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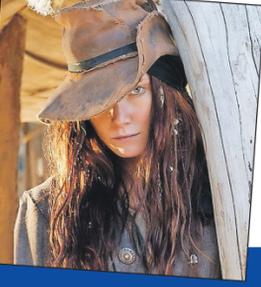
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WOMAN: AUTHOR REVEALS SECRET LIFE OF PIRATE ANNE BONNY

Galanis: Ditch the PLP losers

By **RICARDO WELLS**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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EVERY Progressive Liberal Party candidate rejected by voters on Election Day should be barred from contesting leadership posts at the party's October convention, former PLP member of Parliament Philip Galanis said Monday.

Mr Galanis told The Tribune the move would ensure that the party is in the best position to "return to the people."

"None of them, those that lost, should be allowed to challenge for any (leadership) post," Mr Galanis said. "It would send the message to the Bahamian public that we haven't learned a thing. Those that lost, lost for a reason. We

have to show voters that we get it; that we understand."

PLP leader Philip "Brave" Davis told The Nassau Guardian on Sunday that the party will hold a convention in October.

He also announced that former Minister of State for Finance Michael Halkitis would serve as chairman for the convention. Mr Halkitis has said the event is scheduled for October 22-25.

Mr Galanis on Monday said he was hopeful the party would emerge from its convention with a "Davis-Cooper" leadership team, supported by a "Sears chairmanship". He was referring to Exuma and Ragged Island MP Chester Cooper and former Attorney General Alfred Sears.

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TRUTH BEHIND FALL IN JOBLESS NUMBER

By **NICO SCAVELLA**
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MINISTER of Labour Dion Foulkes has downplayed the slight dip in the unemployment rate, saying yesterday many of the jobs from the sample period came from temporary employment and it is likely these workers are now on the unemployment line.

Mr Foulkes comments came in a statement reacting to the latest labour force study released by the

Department of Statistics on Friday, which showed the unemployment rate is now pegged at 9.9 per cent — a 1.7 per cent decrease from the results of October's survey.

He was not the only one to downplay the new job figures.

Veteran trade unionist John Pinder yesterday expressed doubt that the Progressive Liberal Party created over 39,000 "sustainable jobs" while in

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NIB MANAGER DENIES CORRUPTION CHARGES



SELENA SWEETING, 56, arraigned before a magistrates court yesterday for bribery and extortion. Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

By **LAMECH JOHNSON**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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AN employee of the National Insurance Board was remanded to prison yesterday afternoon after her initial Magistrate's Court appearance on extortion and

bribery allegations.

Selena Sweeting, 56, was handcuffed and flanked by police officers as she was taken into the Nassau and South Streets court complex to stand before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt charged with a count each of extortion and

bribery.

It is alleged that Sweeting, between January 27, 2017 and July 14, 2017, in respect of her duties as a public servant, demanded and solicited \$5,000 from Marvin Shawn Rahming for assisting him in

SEE PAGE SIX

MURDER TOLL RISES TO 84

By **NICO SCAVELLA**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A SUSPECT is in police custody and assisting officers with their investigation into a stabbing incident over the weekend that has left a man dead.

According to police, shortly after 2pm on Sunday, a man was involved in an argument with another man on Munson Village Road that led to him being stabbed.

The victim was rushed to hospital in serious condition where he later died from his injuries. Police later took a man into custody in connection with the incident.

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PR FIRM HIRED IN WAKE OF CUTBACKS

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
Tribune Chief Reporter
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THE Ministry of Tourism has re-engaged the services of global public relations firm Weber Shandwick to provide communications support in the US and Canada, according to an industry newswire.

The announcement was made by the firm on August 9, and distributed via PRNewswire, which reported that the ministry did not issue a request for proposals (RFP) for the job and that budget information was not disclosed.

Weber Shandwick was dropped in 2013 by the former Progressive Liberal Party administration after an 18-year long run with the ministry.

