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Weekend



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WEEKEND: PILATES BY THE POOL TO BUILD UP YOUR ABS

Tourism in fear over crime risk

MATERNITY PLANS NOT GOOD ENOUGH

By **SANCHESKA DORSETT**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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HEALTH Minister Dr Duane Sands said the planned renovation for the Maternity Ward at the Princess Margaret Hospital is "not good enough" and he is pushing for a new ward to be built rather than "attempting to upgrade" the old existing building.

In an interview with *The*
SEE PAGE THREE

Ministry 'deathly afraid' that tragic event will happen

By **SANCHESKA DORSETT**
Tribune Staff Reporter
sdorsett@tribunemedia.net

TOURISM Minister Dionisio D'Aguilar said because crime is "such an enormous problem" in New Providence, his ministry is "deathly" afraid every day that a tragic event will happen and the United States will issue another travel advisory.

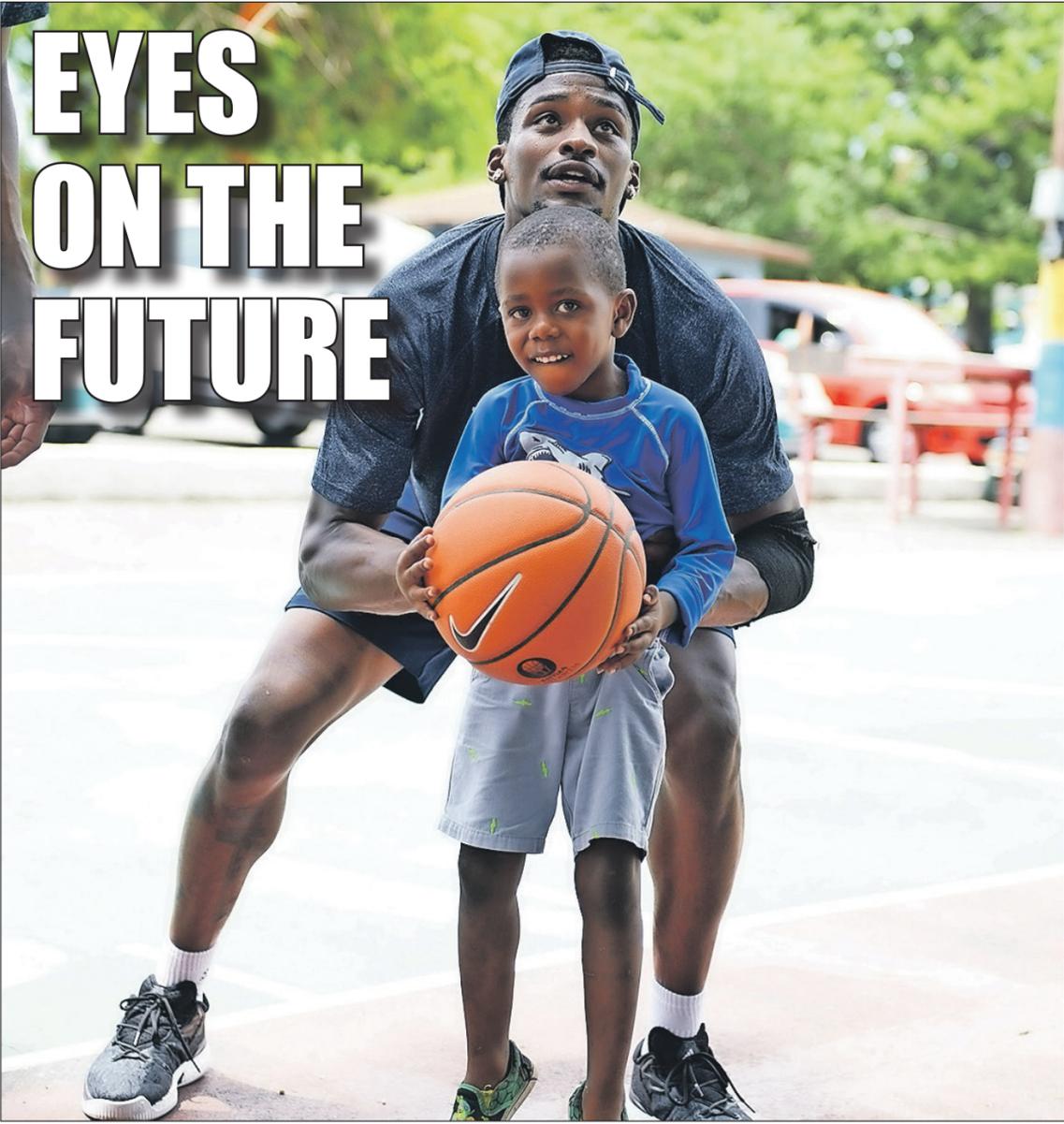
Addressing tourism stakeholders recently at the Hilton, Mr D'Aguilar said visitor safety is a critical concern and the Ministry of Tourism will work with ho-

tels and the Royal Bahamas Police Force to improve "interaction and provide a safer environment."

"Safety is a major concern of the tourism sector and we are deathly scared every day of some tragic event happening and the United States putting out a travel advisory," Mr D'Aguilar said.

"We in the Ministry of Tourism are going to interact with hotels especially at the particular facilities so that we can improve interaction with the police force."

SEE PAGE SIX



RHODE Island Rams Basketball Team held a basketball camp for youths in Fox Hill. See page two for more photographs.
Photo: **Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff**

BPL CHIEF'S COMMENTS 'AN INSULT TO EVERY BAHAMIAN'

By **RICARDO WELLS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
rwells@tribunemedia.net

FORMER Executive Chairman of the Bahamas Electricity Corporation Leslie Miller has said there is no "tangible evidence" of improvements at Bahamas Power and Light, as he called CEO Pamela Hill's comments on the matter an "insult to every Bahamian paying a light bill".

Contending that a "spade should be called a spade," the former Tall Pines MP said "the country is out mil-

lions" and all it has to show for it is "a long list of things we could have achieved all by ourselves."

Mr Miller lost his post at BEC in 2015 after the government signed a transition services agreement with American company Power-Secure for management of BEC, now called BPL.

He asserted on Thursday that the current executives are "constantly hiding behind past failures" and "continue to avoid providing tangible evidence of their so-called successes."

SEE PAGE SIX

MORE DEBT - THE LEGACY OF ANOTHER BAILOUT FOR BANK OF THE BAHAMAS

By **RASHAD ROLLE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
rrolle@tribunemedia.net

TRANSFERRING more toxic Bank of the Bahamas loans to Bahamas Resolve will "tremendously" increase this country's public debt, former Central Bank Governor and Bahamas Resolve Chairman James Smith said yesterday.

"By doing this you would free up the balance sheet

and make it compliant with the Central Bank," he said. "The downside is you've increased tremendously your public debt. There's no winning in that situation but clearly if you want the bank to have a head-start you have to deal with the terrible loan book."

Mr Smith said he recommended months ago to the previous administration that to turn BOB around, it should remove all of the

bank's toxic loans from its books, not just a part of it as the Christie Administration had done.

Meanwhile yesterday, former Court of Appeal President Dame Joan Sawyer criticised the new administration's decision to follow in the footsteps of the PLP and transfer BOB's toxic loans to a special purpose vehicle (SPV).

SEE PAGE SIX

'PUBLISH JOBS OF PERMIT HOLDERS'

By **RASHAD ROLLE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
rrolle@tribunemedia.net

SENATOR Ranard Henfield, leader of the We March protest movement, wants the government to disclose the list of jobs and positions for which work permits have been issued to non-Bahamians to perform.

SEE PAGE FIVE



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RHODE Island Rams Basketball Team held a basketball camp for youths in Fox Hill at their basketball court.

Photos: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

EYES ON THE FUTURE



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Trio accused of murder have case transferred to Supreme Court

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

THREE of four men accused of having a role in a fatal shooting that occurred in an inner-city community four months ago had their case transferred to the Supreme Court yesterday.

Christavio Tucker, 22, Kelvin Clarke, 23, Kevin Ramsey, 24, and Wilson Capita, 26, were supposed to be presented with a voluntary bill of indictment

concerning murder and attempted murder charges that were allegedly committed on April 21.

However, the presentation of the Crown's case against them was adjourned to yesterday though only Tucker, Clarke and Capita were brought to court.

Ramsey is scheduled to receive his Voluntary Bill (VIB) of Indictment to the Supreme Court on Friday, August 11.

Nevertheless, Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-

Pratt explained to the trio that the VBI contained the Crown's case against them and would facilitate the transfer of the case from the Magistrate's Court to the Supreme Court.

She further informed the accused that they could not offer an alibi at trial if they did not enter one at the VBI presentation or within 21 days to the Office of the Attorney General.

All three accused chose the latter and are now scheduled to appear in the

Supreme Court before Justice Bernard Turner on August 18 to receive a date for trial.

