. Two were released before the trial, and the case against the remaining three collapsed after a judge ruled again that the evidence was inadmissible.

British law at the time said that a person could not stand trial twice for the same crime — having been acquitted, it seemed impossible that any of the three would face trial for Lawrence's death.

In 1997, the Daily Mail newspaper — a popular tabloid — named all the five men initially arrested over Lawrence's murder on its front page with the headline "Murderers. The Mail accuses these men of killing. If we are wrong, let them sue us."

None of the men ever did.

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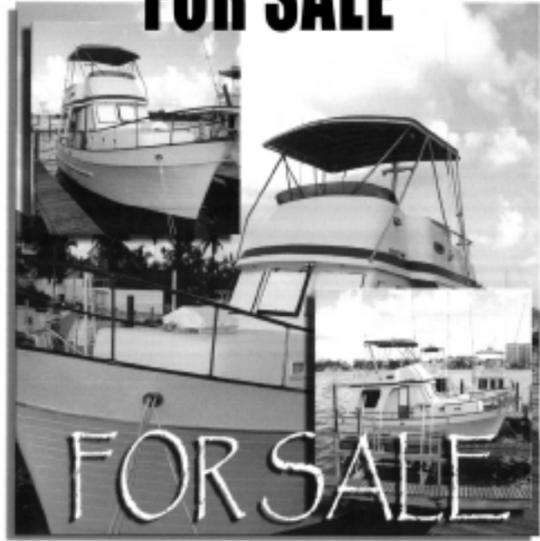
- Integrity, Energetic motivational skills and Assertiveness
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DRUG BOSS TO PLEAD GUILTY IN US COURT

MEXICAN drug cartel kingpin Benjamin Arellano Felix will plead guilty to unspecified charges, the US attorney's office in San Diego said Wednesday.

Spokeswoman Debra Hartman said she could not elaborate in advance of the filing. Arellano Felix was expected in federal court yesterday.

Arellano Felix headed a once-mighty cartel that came to power in Tijuana, Mexico, in the late 1980s. He had been under indictment in the US since 2003 and is one of the highest-profile kingpins to face prosecution in the US.

Defence attorney Anthony Colombo did not immediately respond to a phone call seeking comment.

Arellano Felix was extradited from Mexico in April 2011 to face drug, money-laundering and racketeering charges. He was incarcerated in Mexico since his 2002 arrest and was sentenced in 2007 to 22 years in prison on drug trafficking and organized crime charges.

The US indictment says Arellano Felix was the principal organizer and top leader of the Arellano Felix cartel going back to 1986, and that the cartel tortured and killed rivals in the United States and Mexico as it smuggled tons of Mexican marijuana and Colombian cocaine.

The cartel, which was known to dissolve the bodies of its enemies in vats of lye, began to lose influence along California's border with Mexico after Arellano Felix was arrested in 2002.



THE NATIONAL INSURANCE BOARD



Invite applicants for participation in the



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- Applicants must be Bahamian citizens & residents of New Providence between the ages of 18 & 60 years
- Applicants must have a body mass index of more than 30 and have one or more of the following lifestyle conditions: obesity, hypertension, high cholesterol, diabetes or ischaemic heart disease.
- Applicants must be committed to complete the entire 12 week programme and all of its requirements. Official programme ends on **April 23rd**, however, 4 weeks of wellness-monitoring follows, until **May 14th** when Challenge winners will be announced.
- Applicants must have their own transportation and be present at all required meetings and appointments
- Applicants must be willing to appear in all publicity for the Get Well Bahamas Challenge, including but not limited to television appearances and interviews, photography, print and radio interviews.
- Employees of The National Insurance Board, Body Zone Fitness, Jemi Health & Wellness, and The Counsellors Limited are not eligible to participate.

APPLICATION FORMS

Application forms will be available as of **Friday, 30th December**. They may be downloaded from www.nibdrugplan.com or collected from the Reception Desk at NIB headquarters, Sir Clifford Darling Complex, Baitou Hill Road, The Drug Plan Office at Wulf Road, Jemi Health & Wellness, Body Zone Fitness, & from The Counsellors Ltd. Marketing Firm on 1st Terrace Centreville.

APPLICATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE:

All application forms and photos must be returned to The Counsellors Ltd. Marketing Firm, First Terrace Centreville by **Friday, January 20th, 2012**. Please address submissions to: Get Well Bahamas c/o The Counsellors Ltd., Nassau, Bahamas.

SELECTION PROCESS

Participants will be selected by Jemi Health & Wellness and Body Zone Fitness. Personal interviews will be conducted with prospective participants before selection of the final 40 participants. NIB will not be responsible for selection of any participants in the Get Well Bahamas Health and Fitness Challenge.



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GET WELL BAHAMAS is funded by the Healthy People component of The National Prescription Drug Plan.