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BAIC CUTS 15 SHORT-TERM WORKERS

By **TANEKA THOMPSON**
Tribune News Editor
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FIFTEEN workers who were hired on a three-month contract at the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation were let go yesterday after their contracts expired, The Tribune understands.

According to a well-placed source in the Minnis administration, the workers were Progressive Liberal Party "operatives" all hired just before the May 10 general election.

SEE PAGE NINE

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THE FRUIT stand on the corner of Chippingham Road opposite Arawak Cay which burned down on Saturday evening. Owner Florence Miller also lost a number of items she had stored in a van. Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

IN LOVING MEMORY
OF
Sheila Alice Johnson
15TH AUGUST, 1937 - 15TH AUGUST, 2014

*I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills,
from whence cometh my help.*
Psalm 121:1

WE WILL ALWAYS AND FOREVER REMEMBER OUR MOTHER.

In Our Hearts Forever.
Paulette, Sheenagh and Stephen

FLORENCE CARRIES ON AFTER STALL BLAZE

THE owner of Flo's Fruit Stand on West Bay Street is trying to put the pieces of her business back together after a fire on Saturday destroyed her produce stall and stored items.

Despite the tragedy, Florence Miller, who has operated the popular fruit and vegetable stand near Arawak Cay for about 35 years, has returned to the site to sell her wares using two large umbrellas to shield her goods.

Ms Miller said the fire began after 9pm Saturday, a little over an hour after she left the area. She said police told her the incident may have been the result of arson which started from a nearby area and spread to her stall.



BACK in business already, Florence Miller selling produce next to the site of the fire.

"I don't really know what happened because I wasn't here," she told *The Tribune*.

"I had just left about eight o'clock and it was 9.30pm someone called me and said come now 'cause my place

on fire."

The blaze also damaged a van where Ms Miller stored vegetables, fruits, herbs and other items.

Ms Miller told *The Tribune* she could not put a dollar value on the items lost.

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DEADLINE SEPT. 8th, 2017

Viral video shows police officer in street scuffle

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A ROYAL Bahamas Police Force officer was recently engaged in a scuffle with a civilian near Christ Church Cathedral on George Street as he tried to handcuff the unruly man.

The incident was captured on cell phone video which was widely shared on social media yesterday.

The short clip shows the officer entangled in a tense struggle with another man in the middle of George Street. During much of the incident, the man and the officer are seen rolling on the ground and as the civilian attempts to stand up, the officer pulls his pants

and underwear down exposing the man's buttocks in an attempt to keep hold of him.

At one point in the video the civilian had the officer pinned to the ground on his back.

The officer is seen fighting to maintain his grasp on the civilian while on the ground before a nearby security guard steps in to assist.

The security guard encourages the officer to maintain his grasp on the man, while subsequently ordering the civilian to "stay down." The male civilian responds by loudly exclaiming: "I ain't do nothing though!"

In the brief moment it took for the security guard

to secure the officer's helmet and night stick from another male observer, and while the civilian's attention is focused on the security guard, the police officer managed to lift the civilian and body slam him onto the sidewalk.

The officer seemingly realised that he misplaced his handcuffs in the commotion, and told the security officer and others nearby, "Y'all hold him for me," before racing off to retrieve them.

Throughout the incident the man loudly protested his circumstances, shouting: "I ain't do nothing, boss."

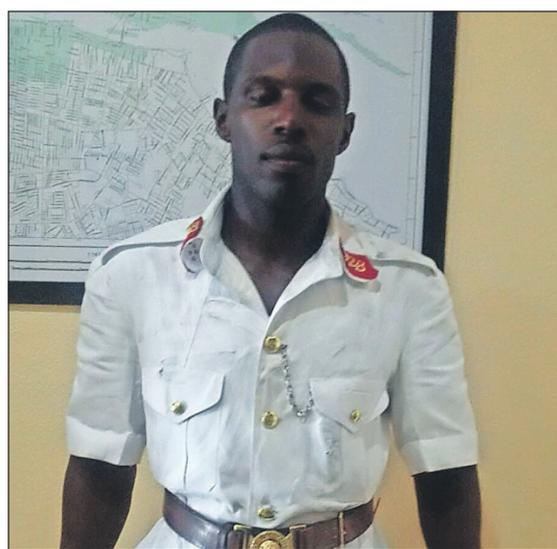
The security guard, in response, continued to tell the man to stay down.