It is there that they will be allowed to enter a plea to the allegations at their Supreme Court appearance.

Concerning the murder charge, it is alleged that the quartet, being concerned with others, intentionally caused the death of Patrick Axanthio Thompson.

They are also alleged to have attempted to cause the death of Terrance

Rigby and PC 3825 Hall and are accused of being in possession of a black .45 XD-45ACP pistol and a HK submachine pistol.

According to initial reports from police, shortly after 4pm, a group of men were standing in front of a car wash on Market Street, near Palm Tree Avenue, when the occupants of a dark coloured vehicle pulled up and fired several shots at them before speeding off.

Thompson was hit and

died of his injuries at the scene while Rigby was taken to hospital for treatment.

Police said officers chased the suspects into the Ridgeland Park area, where the three men fled on foot from the getaway vehicle. Police said they eventually caught them near a bushy area. Police also discovered a tech 9 automatic firearm and a .45 pistol.

They will be allowed to enter a plea to the allegations at their formal arraignment.



MINISTER OF HEALTH DR DUANE SANDS

MATERNITY PLANS NOT GOOD ENOUGH

from page one

Tribune, Dr Sands said the hospital needs to move into the 21st century and while the new plan for the Maternity Ward is "reasonable, we can do better."

Last year, the former Progressive Liberal Party government signed a \$14.9m contract for the renovations of the Maternity and Male Surgical Wards at PMH.

In opposition at the time, Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis advocated heavily for the upgrades to be delayed as he felt the timing of renovations would nega-

tively impact patient care.

However, then Prime Minister Perry Christie said at the time the Maternity Ward has not been renovated for over 50 years and women should not be forced to give birth in "undesirable" circumstances because previous governments did not have the will or the finances to upgrade the facility.

During a tour of PMH shortly after winning the election, Dr Minnis promised a new maternity wing.

While he was short on details, he stressed that Bahamian women and children deserved the best and declared that the new wing

would be on par or greater than the multi-million-dollar Critical Care Block.

"There are things we need to do to get the ward up to standard, having beds is one of them so women don't have to be discharged from the hospital as quickly as they are and we will be at an accepted standard with the rest of the world," Dr Sands said.

"Right now, parents cannot stay in the hospital with their sick babies, with their sick children, except on the private ward. In Doctors Hospital, the rule is that you have to stay with your child, right next door they can do that but parents in PMH do

not have that comfort. We are fixing that in the renovation but to be candid I don't believe that the planned development goes far enough, it just is not good enough.

"What we need to do is to move our care into the 21st century. The original plan was reasonable but I am not convinced it's good enough."

Dr Sands said he is pushing towards a new maternity wing, not just renovating the existing space.

"The issue is how to get the money and how to do the ward in a fiscally responsible fashion. Now that the new board is empaneled

and these ideas will be developed in earnest and we will flesh out these plans. There is an awful lot to be done. I spoke with the prime minister about moving on some of these issues in health. There are a lot of demands and the people's perception on quality of life hinders on the level of health care we are able to provide. We have to be creative and get it done and because certainly what exists now is unacceptable. It is the best we can do now, but what we are saying is acceptable for the people is nothing short of embarrassing."

TWO HUNTED AFTER MAN HOSPITALISED IN SHOOTING

POLICE are searching for two men responsible for a shooting that left a man in hospital on Wednesday.

Shortly after 10pm, a man was sitting in front of his home located on Moore Avenue and Palm Beach Street when two men armed with handguns approached and shot him before fleeing on foot.

The man was taken to hospital where he is detained in stable condition.

Police also said they arrested four men after seizing a quantity of dangerous drugs on Wednesday.

Shortly after 12.30pm, Mobile Division officers acting on information conducted a search of a home located on Infant View Road, where they uncovered just over one pound of marijuana, police said. Four male occupants of the home were subsequently taken into custody in connection with this discovery.

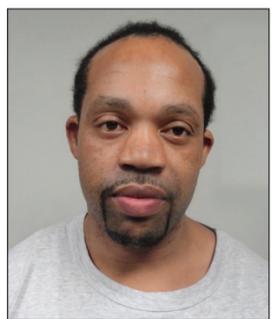
Additionally, Mobile Division officers arrested 13 other persons during the past 24 hours for causing harm and other outstanding court warrants.

WOMAN KILLED IN HIT AND RUN

A WOMAN, who was struck in an hit-and-run accident on Sunday, July 30, died in hospital on Wednesday.

According to reports, shortly before 9am on July 30, the woman was walking on Wulff Road near Mt Royal Avenue, when a vehicle that failed to stop hit her. The woman was taken to hospital, however she died from her injuries this week.

Investigations are continuing.



EMMANUEL MILLER

HUNT FOR MISSING MEN

POLICE in Grand Bahama are looking for two men who were reported missing.

The missing men are Emmanuel Sandokan "Pitty" Miller, 39, of Cadney Drive in Freeport and Kevin Al-drovendi Bethel, 34, of Coral Reef Loop in Freeport.

Mr Miller was last seen on Thursday, August 3, around 3pm on Midshipmen Road in Freeport. He frequents the areas of Garden Villas and Weddell Avenue.

Mr Bethel was also last seen on Thursday, August 3, sometime around 3pm, on Midshipmen Road. He

also frequents the areas of Garden Villas and Weddell Avenue.

Anyone with information on their whereabouts is asked to contact the Central Detective Unit in Grand Bahama at 350-3107 through 12, 911/919 or call your nearest police station.



KEVIN BETHEL

THREE YEARS IN JAIL FOR STEALING CAR

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A MAN was sentenced to prison for three years and six months for stealing a car out of a sports bar's parking lot.

Chino Milord, 20, appeared before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt yesterday for the opening of his stealing and receiving

charge.

According to the prosecution's case, Milord stole the car from the Shut up and Shake It parking lot after removing Davis' keys off a pool table.

The chief magistrate told Milord that his actions "were most unfortunate."

"You absolutely had no intentions of returning the car to him. But when you break the rules you must be

prepared to pay the consequences," the judge added before imposing a 42-month sentence at the Department of Correctional Services.

Police prosecutor Insp Edna Pratt withdrew the lesser charge of receiving given his guilty plea to the more serious offence.

The chief magistrate said the sentence takes effect from the date of conviction.

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The importance of Bahamian history

THE issue of slavery, as an abhorrent exploitation of human beings, will always arouse strong emotions. We mark the ending of this iniquitous system in The Bahamas by celebrating Emancipation Day each year with events appropriate to the occasion – and last Monday the usual festivities duly took place, with the best known held in Fox Hill.

It is important to maintain this tradition because, with a short history as an independent nation, we need to know our past in order to understand ourselves as a people. But we wonder how many of the younger generation fully realized what they were actually celebrating earlier this week.

In modern times, the idea of slavery, in which people were forcibly transported from Africa to British colonies in the West Indies, including The Bahamas, and treated as chattels or possessions, is so repellent as to be almost unbelievable. Whatever historians may say about the gradual improvement of the local conditions of slaves, which was achieved under pressure from public opinion in England in favour of abolition, they were held in perpetual bondage.

The plantation system depended on slave labour and became the foundation of a colony's wealth and economy. So, as the emancipation movement in England gradually gained sway in the late 18th century, slave owners in each colony resisted pressure to free their slaves as unacceptable interference in their way of life.

Despite the considerable opposition, however, it was becoming increasingly clear that it was only a matter of time before the British government would be able successfully to bring the practice of slavery to an end throughout the British Empire; even though, of course, it continued elsewhere, notably in America.

Bahamians who have not studied the history of their own country are often unaware that it was largely the strength of this emancipation movement in faraway England that persuaded its own government to take decisive action on the issue.

The first step was the ending of the Atlantic slave trade in 1807, with the Royal Navy forcibly preventing ships from carrying slaves from West Africa. Abolitionists were determined that this should be followed by a complete ban on slavery within the empire and this was finally achieved through the Emancipation Act which came into force in 1834 and was followed by payment of substantial compensation by the British government to plantation slave owners.

All this is a vital part of our nation's

history, the ramifications of which affect us in various ways to this day, but other aspects of our past are similarly important in so far as they are linked to the future.

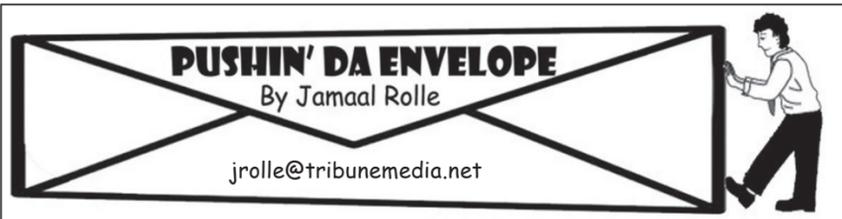
Some people, determined to live exclusively in the present, have been known to cite the view of Henry Ford, who, it is claimed, famously declared that 'history is bunk'. Perhaps he meant that, in relation to the manufacture of vehicles, tradition should not be allowed to obscure the need for constant innovation. But none can seriously refute the notion that, in the broader context of life, what happened in the past can be influential in determining how to handle the problems of the present.