The unruly man's bare buttocks were still visible as the security officer had him pinned to the ground.

Attempts to contact various senior police officials for clarification on the matter, such as what led to the incident, and if any charges would be brought against the man, were unsuccessful up to press time.

However, *The Tribune* received several photos of the police officer and the male civilian, claimed to have been taken after the altercation.

According to those pictures, the officer appeared to have two abrasions on the wrist area of one of his arms, and another four abrasions on the elbow area of his other arm.



A POLICE officer pictured after a reported scuffle.

GALANIS: DITCH THE PLP LOSERS

from page one

"I don't plan to play any role in the convention, other than my role as a delegate. But my support is fully behind Philip 'Brave' Davis and I am hopeful the party can rally itself behind Chester Cooper for deputy leader," said Mr Galanis.

"I am also hopeful that we are able to find a young and vibrant person for the role of chairman."

Asked to clarify what he meant, Mr Galanis said: "The party needs to do all it can to (improve) the public perception surrounding it. When I say young and vibrant, we need an influx of persons that are forward thinking and connected to the various communities around the country.

"Persons like (Alfred) Sears, persons like (Raynard) Rigby. Persons that have spent much of their lives promoting the development and advancement of The Bahamas. These are men that have been in our party and offered so much."

When contacted for comment, Mr Rigby said he had no plans to offer himself for chairman, a post he has previously held.

Meanwhile, Mr Sears, who was beaten by former Prime Minister Perry Christie in January in the race for party leader, said he was mulling his options now that it was clear a con-



PHILIP GALANIS, left, pictured with then Prime Minister Perry Christie, right, and former Governor General Sir Arthur Foulkes in 2015.

vention is happening later this year.

Mr Sears, who also unsuccessfully ran in Fort Charlotte in May, indicated that he was expecting a resolution to be brought to the party's National General Council (NGC) before convention plans were made public this week.

He later added that with all things considered, he

would "weigh all the options" ahead of him, as he remains "solely and completely dedicated (to) improving the PLP."

In the wake of the party's devastating election loss, much has been made of how the party would look to construct itself in the post-Christie era.

In the weeks that followed the May 10 general election,

former Christie-era standouts such as former Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell and former West End and Bimini MP Obie Wilchcombe have indicated their plans to help the party rebuild.

Mr Wilchcombe, who previously declared his intentions to bid for the chairman post, when contacted yesterday said he would publicly address his plans

later this week, urging *The Tribune* to "keep in touch" in the coming days.

Meanwhile, Mr Mitchell, leader of opposition business in the Senate, refused to comment on his plans for the upcoming convention.

However, one party source suggested that he, along with several other "legacy members" are expected to "jump in" for con-

sideration for some post.

According to the PLP's constitution, the party shall hold a general meeting of the party every year in the month of October or November, or otherwise determined by the NGC.

The party last held a convention in January. Prior to the 2017 convention, the party last held a convention in 2009.

DEPOSIT BAG OF CASH STOLEN

POLICE are seeking the public's help in locating several male suspects responsible for two separate armed robberies that occurred on Sunday.

In the first incident, shortly after noon a man was about to make a deposit at a local bank in western New Providence, when three males in a stolen gold Honda CRV, license plate number AK6511, armed with handguns pulled up.

The gunmen robbed him of a deposit bag containing a large amount of cash before speeding off. The stolen vehicle was later located

abandoned in the West Bay Street area. In the second incident, shortly before 9pm a man had just pulled up in his Hyundai Tucson at his home located in Imperial Park, when two males with handguns approached and robbed him of his vehicle containing a small amount of cash before speeding off.

The stolen vehicle was later located abandoned in the Redland Acres area.

Anyone with information on these incidents or any crime is asked to contact police at 919 or the Crime Stoppers hotline anonymously at 328-TIPS.

TEEN HELD AFTER MARIJUANA FIND

A TEENAGER from Grand Bahama was arrested on Monday for drug possession.

The 18-year-old youth of Gold Rock Creek was arrested after he was found with a quantity of marijuana shortly after 8am.

Police were on routine

patrol at the McClean's Town government dock, where the suspect was observed acting suspiciously.

He was searched and found in possession of 4.5 lbs of suspected marijuana with an estimated street value of \$4,500, police said. The investigation continues.



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Hidden faces of racism in The Bahamas

THE shocking events that unfolded in Charlottesville, Virginia over the weekend stunned a modern world that wanted to believe racism was a thing of the past or reserved for over zealous police in troubled cities. Suddenly, racism was alive, re-asserting its demonic vehemence when white supremacists led by the KKK staged the Unite the Right rally protesting the removal of a statue of confederate Gen Robert E Lee and were met by counter protestors.

Scenes of violence and hatred exploded like the lava of an erupting volcano. Millions watched online and on TV as hatred spewed forth its effluent. Brawls broke out. Cops met angry protestors with shields, tear gas and pepper spray. Two policemen monitoring the violence from overhead were killed instantly when their helicopter crashed. A car driven by a 20-year-old man described as "disillusioned", "misguided" and a supporter of the neo-Nazi white supremacist movement plowed into a crowd of counter protestors, killing 32-year-old Heather Heyer, a paralegal who devoted her life to the fight for human rights and justice. In all, 34 people were wounded, 19 suffering serious injuries.

It took the state of Virginia years to reach the decision to remove the statue at the heart of the anger and conflict, a statue that symbolised the South's defiant defense of a slave economy. The debate over its presence or removal raged in full view of the public.

In the end, right won out. History's evil must be remembered lest it be repeated, but it need not assume a place of honour in a state capital that is home to its flagship university, one designed by the framer of the Constitution, Thomas Jefferson.

What happened in Charlottesville and American President Donald Trump's refusal to lambast the KKK, neo-Nazis and white supremacists shook a sleeping public accustomed to so much protection for equal rights that the underlying need for that protection had slipped out of mind and sight. If it re-awakened the reality of racism in its most heinous form in the United States, it also sent a message to The Bahamas.

In The Bahamas, the evil of racism is much more insidious. Rarely openly displayed, its existence is caught in the glare of an eye when a black Bahamian does not realise a white Bahamian sees. It shows up in unpredictable places where instead of a wave or greeting there is an unexpected icy stare. Some vow it is alive in pricing, the same goods or services sold at different prices depending on the consumer or the community.

In The Bahamas, where whites make up less than 15% of the population, was

it anti-white racism when the Bahamian flag was designed with the aquamarine, black and gold? Here, in the government's own words, is the description of the symbolism: "Black, a strong colour, represents the vigour and force of a united people..." The omission of white as a colour on the flag has long sparked controversy and the late Norman Solomon excused it by saying that the white welting holding it together represented the minority segment of the population. Mr Solomon, a former UBP politician and progressive leader recognising the need for majority rule, refused to be insulted by the flag's design but for others it has remained a sore spot for more than 40 years.

If the hate and bitterness that spilled over in Charlottesville by people who felt displaced was misplaced, it touched a sensitive nerve that triggered 24-hour coverage of an issue so painful and raw it refuses to hide its ugly head.

In The Bahamas, while this weekend's events were a reminder, there have been improvements but we still have a short way to go. Most Bahamians work, live and play together without issue. They show the respect they should to people with whom they interact. Many would not even remember if the last person they spoke to or did business with was black, brown or white.

Fortunately, we are far ahead of our neighbour to the north. Bahamians are largely colour blind in the best sense.

But we must not ignore the undercurrent that influences decisions, makes immigration issues tougher and builds resentment. In addition to time mending and blending all, there is only one strategy to make certain that someday there will truly be One Bahamas. That solution is to treat each person as if you could not see colour. If the young man accused of stealing a pack of cigarettes has to be shackled going to court, so should the former Cabinet minister accused of extorting thousands of dollars.