The received wisdom in relation to history that has almost become a cliché is that, if we ignore the lessons and experience of the past, we are doomed to repeat our mistakes. While such a proposition surely makes good sense, the need for awareness of history goes deeper. Knowledge and understanding of the past, particularly in a young country like ours still in the process of nation-building, make us aware of our identity as a people and our place in the world. Most people want to know about their roots and origin in order better to understand who they are.

History also provides a collective memory and a sense of connection within a community which serves to extend people's horizons beyond the narrow limits of family and friends – and it should at the same time induce national pride and an appreciation of a country's culture.

We believe that the teaching of history in our schools should be made a high priority. Children should be encouraged to look beyond themselves and learn about their country's past. They should also study and celebrate the lives and achievements of those who have contributed in one way or another to the building and development of our nation – not only prominent political leaders, but also individuals in many other fields. Moreover, our institutions like museums, art galleries and the admirable Department of Archives should be cherished and promoted as places of excellence which are available to everybody seeking to learn about our country and its history and national achievements.

Let us hope that young people can be made increasingly aware of our history, including the system of slavery as a harsh blot on the past, so that they themselves will be better placed to contribute to the future of their country.



BPL CEO DEFENDS 1.1 MILLION DOLLAR BONUS



Much ado about nothing

EDITOR, The Tribune.

LAST week, Mr Doug Manchester, the nominated Ambassador to The Bahamas, made remarks to the USA Senate Committee vetting his selection by the Hon. President Donald J. Trump. Mr. Manchester referred to The Bahamas as 'a protectorate' of the United States of America. Members of the committee, as many Bahamians, were taken aback by that 'innocent' description. The reactions, both in the USA and here in our nation (not protectorate) were swift and almost brutal.

I do not know the Ambassador Designate but, from what I have been able to google and research about Mr Manchester, he is an astute businessman; husband and father. He earned his multi-million dollar portfolio the hard way.... he worked for it. There is no hint of public scandal attached to his name and he is pro business. He's never been the rank and file politician and, as far as I am aware, he is not a trained lawyer or legislator.

Doug 'Papa' Manchester referred to our nation as a 'protectorate', innocently and with no known ulterior motives, to my knowledge. The Bahamas, as we all know, is not an actual protectorate, in the ordinary sense of the word. If one were to closely examine the relationship between

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

our two wonderful nations, it would readily be agreed that the USA is, in fact, our 'protector'. That does not, strictly speaking from a constitutional point, makes us a 'protectorate'. It is also to be agreed that the USA is, like it or lump it, our big brother and literal protector.

Decades ago, when Cuban MiG jets attacked our Defence Force, the USA was the first country to come to our defence. Way back in the 1930's during the Great Depression the USA offered our people, especially the low income persons, an opportunity to travel to the now fable 'Contract' where those selected were able to live and work in the USA while remitting funds back to The Bahamas. The vast majority of our university graduates would have gone to one in the USA. Today, tens of thousands of Bahamas, illegally and legally, reside and work in the USA seeking a better way of life for themselves and family.

Our second home industry is dominated by citizens of the USA. Grand Bahama was conceptualized; developed and built by Wallace Groves, a citizen of the USA. Paradise Island (a/k/a 'Hog Island') before it became Atlantis was also

rolled out, big time by USA investors. The USA also is intimately involved with The Bahamas on many bilateral matters; inclusive of illegal migration; drug interdiction; human smuggling and, of course, military and defense cooperation (OBAT); Coast Guard protection and availability during natural disasters. The USA has always been 'our protector' in more ways than one.

I for one, hope that Mr. Manchester is approved and sworn in as the USA's Ambassador to The Bahamas. We have been without a continuous ambassador for a long time. This man has already laid out some of his plans to improve and enhance relationships between our countries. All of the "displeasure" over Papa's description is "much to do about nothing".

Let's pray that he is confirmed and that he, who by the way has the ear of President Trump, will assist us in ushering in a new golden and pro business relationship. God knows that we need all of the foreign investment and financial assistance that we are able to get. While I 'love' the Chinese people and their food, I'd prefer for the USA to remain our big brother and, of course, our protector.

ORTLAND H. BODIE, JR
 Nassau,
 August 4, 2017

Have they no shame?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I HAVE learned to expect very little from the PLP party leadership, but the ramblings of Freddy and Brave, although comical at times, have become bewildering to say the least. One could make the argument that they are trying to appeal to their party base, but that would be an insult to a considerable cross section of the electorate. Surely the PLP base is not as asi-

nine as these two "leaders" would have us believe.

I cannot say that I have ever respected either of these two men, but the fact that they are relevant in any way, shape or form in our country is the true tragedy in our current political arena.

Free speech, often a shield for lunatics, has its place in a free society, but enough is enough. The PLP has many bridges to cross in the years to come, and

hopefully one of them will be back into reality. Racist, fear mongering, subversion of the truth, and blatant corruption have no place in a country seeking to move forward. It is my hope that we shake off the clammy grip of ignorance that these two men spew daily, and press on, steady sunward.

SHEEPRUNNER
 Nassau,
 August 9, 2017.

What next at the landfill?

EDITOR, The Tribune.

YOUR story on page two - "Investors to be encouraged to submit proposals for landfill" begs certainly a question to the good Minister responsible for the Environment and Housing - in your life prior to May 10th you were a professional consultant in this area and known to be probably connected to some of the local or even foreign companies that sought this concession. Will this possible RFP for the concession for the

management of the landfill be the first challenge of the promised openness - integrity and totally uncompromised management of Government business by the Minnis Government in The People's Time?

There are actually two Ministers who, in my opinion, should abstain in the process totally - the Minister of the Environment and naturally the Minister of Agriculture owing to his link to the infamous Stellar Waste \$100m proposal. I hope the press are watch-

ing - I know the People are as this is important to ensure the People's business is carried out with total uncompromised transparency.

If both Ministers do not declare they have advised the Prime Minister that they have to abstain then we know the rest of the story - business, oh, so regrettably, is obviously as usual.... those pious words pre-May 10th meant nothing!

W THOMPSON
 Nassau
 August 9, 2017.

Selective outrage

EDITOR, The Tribune.

CLASSISM is alive and well in The Bahamas!

This display of outrage by certain sectors of society only after well connected members of the political class are hauled before the courts is sickening!

Classism is alive and well in The Bahamas!

Countless young men (and women) have been paraded before the courts (many innocent) no differently from the recent former politicians for decades...

Where were the religious leaders?

Where were the threats of lawsuits and policy change?

Where were the Facebook advocates for humane and fair treatment?

Where were the calls for protests?

Where was the outcry?

Oh wait... Those were just "average Bahamians"... They don't count. Ain't nobody on their run.

I mussie forget this country was set up by the elite for the elite. And as usual the rest of us "non-elites" play

right into it not realizing that it is US that perpetuate this vicious cycle that only benefit a small group while the rest suffer.

Let's cry for all Bahamians mistreated by the justice system... Not just three! Let's protest for all Bahamians to be treated humanely and fairly until proven guilty... Not just three!

All Bahamian lives matter.

FARRELL GOFF
 Nassau,
 August 9, 2017

\$20m for constituencies in govt capital grant plans

By MATT MAURA
Bahamas Information Services

THE government will inject almost \$20m into the capital development of the country's 39 constituencies over the next five years through its Constituency Capital Grant Programme.

The Constituency Capital Grant Bill 2017 came into force on July 1 and provides for the allocation of constituency capital grants in the amount of \$100,000 per annum for each of the 39 constituencies to facilitate

development and for connected purposes.

That amounts to \$3.9m annually and \$19.5m over a five-year period.

Administration officials say all grants payable under the act will be paid out of the Consolidated Fund.

Grants allocated under the programme must be used for authorised capital development projects approved by the minister of finance only, and includes any works carried out for the overall or partial development of a constituency; the maintenance of any

roads, parks or other public facility within a constituency; the beautification of the environment within a constituency or any other work as the member of Parliament considers appropriate for the development, educational or cultural endeavours of his constituency, as approved by the minister of finance.

No member of Parliament shall utilise any portion or part thereof of a grant for any political meeting or forum; any fundraising activity for any political party or the payment, maintenance,

upkeep, salaries and other expenses in respect of the constituency office.

Constituency capital grants are not to be confused with the constituency allowances members of Parliament currently receive for the payment, maintenance, upkeep, salaries and other expenses in respect of their constituency offices.

Additionally, no MP shall award a contract for a capital development project to a member of his family or to any business or company for which the ben-

eficial owners of that company are family members of the MP.

Anthony Newbold, press secretary in the Office of the Prime Minister, said in order to obtain authorisation for payment for any project, the MP must submit a proposal for the capital development project to be carried out to the minister of finance who bears sole responsibility for authorisation of payments.