If a developer snubs his nose at the government and tells it to leave the project alone, that developer should be apprised of the rules and should he not wish to abide by those rules that everyone else has to abide, he should be invited to do business elsewhere. The clerk who steals must be prosecuted in the same way his boss must be if there is a Customs violation.

Racism will never vanish until we vanquish the differences with which we treat people. Eradicate the difference in treatment and the resentment that breeds racism will, finally, be a lesson for history classes. This is one evil that we can put to rest and say "Sleep well and for a very long time."

Clarify position over police chief

EDITOR, The Tribune.

FROM the Constable on Patrol up the the Commissioner of Police (they are both COP) there is a need to maintain clarity of purpose. This is best done by appointing and leaving well alone. Confusion arises on the part of all parties when interference comes from the political side of our system of governance.

Our system allows for a changing of the guard from time to time and this works for both the politician and the policeman. The way this is done differs due to the nature of each. In the case of the politician it is the electorate that chooses every 5 years or so, who they want for the making of policy. In the case of the police their changing of the guard follows on a broader need for confidence in their capacity to do their duty. For the

sake of greater stability and lesser petulance the system has a built in guard against easy change. When deemed necessary changes are possible but need to be done on a manner that does not erode the general confidence in the force by overly including political influence as opposed to policy influence.

It is well documented that our present COP obtained the post following some opposition by others who wished to fill the post. Now that those persons find their sunrise brightening there seems to be an effort underfoot to revisit those earlier decisions. My problem is I do not see this as being necessitated by any salient professional shortcomings on the part of the present structure of the police force. It appears to me more as a ploy to influence the directorate of the police

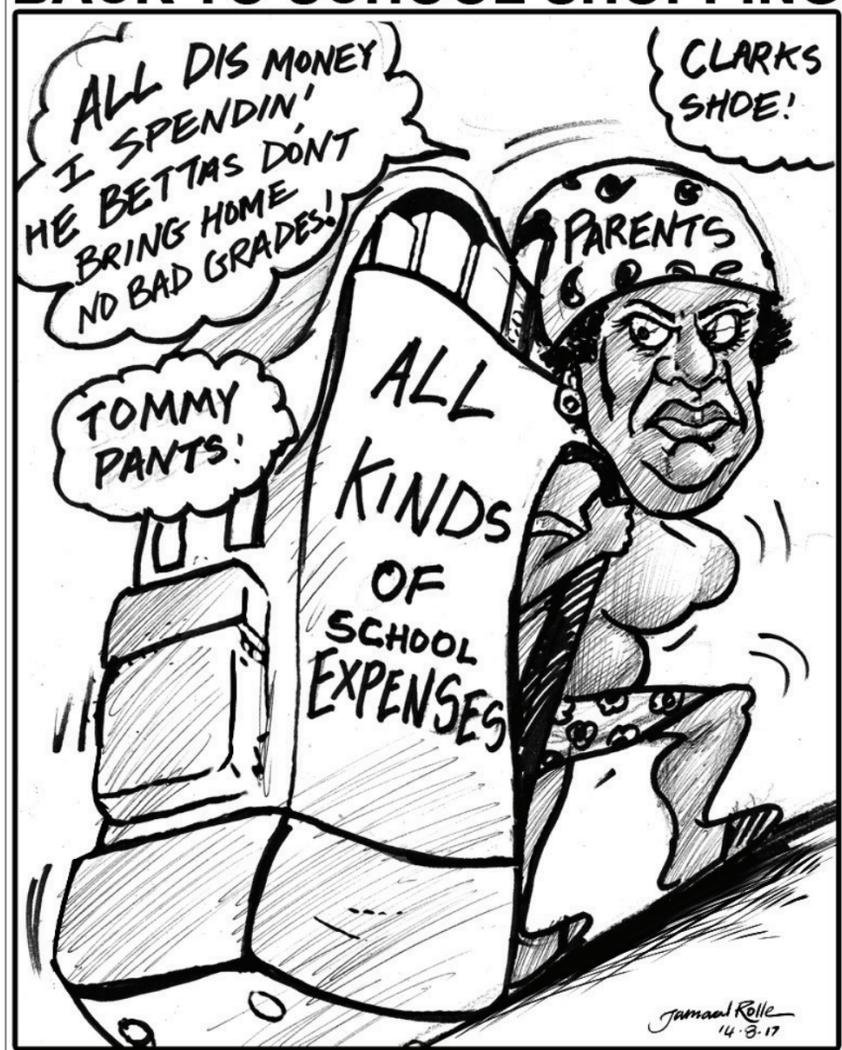
force by those who failed to do so earlier.

I accept that politicians in power are expected to execute policy. I only wish they would understand that they do this for my benefit and that of the electorate and the population at large and therefore should make every effort to ensure that there is transparency, clarity if you will, in how this is done. There needs to be a case presented for any change and comment from the public needs to be invited. I should not have to suffer "sip sip" to figure what is going on with public policy. I ask those in authority of our policy to please let me and my fellow citizens know clearly what it is that necessitates this confusion regarding the COP.

SIMON RODEHN
 Nassau,
 August 14, 2017.



BACK TO SCHOOL SHOPPING



Brave must rebuild

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IN politics, as in every day life, all human beings, and some animals, are capable of shedding their known persona and putting on a facial mask. This is done in the majority of cases to attempt to conceal or hide the true characteristics and intent of the wearer at any particular time. The wearing of masks, I submit, has become a perfected art form in our wonderful nation. In local politics, those who don a mask or multiple ones often succeed in securing elective or appointive office.

This is a phenomenon throughout the recorded history of mankind which has been practised by many in all spheres of society, be it civilised or otherwise. In ancient times, ordinary individuals discovered that they could wield political and communal clout, especially in the area of religion, by encouraging others to not see them as they are but as they are perceived to be. The Shaman or witch doctor controlled villagers and cave dwellers by his/her costume and/or facial mask. This was perfected as an art form over in Africa and other continents, Australia included.

Here in The Bahamas, our politicians, especially the successful ones, are now adroit at donning assorted masks depending on the particular circumstances of any given case. The recent defeat of the Progressive Liberal Party (PLP) came partially as a result of the 'mask' being removed from the face of that party when we witnessed, in broad daylight, the former PM, God bless him too, stated, with absolutely no shame or compunction that he, Christie, had the power to grant things that even God could not do! He also gave us 'the bird', big time, and called it a sign of agape love. It is not to be forgotten that one 'legal crow', Wayne Munroe, QC, slapped his 'wide load' posterior and stated that 'when they go low, we go lower....'

It is unfortunate that so many Bahamians, myself included, followed the siren call of the PLP and Christie & Company for so long with no tangible achievements in sight. Yes, little fits

LETTERS

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and starts, but nothing of value, save for the National Training Agency, NEMA, under the failed leadership of Captain Stephen Russell and the then Minister for National Reconstruction (Shane Gibson), did a poor job in bringing relief, even to this very day, to thousands of Bahamians who looked with great expectations to the government of PGC for 'hope and help'. The mask was brutally torn off by Matthew and Joaquin. The rest of the Emperor's clothing, such as they were (because he was naked for eons), were blown away into posterity.

Christie, with all due respect, often portrays himself in a totally different manner from reality. He often appeared to be benign; christian like and, for sure, compassionate. I submit that he was none of these things, at least not to an appreciable level. If he hated you, politically, you could not even expect a single crumb to fall from his banquet table. While giving you an appointment Christie must have known that either he had no intentions of keeping the same or was merely posturing. The mask fell off on the 10th May, 2017 and what most of you all are seeing now is disturbing and mentally mind boggling. Unmasking is not a good thing in some cases.