"Such proposal shall contain a declaration by the member of Parliament stating his intention to have

such project carried out as specified therein," Mr Newbold said. "For each development, a proposal must be advanced with quotations, any required approvals and permits and of course a tax compliance certificate for the person carrying out the project.

"The minister of finance is the only person who can authorise such a payment. This is not the end though, proper accounts must be kept and a report prepared for the auditor general at the end of each fiscal year," Mr Newbold added.

'PUBLISH JOBS OF PERMIT HOLDERS'

from page one

In a Facebook post this week he noted: "I'm urging the government to indicate how long these positions/persons have been on work permits. Upon production of this report, Bahamians would know which upper and middle management jobs will be available at the end of that 12-month success plan period."

Asked about this, a government minister granted anonymity to discuss a matter not officially reviewed by the government, expressed openness to it but added that any such matter would have to be considered by Cabinet before a position is taken.

"I have always been disturbed by resorts putting Bahamian staff on two to three-day work weeks after receiving millions of dollars in concessions," Mr Henfield wrote. "Not to mention the fact that shares in these resorts had not been

sold to Bahamian staff. I have always been disturbed by resorts and expat-owned business closing for months while staff don't receive salaries during the closure. Some of these businesses have been skipped over, never to return while staff are waiting to be paid."

Post-Emancipation Day, The Bahamas should no longer allow Bahamian workers to be exploited by investors and hoteliers, Mr Henfield said.

"For starters, at least 60 per cent of upper and middle management of every resort/hotel should, by law come August 2018, implement a 12-month succession plan to replace the large amount of non-Bahamian workers with Bahamian workers," he wrote. "We have too many of our people with the qualifications in hotel management that are unemployed or underemployed while expats are raking in tens of thousands of dollars each year."

In May, Labour Minister

Dion Foulkes said Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis has directed government officials to ensure that no foreigner should get a work permit where there are qualified Bahamians to fill that position.

Speaking about the Free National Movement's position on the issue at the time, Mr Foulkes said the Minnis administration is committed to maximising Bahamian employment where possible adding that the government is in talks with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) for a \$20m loan for apprenticeship and workforce training.

Senator Foulkes said since assuming his post after the May 10 election, he has been "very strict" in approving labour certificates for work permits and has denied or deferred many of them.

"The prime minister has given me directions to ensure that no foreigner gets a permit where there is a Bahamian available to do the job," he said at the time.



DION Foulkes with Governor General Dame Marguerite Pindling at his swearing-in as senator.

PASSPORT COLLECTION RETURNS TO HEADQUARTERS ON MONDAY

AFTER a successful exercise to facilitate the collection of new e-passports at a special collection centre, the Passport Office has announced that the passport collection/issuance centre returns to the regular headquarters on Thompson Boulevard/University Drive, effective Monday.

Chief Passport Officer Superintendent Clarence Russell said: "The special collection exercise during the month of July and the first two weeks of August at the Anatol Rodgers Gymnasium has been an unqualified success, having issued well in excess of 3,000 e-passports to today's date.

"We were able to significantly reduce the number

of uncollected passports that had already been processed and the Passport Office staff worked hard to accommodate the general public's summer travel plans.

"We are now satisfied that Bahamians who needed to upgrade to the new e-passports along with those who had special travel plans for the summer holidays or otherwise have now been accommodated in the most efficient fashion."

Mr Russell thanked Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield for his assistance in publicising the special collection exercise through his appeal to the public.

"For those few who still have passports awaiting collection, the ministry's

Passport Office on Thompson Boulevard is open from 9am to 4pm, Monday through Friday," Mr Russell said.

"We additionally take this opportunity to expressly thank the Hon Minister of Education (Jeff Lloyd)," Mr Russell continued, "as well as his management and staff of the Anatol Rodgers School, for the privilege of utilising their facilities.

"We likewise thank the minister of national security for the security provided daily by both the Royal Bahamas Police Force and Royal Bahamas Defence Force details, throughout our operations.

"We commend the public for their patience and support in this endeavour," Mr Russell said.



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Vacancy

Executive Assistant

Job Summary

A well established, performance driven organization that offers a competitive and attractive remuneration and benefits package as well as opportunities for career enrichment is seeking an Executive Assistant. This role is responsible for providing assistance to the Board, CEO and Executives. It also provides senior administrative support. The position is based in the Bahamas and there are opportunities for global exposure.

Duties

- Prepare agendas and make arrangements for executive and other meetings;
- Compile, transcribe, and distribute minutes of meetings;
- Manage and maintain schedules for executives;
- Prepare, complete and file documents;
- Coordinate processes to ensure timeframes are adhered to;
- Maintain and update of all registers, including reporting relevant data to the International stakeholders;
- Prepare of annual statistics;
- Undertake information management functions including the development and maintenance of records, library, registers and procedural databases;
- Assist in preparing and formatting documents and public notices for publication, including web publication; and
- Act as a point of inquiry for individuals contacting the department, handling routine enquiries and preparing routine correspondence.

Qualifications & Experience

- Bachelor of Arts Degree in Administration;
- Minimum of seven (7) years progressive administrative experience; and
- Proficient with Microsoft Suite.

Qualified applicants should send their résumés to info@orgsoul.com on or before August 12th, 2017.

Tourism in fear over crime risk

from page one

“The Ministry of Tourism has a lot of events and I noticed that even though the ministry is paying for them, they are basically turning into great big parties for Bahamians and not turning into exponential events for our visitors. One of the things we have to do is ask ourselves why the hotels are not sending them

there and one of the questions they are going to ask is ‘Is it safe for our guests?’ We have to ensure that it is a safe and fun environment for our visitors. It is a concern. Crime and safety is an enormous social problem here and it affects everything that we do.”

Last week, an international travel site listed The Bahamas as the sixth out of ten most dangerous places for unaccompanied women

travellers to visit.

Trip.com, in a recent survey, listed the Bahamas just behind Peru and ahead of Colombia on its “Least Safe Countries for Solo Female Travellers”.

The story was picked up by popular international business magazine Forbes and published on its website Forbes.com.

The Forbes report also used information from a recent US State Department

warning over New Providence’s crime rate.

In that report, the US State Department lists the criminal threat level for New Providence as “critical,” while also acknowledging an increase in criminal activity in Grand Bahama “this past year.”

In June, responding to a controversial video circulating on social media encouraging prospective visitors to avoid New Providence

to preserve their own safety, Mr D’Aguilar said his ministry will “redouble” its marketing efforts to counter the “false information” contained in the video.

Still, at the time Mr D’Aguilar admitted that New Providence “is not something that we should be proud of,” adding that he is “unimpressed” with the experience cruise visitors have when they arrive at the Port of Nassau.

Mr D’Aguilar, in regretting the current state of affairs in New Providence, stressed that “our tourist product needs some work”.

There have been a spike of homicides over the past few weeks, with the most recent involving two men who were killed over the holiday weekend, one of whom was killed less than a month after he was released on bail.



PAMELA Hill CEO of BPL.

Photo: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

BPL CHIEF’S COMMENTS ‘AN INSULT TO EVERY BAHAMIAN’

from page one

On Wednesday, BPL CEO Pamela Hill defended PowerSecure’s \$1.1m performance bonus under the former Christie administration, pointing to “step by step improvements” and “higher reliability” of BPL’s services as justification for the controversial incentive.

Ms Hill insisted that while none of BPL’s issues will be resolved in an “overnight fashion,” there have been “overall improvements” in BPL’s reliability and efficiency to date.

She subsequently pointed to the acquisition of an additional 40 megawatts of rental power generation in New Providence and “new generation” on some Family Islands as initiatives that have “helped to improve

our reliability.”

In response, Mr Miller called her assertions “ridiculous”.

“How in the hell can you say this [expletive]. She knows damn well that her group has done nothing to improve the state of electricity in this country,” Mr Miller said.

“Where is the tangible evidence of what she is saying? All the damn things she pointed to, are things we are spending a ridiculous amount of money on. And we aren’t getting any value for the [expletive].”

According to Mr Miller, before the PowerSecure deal, consumers in the Bahamas paid 31 cents per megawatt-hour.

He said that figure has now been increased to 43 cents per megawatt-hour.

“Their involvement was

supposed to fix things? Tell me what they’ve fixed since coming here. Electricity costs have doubled since they came on board.

“Where is the long-term fuel deal? Where are the improvements to Clifton? Where is the reduction in cost?”

“You’ve got to be [expletive] me. Stop it. Seriously, stop it. We had Clifton operating at peak capacity. Clifton is key to power in this country. They’ve failed miserably.

“They’re still renting equipment at Blue Hill and aren’t doing anything to correct that situation because they know regardless of how much they spend and lose, they’re getting paid,” he contended.