The PLP and its then leadership cadre failed the unwashed masses of Bahamians. They destroyed, literally, the dreams and aspirations of countless thousands of ordinary Bahamians, without demonstrating an ounce of shame. Now they and some of their geriatric and befuddled allies and sycophants say that there is a witch hunt going on and that the PM and the FNM are out to get them?

Millions of dollars were wasted by the Christie administration and, allegedly, tens of more millions went straight down the toilet, without flushing. The masks of the pretenders; clowns and jokers within the now defunct PLP have been removed and the resulting exposed faces remind me of Boo Boo Day! Ugly to the core.

All of the ministers in Christie's cabinet, save and except for Philip 'Brave' Davis (PLP-Cat Island), Leader of the rump PLP, and Shaye Gibson had grown too comfortable in the masks which they were wearing to the point where they actually believed what they saw reflected in the mirror. The masks, fellow Bahamians, fell away and in the glare of the sunshine the unmasked ones had to run towards the hills, possibly to escape prosecution. The mask of power was fatal, politically, to the PLP in May. Is it possible for the PLP to rise from the ashes (keep Johnathan Ash as far away as possible please) of defeat?

Yes. Brave Davis is in a unique position, even if he does not yet realise it. He is the only credible member for that party, at this juncture, capable of the gravitas; experience; leadership capabilities and access, allegedly, to the massive funding sources which the PLP will need to tap as it seeks to rise from the ashes of defeat. He must also sideline politically toxic individuals who continue to talk shaving cream while ranting; raving; picking their noses and walking like bow legged ducks.

As a political observer, it is clear that the FNM and our Prime Minister are now walking back from many of the electoral promises made during the campaign. There is, at this stage, no real cause for alarm as Dr Minnis and the rest of the people they are still wearing their mask, even if they want to take them off right now. I'd admonish them to keep their masks on because if they are unmasked any time soon, the shaving cream would hit the fan sooner than expected.

Brave must be for real. Brave must embrace agents of change. Brave must reorganise the PLP headquarters and offer separation packages to the current staffers. Seniors have their places but in today's world, the millenniums will generate the raw and social energy which the PLP must embrace going forward. He must not, at no time, take off his own mask. To God then, in all things, be the glory.

ORTLAND H. BODIE JR.
 Nassau,
 August 12, 2017.



FRANKLYN JOHNSON, 30, outside court yesterday.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

Suspect is charged with Emancipation Day murder

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A MAN appeared in Magistrate's Court yesterday accused of being the culprit behind a homicide that occurred on the recent Emancipation Day holiday. Franklyn Johnson, 30, of Kemp Road stood before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt facing a

murder charge concerning the August 7 shooting death of Keno Hepburn. However, there appeared to be confusion at the arraignment as he and 36-year-old Stephen Robinson, also of Kemp Road, were charged with causing grievous harm to the same victim on the same date. After an hour's recess was granted to the police

prosecutor to verify if this was the case, the charge remained and both Robinson and Johnson pleaded not guilty to causing grievous harm. They are scheduled to return to the Magistrate's Court on September 13 for a fixture hearing concerning the matter. As for Johnson, however, the murder charge he faces concerning Johnson's kill-

ing will be fast-tracked to the Supreme Court on October 11 through the presentation of a voluntary bill of indictment. Before the two were remanded to the Department of Correctional Services to await trial, Robinson and Johnson's respective lawyers, Calvin Seymour and Domek Rolle raised complaints concerning an alleged incident while their

clients were in police custody. The defence attorneys claimed that sometime between August 11 and 12 at the Wulff Road police station, their clients were in holding cells when they observed two civilian women, accompanied by police officers, who appeared to be looking at them. Realising what was

happening, the women were taken away, Mr Seymour said, claiming this took place before an official identification parade. The lawyers both raised the matter indicating that it would become an issue at trial. The chief magistrate made a note of their concerns before remanding the two men into custody.