PowerSecure’s five-year management services agreement, reportedly

worth as much as \$25m, was promoted by the former Christie administration as being the answer to sub-par electricity service and high electricity bills. It was signed in early 2016.

When contacted for comment about Ms Hill’s remarks yesterday, Bahamas Electrical Workers Union’s (BEWU) President Paul Maynard urged consumers to, “in their haste to question PowerSecure’s performance bonus,” not overlook “the life of luxury and comfort” being provided to many of the company’s executives.

Mr Maynard said while BPL has had some success, more needs to be done to improve the company’s “day-to-day quality.”

“We’ve seen some failures since they’ve been here,” he said. “BPL came in here and met this place in a mess. Sys-

tems needed to be improved and corrected and they’ve attempted to do that.

“But the fact remains, the contract signed mandated they be paid. There is no way around that. With all that said, many of these executive board members, their salaries and bonuses need a second look.”

He added: “Hundreds of thousands of dollars, luxury cars, all the perks and they aren’t worth it. That is where we need to start with getting value. Look at those contracts and demand value for what they get.

“I am not afraid to say what needs to be said in this instance. Mr (Deepak) Bhatnagar, how is he still here eating up money and providing nothing?”

Mr Bhatnagar, BPL executive director, along with former Minister of

Works Philip “Brave” Davis steered the task force appointed by the Christie administration to look at various proposals for a generation plant which would have assisted in dealing with the challenges at the utility provider.

Mr Maynard continued “This man has been here and is still here eating up money. He tells these stories and the people in charge believe it. He messed up on a number of initiatives and is still working the clock, earning \$200,000 and driving a \$70,000 luxury car.

“This is where the country is losing out, people like him. So while we in a rush to jump all over BPL, the company, let’s take a hard look at these people buried in the system, findings ways to live the life off of us,” Mr Maynard concluded.

MORE DEBT - THE LEGACY OF ANOTHER BAILOUT FOR BANK OF THE BAHAMAS

from page one

“So the FNM has followed the PLP’s nonsense,” Dame Joan said on the Nahaja Black Show. “They have gone down the train even further than the PLP in that regard.”

The comments came after Wayne Aranaha, chairman of BOB, revealed that \$166m in toxic BOB loans will be transferred to Ba-

hamas Resolve, the SPV the Christie administration created in 2015 to clean up BOB’s balance sheet and go after loans the bank was unable to recover.

The \$166m is on top of the \$100m in bad loans the previous administration transferred to the SPV.

Bahamas Resolve has faced significant headwinds going after the bad loans, leading Mr Smith to warn earlier this year that tax-

payers will have to pay the interest and principal related to much of those loans.

The yearly interest to the bank is about two to three million dollars, Mr Smith has said. Bahamas Resolve has so far only been able to sell two of the properties from its original portfolio. Its recoveries were supposed to finance the interest payments to BOB.

“The banks isn’t clean in all of this,” Mr Smith, who served as minister of state for finance in the first Christie administration, said yesterday. “There are legal challenges before the courts on the amount of interest they were charging and agreements they didn’t keep. That helps explain why they couldn’t go after so much of the bad loans.”

Mr Smith said the Christie administration decided not to transfer the loans of politically exposed persons like members of the government to the SPV, a fact he believes meant efforts to clean up the bank’s balance sheet did not go far enough.

It’s not clear if the new administration will place a similar restriction on what loans can be transferred to the SPV.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Peter Turnquest has said the \$166m transfer is the bank’s “best shot” for recovery, adding the previous administration “tried to protect certain borrowers,” resulting in the bank having to carry provisions it didn’t need to.

Nonetheless, “Bahami-

ans will pay quite a lot” for this, Mr Smith said.

“The banking system had over \$1b in non-performing loans, working through that during the last four years. One bank had to discount to take them off the books. “Similarly, we will have to eat it someday down the road and that process starts immediately. First you have to recognise the debt; \$100m in promissory notes were given from the former administration to BOB in exchange for the bad loans.

“Now I presume another \$160m notes will be exchanged. It’s a liability of the government for which they must pay back interest and principal over time.”

Mr Turnquest has said the government’s rescue of BOB will be debated in Parliament.

In 2015 Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis, then the leader of the Official Opposition, led about 100 supporters on a march to BOB’s headquarters on Shirley Street to protest the leadership of the bank.

“We have assembled here at the people’s bank to declare with one loud voice that enough is enough,” he said speaking from the bank’s steps at the time. “The government must act and they must act now. The use of government voting power to prop up failed leadership in the bank is unacceptable, when the Bahamian taxpayers have been made to swallow a \$100m increase in the public debt load in order to prop up the same bank.”

The Bahamas Public Services Union



SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING FOR NOMINATION OF OFFICERS TO SERVE FOR 2017-2020

The Bahamas Public Services Union in accordance with Article 21-(i) of the Union’s Constitution will hold a Special General meeting, for the nomination of officers to serve for the year 2017 - 2020 on Thursday, August 17th, 2017 beginning at 6:00pm at the Bahamas Communication and Public Officers Union located Farrington Road, Nassau Bahamas.

Nomination forms may be collected at the Union’s Administration Office, Wulff Road between the hours of 9:30am to 4:40pm Monday through Friday commencing Thursday, 3rd August, 2017

Candidates for all positions are urged to collect and return the completed forms to the Secretary General on or before 5:00pm Wednesday, 15th August 2017.


Stephen J. Miller
SECRETARY GENERAL



Randolph 'Randy' Curtis, A.Sc., M.S., J.P.
President/Funeral Director



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Uranda Curtis, A.Sc., P.S.E.
Vice President/Funeral Director

Death Notice For

Brandon Leroy Brooks, 60



a resident of Churchill Subdivision, died at home on Sunday, August 6th, 2017.

He is survived by a **host of relatives and friends including** Corene Francis, Raymond Francis, Charles Brown and Calvin Brown.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.



SAVE The Bays Chairman and Grand Bahama Waterkeeper Joe Darville (arms outstretched) takes a dozen campers from Camp Eco-Explorer out to monitor the waters off Fortune Beach, Grand Bahama. It was the second year Save The Bays and Waterkeeper Bahamas partnered to put on the camp.

Diving in to summer on the water

THEY swam, snorkeled, recorded, reported and studied the marine environment and by the end of the week, 12 teens from Grand Bahama had a new respect for the waters around them and the critical role water plays in sustaining life on the planet.

The students were the dedicated dozen who qualified for Camp Eco-Explorer.

It was the second year that environmental advocacy organisations Save The Bays and Waterkeepers Bahamas offered the camp.

This year's first session,

held under the theme Everything Water, was earmarked for children 11 to 15, with this week welcoming younger students. Both focus on the connectivity of elements that together create life-giving ecosystems.

"This was the best camp experience ever," said Waterkeepers Bahamas Executive Director Rashema Ingraham. "We embraced camp activities like team-building, information-gathering and field trips and placed them against the backdrop of some of the most breathtaking waters in the world."

Campers snorkeled on coral reefs alive with vibrant colours and teeming with tropical fish. They examined reefs for damage, debris and detritus. They studied mangroves and learned the importance of wetlands as nurseries for immature fish, conch and crawfish as well as buffers protecting shorelines against storm surges. They visited Owl's Blue Hole, learned about the mythical creature Lusca, went to Ben's Cave and the Burial Mound at the Lucayan National Park to observe marine life in a freshwa-

ter setting. They examined how man-made structures on shore impact marine life and studied the differences between fresh, salt and brackish water. They kayaked from mangroves to tip of the ocean.

"This was the kind of camp experience that happens once in a lifetime and creates memories that last a lifetime," said Joe Darville, Save The Bays chairman. "The kids had a ball. More importantly they came away with such profound feelings about how important it is to protect our waters and the marine life they support."

Days began in a classroom and ended with production of a poster summing up lessons learned during hands-on experiences. Kellon Albury and Anaiya Armbrister were honored with most outstanding boy and girl campers. Local yoga instructor LaKrista Strachan led students in yoga and breathing exercises, reinforcing the connectivity theme.

"I shared with them how important Mother Earth is to us. The trees give us oxygen and we reciprocate with carbon dioxide," said Ms Strachan. "Once they

started to tune in to the sounds around them such as the waves crashing on the shore, or the birds singing in the trees they were able to relax."

"You could see the progress of their thoughts," said Ms Ingraham, "as the quality of their posters with action messages got better every day. We now have 12 more ambassadors for the marine environment who, we hope, will inspire others to protect the beauty of our Bahamian waters and treasure the memories of their Camp Eco-Explorer experiences."



CAMP Eco-Explorer campers look over Owl's Blue Hole in Lucayan National Park.

FORT CHARLOTTE'S CAMP BELIEVE HOLDS CLOSING CEREMONY

FORT Charlotte Camp Believe, sponsored by the Fort Charlotte Community Development Association and Alfred Sears, QC, recently concluded another summer session filled with fun and activities.

The camp celebrated its 16th year in existence and held an exuberant ceremony at St Michael's Methodist Church for the 80 campers who successfully completed four weeks of civics, arts & craft, sewing, Junkanoo arts, English, health, music and dance.

At the closing ceremony, moderated by trained teacher Earnestine Sears, the campers displayed their talents by performing skits, songs, dances and poems for an appreciative audience of parents and friends.

Each year, the Fort Charlotte Community Centre hosts a free four-week summer camp for children living in the Fort Charlotte community ranging from ages 5 to 15. During these weeks, the campers are provided with a hot lunch,

drinks, snacks and supplies for their activities. The camp is the brainchild of former Fort Charlotte MP Alfred Sears who recently established the community centre in 2001.

During the summer camp, the campers experienced a myriad of activities that developed each camper creatively, intellectually and culturally. The campers engaged in jewelry making, sewing, baking and dance classes. They also brushed up on their mathematics, reading comprehension and essay writing skills. A favourite activity for campers was the cultural field trip to the Junkanoo World Museum, located in Fort Charlotte. Its founder, Quinton "Barabbas" Woodside, gave the campers a lecture on the importance of preserving Bahamian heritage and sponsored a workshop for the campers on creating Junkanoo costumes and craft-work. In addition, the campers engaged in conversations with three guest speakers. Dr Reynaldo

Scavella spoke about health, wellness and hygiene; motivational speaker Duquesa Dean encouraged campers to define and pursue their goals and Mr Sears shared his childhood stories to motivate the campers to dream larger than their current circumstances.

The camp was led by Inzolet Woodside, a teacher at Tiny Tot. She was supported by four other trained teachers and 14 young facilitators, some of whom had been campers themselves, and numerous volunteers from the community. Rev Dr Philip Stubbs, in partnership with the Fort Charlotte Development Association, allowed the closing ceremony to be held at St Michael's Methodist Church again this year.

Camp Believe is a wonderful example of what can be accomplished when members of the community come together, pool resources, time, effort and skills in an effort to contribute to the development of our youth.

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The Taxman Cometh

A Comic's View

By INIGO 'NAUGHTY' ZENICAZELAYA



IF Bahamians really want to understand what's happening in our country, The Tribune's Business Section is where the action is at. So I noticed, with great interest, an article in yesterday's *Tribune* outlining how the Ministry of Tourism and the government is drafting legislation to tax the home rental sector.

By now, we all know the country's finances was left in shambles by the last administration. We also know, due to the shambolic state of our finances, that the current government is looking under every nook, cranny and couch cushion to find more money to put in the country's coffers.

While the move to come to agreement with Airbnb, on the surface, looks like one that will only affect 'da rich people dem,' the truth is that many Bahamians are now engaged in the business of "renting rooms" to tourists. This industry, which is mainly an online venture, has seen dollars (and Euros) move from the purses of guests wanting to experience an 'authentic Bahamas' experience to the purses of entrepreneurs as far as from Lyford Cay to "Over da Hill".

It's the latter group I'm more concerned with.

I can tell you, from personal experience, that renting property, to locals as well as tourists, is a fickle adventure these days. There are so many considerations to take into account, including the cost of electricity, the cost of cable services, the cost of telephone ser-

vices and the cost of real property taxes.

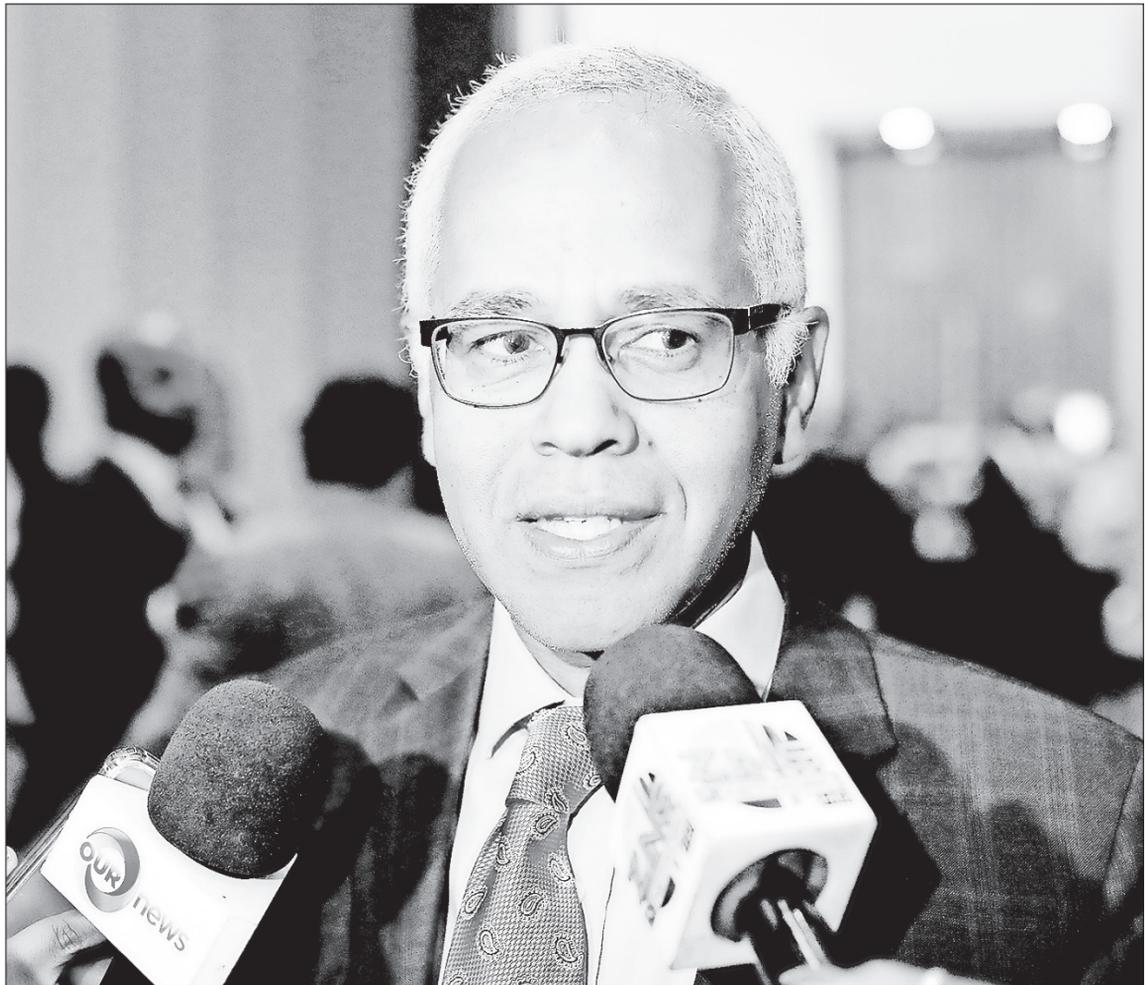
Now, bear in mind, that all of these costs already have VAT slapped on them like an old-fashioned Bahamian parent would discipline a wayward child with a taped-up "switch". In other words, these taxes hurt.

When I read statements on the country's \$100,000 ceiling and the fact that Airbnb likes taxes that are "clean and easy and easy to collect" it makes me nervous. Has the government, with their new best friends (Airbnb) done the research to understand how many Bahamians surpassed this \$100,000 threshold? If so, have the headlines that have been generated worth all this fuss or is the Ministry of Tourism simply looking at the industry as a whole?

The *Tribune's* article had some great stats: 1,200 active hosts and 1,900 active listings.

I know that the previous administration had implored Bahamians to register with the Hotel Licensing Department. (And like true Bahamians, on Bahamian time, most probably didn't.) I also know that, on average, most of the people who rent out a room or two most likely do not meet that \$100,000 threshold. Yet, there goes our Minister of Tourism smiling while agreeing to... something.

I told you, in a previous column, that fiscal responsibility will hurt. Hearing that VAT will most likely be levied on this type of venture that even 'the little man' has gotten savvy to only reaffirms my beliefs. And that



TOURISM Minister Dionisio D'Aguilar.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

'clean' taxation means that the powers that be are looking at 7.5 to be rounded up instead of down.

Get ready Mama "Over da Hill" looking to make a few dollars renting out a room in "the hood". The government is onto you now. And just like Mr Rainy Day in the summer, the taxman cometh! You may need an aspirin or two.

THE HITMAN COMETH

It takes a lot to shock me, however I must admit

this week I was actually shocked.

When I heard little Nassau had become eerily similar to a scene from "Narcos".

And "social media" only compounded it.

Is this where we are as a nation?

With rumours awash of "hitmen" coming to town, with their targets being the PM, Dr Hubert Minnis, the Minister of National Security, Marvin Dames, AG Carl Bethel and his Minister for Legal Affairs in the AG's, office Ellsworth Johnson?

National Security Minister Marvin Dames said that he remained "unwavering".

And that the government would not "bow to threats as it continues its fight to eradicate corruption in our nation".

"Just let me say this, no amount of threats is going to intimidate this government. I have been at this before and so we are not going to be distracted by persons believing or feeling as if they can intimidate. I am not concerned. I am not prepared to speak on that in any other way, but I will say this, we are a government and we govern by laws and all of those who are in contravention to those laws will be made account. No amount of intimidation, no amount of threats will change that, that's reality. It's as simple as that."

What I find commendable, is that Dames has definitely been one of the shining members of the PM's Cabinet thus far, talking the talk and walking the walk. Prepared to protect and serve his country and Prime Minister, and ensure law and order remains intact.

Let me hurry to the next paragraph, a Silver Honda

has been outside my house for the last hour, I'm wondering if I've made the "hit list" also, and now they are coming to "whack" me as well?

What I find laughable, is Press Secretary Anthony Newbold told reporters that he knows of "no credible threats to the prime minister or anyone else".

Mr Newbold also said the security detail "has not been beefed up" and "remains the same".

I watch enough CSI and the First 48 to know that you don't put critical, strategic security details out there to the masses, especially if intelligence confirms that there could potentially be hitmen in our midsts.

Assistant Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander seemed to endorse Mr. Newbold's statements, telling *The Tribune* that he "has no information" regarding the alleged death threats, he also said "if it were true" police would take the matter "very seriously" and "act accordingly".

So for now I'm just going to keep an eye open and an ear out and lay low.

THE WARMONGER COMETH

It's hard to live in this new global economy and not take note of what's happening in the world around us.

This week, US President Donald J Trump set tongues wagging and Twitter Fingers a twittering when he said, "North Korea best not make any more threats to the US". He went on to say that if they did, they will be "met with fire and fury like the world has never seen".

Now, on the surface, this appears very dangerous.

Bush 41 never spoke like this. Clinton never spoke like this. Bush 43 never spoke like this. And Obama (#44) never spoke like this. Now the world (and the solar system, and the galaxy) has Trump.

Let's you forgot, Trump is different.

After hearing the American President react to them, North Korea actually put out a statement saying that Trump's statement was "a load of nonsense". In other words, they are "shook".

North Korea's 'Great Leader,' Kim Jun Un, has never had to deal with a world leader (correction; the world leader) as belligerent and bumptious as himself. Trump's press release might as well have read, "You think you're crazy? I'll show you crazy!"

So, in their official response to Trump, the North Koreans revealed they know they are dealing with an unknown known. Sure, they threatened to bomb Guam (which they have threatened for decades) but they also acknowledged (unwittingly or not) that the status quo had changed.

North Korea has been building up its arsenal for more than a generation and puffing up its chest to the rest of the world. Now, they are attempting to cross a threshold most countries have determined they should not be allowed to cross. And the only thing standing in their way is a total narcissist who a) never served in the armed forces b) has as tough a rhetoric as they do and c) hates to lose.

I may not agree with him on 99.9% of the things he does (or says) but my money is on Trump in this war of words. Kim Jung Un Crazy meet Donald J Trump Crazy. And may God be with us all!



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- Assisting with the maintenance of schedules and reconciliations of accounts.
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TUNE INTO TODAY !!!



VENEZUELA's President Nicolas Maduro, centre, with his wife Cilia Flores, left, and Constitutional Assembly President Delcy Rodriguez wave as they arrive to the National Assembly building for a session with the Constitutional Assembly in Caracas, Venezuela, yesterday. Photo: **Ariana Cubillos/AP**

Maduro: Mr Trump, here is my hand

CARACAS, VENEZUELA
Associated Press

VENEZUELAN leader Nicolas Maduro said Thursday he wants a meeting with President Donald Trump — the same man he ridicules as a crass imperial magnate and blasts for US sanctions against officials in his socialist administration.

In a lengthy address to the 545 members of a new, all-powerful constitutional assembly, Maduro instructed Venezuela's foreign minister to approach the United States about arranging a telephone conversation or meeting with Trump.

"Mr Donald Trump, here is my hand," the socialist president said, adding that he wants as strong a relationship with the US as he has with Russia.

The remarks came shortly after Maduro forcefully warned the US president that Venezuela "will never give in".

The Trump administration has called Maduro a "dictator" and issued sanctions against him and more than two dozen other former and current officials, accusing Maduro's government of violating human rights and undermining the country's democracy amid an escalating political and financial crisis.

On Thursday, Credit Suisse bank banned the trading and use of Venezuelan bonds, citing "recent developments and the political climate" in the country.

The bank will no longer trade, nor accept as collat-

eral, two specific types of Venezuelan securities as well as any bonds the country issued from June 1 going forward, according to a company spokeswoman who was not authorized to give her name. Further, any businesses who wish to do business with Venezuela and deal in any assets there will have to go through additional screening.

Venezuela is facing mounting international criticism over a crackdown on opponents and moves to consolidate power, including the selection of the all-powerful assembly controlled by Maduro.

It is also in the midst of a severe economic downturn caused by low oil prices and poor government policies. The country's bonds are one of the few ways the current government is able to raise money to support its collapsing economy.

But as the country's political crisis has worsened, the bonds issued by the government as well as the state-owned oil company PDVSA have become a point of contention and concern for investors who increasingly worry they are supporting an oppressive regime as well as a country that is a great risk of defaulting on its debts. Goldman Sachs came under political pressure earlier this year for buying a reported \$2.8 billion in Venezuelan bonds on the open market at a significant discount.

National Assembly President Julio Borges, leader of the country's opposition,

has sent more than a dozen letters to leading global banks warning them of the risk to their reputations and bottom line if they throw a lifeline to Maduro.

On Wednesday, a fifth opposition mayor in Venezuela was removed from his post, part of what the opposition is calling a campaign to illegally remove anti-government mayors from their elected posts.

A small group of young people set up barricades of strewn metal objects in the eastern Caracas district of El Hatillo on Thursday to protest the Supreme Court decision to order Mayor David Smolansky imprisoned for 15 months for not obeying orders to shut down the protests.

We can't allow "the dictatorship to hunt down, imprison and treat our mayors like criminals," said Andres Paez, a lawyer who joined the protest.

Smolansky issued a video from an undisclosed location in which he called on residents of the El Hatillo to take to the streets to uphold their right to representation against what he called the government's "political firing squad." "My commitment to restoring freedom in Venezuela remains intact," Smolansky said.

His arrest was ordered by the government-stacked Supreme Court less than 48 hours after it levied a similar sentence against Ramon Muchacho, another Caracas-area mayor.

Opposition leaders decried both rulings. Accord-

ing to their figures, about a third of the nation's opposition mayors have been removed from office or jailed or are under threat of ar-

rest. Gerardo Blyde, an opposition mayor of Baruta, a city of more than 350,000 near the capital, equated it

to a sort of "Russian roulette".

"This is a continued coup against municipal public authority," he said.

CANADIAN AND AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN CUBA SUFFER HEARING LOSS FROM 'SONIC DEVICE'

WASHINGTON
Associated Press

THE Canadian government said Thursday that at least one Canadian diplomat in Cuba also has been treated for hearing loss following disclosures that a group of American diplomats in Havana suffered severe hearing loss that US officials believe was caused by an advanced sonic device.

Global Affairs Canada spokeswoman Brianne Maxwell said Canadian officials "are aware of unusual symptoms affecting Canadian and US diplomatic personnel and their families in Havana. The govern-

ment is actively working — including with US and Cuban authorities - to ascertain the cause."

Maxwell added that officials don't have any reason to believe Canadian tourists and other visitors could be affected.

Canada helped broker talks between Cuba and the United States that led to restored diplomatic relations.

In the fall of 2016, a series of US diplomats began suffering unexplained losses of hearing, according to officials with knowledge of the investigation into the case. Several of the diplomats were recent arrivals at the embassy, which reopened in 2015 as part of President

Barack Obama's reestablishment of diplomatic relations with Cuba.

Some of the US diplomats' symptoms were so severe that they were forced to cancel their tours early and return to the United States, officials said. After months of investigation, US officials concluded that the diplomats had been attacked with an advanced sonic weapon that operated outside the range of audible sound and had been deployed either inside or outside their residences.

It was not immediately clear if the device was a weapon used in a deliberate attack, or had some other purpose.



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Job Summary:

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Duties and Responsibilities Includes:

- Managing weekly and monthly payroll process for the Group.
- Preparing terminations and employee final settlement letters as requested.
- Maintaining staff attendance records.
- Processing health insurance and pension enrollments.
- Preparation of quarterly and annual Human Resources reports.

Requirements/Qualifications:

- Bachelors degree or Human Resources Certifications
- Minimum 4 years experience in a Human Resources /Compensation & Benefits
- Analytical with excellent report writing skills
- Display competence in the execution of compensation and benefits matters
- Highly Confidential

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Re: Compensations &
Benefits Administrator
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**ABSOLUTELY NO
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A competitive compensation package will be commensurate with relevant experience and qualification.





FROM left, President Inga Bostwick, Dr Bridgette Johnson, Dellaresse Bethel and Erin Gay.

Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation

Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation. - The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation has confirmed the appointments of Dave M Forbes; Linda Wallace and Michael Wilson as new members of The Board of Directors following voting at its June 29th Extraordinary General Meeting.

Vandyke Pratt, chairman of the Board of Directors of The Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation in announcing the new appointments noted that they each bring deep expertise in their respective fields and collectively a wealth of leadership experience, knowledge and insights.

"The foundation is excited that we have joining our team, some strong and effective directors to assist with the good governance and to assist us in our efforts to expand and further promote academic excellence through the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Awards Program".

With these appointments, the Bahamas Primary School Student of the Year Foundation Board of Directors stands at 14 members.

Mr Forbes is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated. He is a Life Member and also a Past President of the Iota Epsilon Lambda Chapter in Nassau, Bahamas. Mr Forbes holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration and studied at

both Florida International University and the (former) College of the Bahamas. Additionally, he holds various certifications in the Information Technology field achieved over the past 18+ years ranging from network administration and engineering to data-center virtualization. He attends St. Matthew's Anglican Church, is married to Michaela Forbes and has two children - Daylan and D'nae Forbes.

Ms Wallace is a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated. She holds an Associate of Arts Degree in Early Childhood Education and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Elementary Education from Omega College. Ms Wallace holds a Teacher's Certificate with seventeen plus years of actual in class



MICHAEL WILSON, Linda Wallace and Dave Forbes.

teaching experience, both in the private and public sector. She's presently a third year educator at Ridgeland Primary School. She is an executive board member of the Genesis Junkanoo Organization. She is a member of Church of God Temple Coconut Grove. She is the last child of Bishop Lindo Sr and Rev Olga Wallace.

Mr Wilson is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Incorporated. He is the current President of the Iota Epsilon Lambda Chapter (Nassau, Bahamas) of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. He holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Accounting with Honours from Bethune-Cookman University. He attended university on a full football and academic scholarship. He is a Certified Public Accountant, with over 20 year Banking and Accountant experiences with Credit Suisse. He is married to the Gillian Wilson and they are the proud parents of four (4) children: Zara; Hayley; Michael and Ryan.

Mr Pratt also expressed his appreciation to three directors who recently stepped down from the board: Jaydian Miller (Member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.); Colette Knowles (Member, Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority, Inc.) and Cy Hanna (Member, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc.).

Also, Geovanie Rodgers (Member, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.) and Harrison Lockhart (President, Nassau, Bahamas Pan-Hellenic Council and Member, Phi Beta Sigma Fraternity, Inc.) who will stepping down from The



Board in September 2017. The Foundation benefited from their combined leadership.



Dellaresse Bethel is the daughter of Frederick and Hilda Douglas. She is the proud mother of Arlicia and Anwar Bethel. Dellaresse is a graduate of the College of The Bahamas, the University of the West Indies and Kent State University. Dellaresse has served as a teacher at various schools throughout The Bahamas. Dellaresse presently serves as the President of The Bahamas School Counsellors Association.

Erin Gay is a former participant in the 2002 Miss Universe Bahamas Pageant and the 2003 Miss Tourism World Bahamas, where she placed 1st runner up. Erin is a medical coder and holds the job title of Manager of Medical Billing and Accounts Receivables for Open MRI of The Bahamas.

RCNP's newest inductees bring a wealth of experience and a range of skills and will no doubt enhance the club's membership and bring positive change. Membership in Rotary improves personal and professional development through leadership, team building, organization and planning, public speaking and communication. This list is by no means exhaustive.

The club meets every Tuesday at 7pm at Poop Deck West. Persons interested in Rotary are invited to visit the club's page at portal.clubrunner.ca/1527 or like us on Facebook and follow us on Instagram to view our activities and upcoming events.

Rotaract Club of East Nassau

Rotaract Club of East Nassau. - This month is Membership Month at Rotaract - a great opportunity to invite guests & encourage fellow Rotaractors to give back.

Project Read Bahamas Painting Project. - the Rotaract crew really chipped in to paint the BAPD last time. There will be beer and pizza on the Friday evening.

Dates: Friday 11th, 6pm-9pm & Saturday 12th, 8am-12/1pm.

Place: Project Read, Project Read, Village Road, between QC and Blairwood Academy, Second floor, south end, up spiral staircase

The club also took part in a blood donations drive hosted by the Rotary Club of South East Nassau on August 5 at Harbour Bay Shopping Plaza.

Rotary Club of New Providence

Rotary Club of New Providence. - The Rotary Club of New Providence inducted three new members on Tuesday, August 1. The new inductees are Dr Bridgette Johnson, Dellaresse Bethel and Erin Gay. The trio extends RCNP's membership to 49. The new inductees are excited to be a part of RCNP's membership and look forward to serving the community.

Dr Bridgette Johnson is the daughter of Dr John and Leona Johnson. She is a graduate of Tuskegee University School of Veterinary Medicine where she majored in animal science. Bridgette is the owner of Purrfect Pets Veterinary Clinic located Prince Charles Drive. She is also a member of the Veterinary Medical Association and has also serve in various capacities.

Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support

Sister Sister. - Sister Sister Breast Cancer Support Group, in conjunction with BAF financial, celebrates its 13th Annual Prayer Breakfast under the Theme: Sister Stay in the Race. Ecc. Ch 9 vs 21-16. Venue: Melia Nassau Resort, Cable Beach on September 9. Doors open at 7:30am. Donation \$45. Email Andrea Sweeting on sweeting54@coralwave.com for more information.

Vacancy CLUB CONTROLLER

ESSENTIAL FUNCTION:

Directs the financial affairs of the Club and prepares financial analyses of operations, including interim and final financial statements with supporting schedules, for the guidance of management. The Controller is responsible for the company's financial plans, its accounting practices, the conduct of its relationships with lending institutions and the financial community, the maintenance of its fiscal records, and the preparation of financial reports. The position involves supervision over general accounting, property accounting, internal auditing, cost accounting, and budgetary controls.

Duties & Responsibilities

- Responsible for the preparation of all financial reports that outline the company's financial position in the area of income, expense and earnings based on past, present and future operations and conditions.
- Maintains the company's books and ensures that all company transactions and assets are properly recorded.
- Is familiar with the principals and applications of generally accepted accounting principles, the Internal Revenue Service and State of Nevada taxation requirements, and assures recordation of all transactions in compliance thereof.
- Directs the preparation of the capital budget and planning including; leasing and other forms of financing, reserves and replacements. Determines applicable depreciation and recovery rates to apply to capitalized assets and advises management on such matters.
- Responsible for tax planning and compliance with all Federal, State and local corporate, payroll and other applicable taxes.
- Responsible for maintaining and keeping compliance on all licenses.
- Directs and coordinates the preparation of the budget and financial forecasts, institutes and maintains other planning and control procedures (including all accounting software systems) and analyzes and reports variances.
- Evaluates and recommends insurance coverage's for protection against all potential liabilities (general business, specific and unordinary risk, employment) and property losses. Risk management and insurance functions.
- Responsible for cash management and treasury functions - including cash flow projection and analysis, banking, debt and handling of cash and short-term assets.
- Oversees the company-wide policies and procedures for effective club accounting and control systems including club IT systems.
- Responsible for roll-up of club accounting budgets, forecasts, and actual results compared to budget on a quarterly basis.

Interested applicants can forward their information to hr@bakersbayclub.com on or before Friday, August 18, 2017 - Only applicants contacted will be responded to.

JOIN THE CLUB

OUR Clubs and Societies page is a chance for you to share your group's activities with our readers.

To feature on our Clubs and Societies page, submit your report to clubs@tribunemedia.net, with "Clubs Page" written in the subject line.

For more information about the page, contact Stephen Hunt on 502-2373 or 447-3565.



MEMBERS of the Pathfinders Youth Organization Pose outside of the Seventh Day Adventist Church on GB following youth band concert.



THIS Junior Tennis pro teams up with her senior partner in a doubles match.

BTC BACKS WEEKEND OF FUN IN GRAND BAHAMA

FROM SeaFest in East End to the annual Homecoming Festival in Sea Grape Eight Mile Rock, and at every community event in between, BTC lent its support to countless initiatives over the August Monday Holiday Weekend.

“We are proud supporters of our culture and our love of sports,” said Northern VP Eldri Ferguson Mackey. “BTC has worked hard to cement our reputation as one of Grand Bahama’s leading corporate sponsors.

BTC participated in: The 2nd Annual Pirates Cove Poker Run, The West Side Basketball Splash Tournament, the Grand Bahama Tennis Doubles Tournament, The Pathfinder Youth Band Concert, The 11th Annual High Rock SeaFest and The SeaGrape Homecoming Festival.

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