TWO BAHAMIANS HELD OVER ALLEGED HUMAN SMUGGLING

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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TWO Bahamian men were taken into custody by the US Coast Guard last week in connection with an alleged illegal human smuggling operation involving a group of Haitians near Bimini, an immigration official reported. Immigration officer Naphthali Cooper on Grand Bahama reported that the

USCG Cutter Margaret Norvell brought six Haitians to Grand Bahama on August 9 after they were intercepted at sea off Bimini on August 5. The Haitians – two men, two women, and two children – were turned over to immigration authorities. According to Mr Cooper, the six individuals were a part of a group of 12 Haitians who were heading to the US when they were intercepted at

sea. They told Bahamian authorities that they left Bimini sometime on August 5 and were heading to Florida. They were flown to New Providence where they are being detained at the Detention Centre to await repatriation. Mr Cooper said that US authorities took the two Bahamians into custody and kept some of the Haitians for further investigations into the matter.

MAN IN COURT OVER GUNPOINT ROBBERIES

By LAMECH JOHNSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
ljohnson@tribunemedia.net

A MAN was remanded to prison yesterday after he was arraigned in Magistrate's Court in connection with two recent gunpoint robberies. Adrian Robinson, 39, stood before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt facing two counts of armed robbery and a single count of attempted armed

robbery. Concerning the latter charge, it is alleged that he, on August 10, while armed with a handgun, attempted to rob Troy Clarke of cash. Concerning the actual armed robberies, it is alleged that he, on July 27, while armed with a handgun, robbed Talitha Wallace of \$5 cash and an iPhone and Shervone Knowles of \$3 cash and an LG cellular phone.

Robinson was not required to enter a plea to any of the charges and was informed that both matters will be transferred to the Supreme Court through the presentation of a voluntary bill of indictment scheduled for October 11. Given the nature of the allegations, he was denied bail and remanded to the Department of Correctional Services to await trial. However, he can apply for bail in the Supreme Court.

MURDER TOLL RISES TO 84

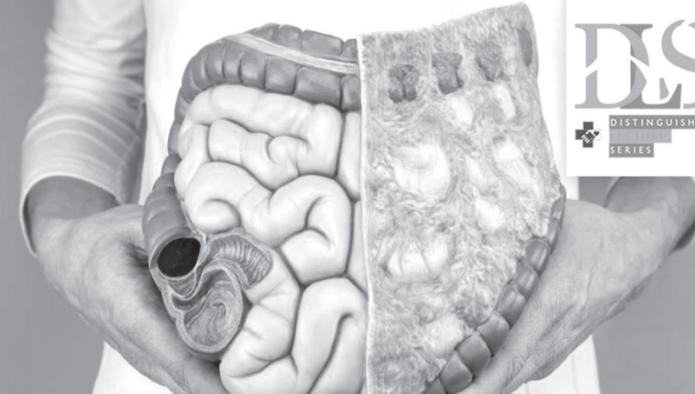
from page one

The killing is the 84th murder for the year, according to *The Tribune's* records, which also show that as of August 11, 2016 there was 65 murders. This represents about a 29 per cent increase. About a week ago, two men were killed in the capital, one of whom was murdered less than a month after he was released on bail. Police have not released the identities of the deceased men; however *The Tribune* understands they are 21-year-old Terrence Rolle

and 30-year-old Keno Hepburn. Rolle was charged with the murder of Troy "Ghost" Clarke and was released on bail on July 17. He was sitting in a parked car on Lily of the Valley Corner, off East Street when he and another passenger were fired on by two men in a charcoal grey coloured Honda sometime around 2.45pm on Saturday, August 5. The gunmen reportedly drove up to the parked car and opened fire on the occupants of the vehicle. Rolle received multiple gunshots to his torso, ac-

ording to police, and died at the scene. The other victim was taken to hospital by Emergency Medical Services (EMS). The second fatal shooting occurred outside a Cowpen Road nightclub shortly after 1.30am on Emancipation Day. According to police, Hepburn was involved in an argument with several other men before he was shot outside the club on August 7. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Anyone with information on these incidents is asked to call police at 919 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.





TREATING DIVERTICULAR DISEASE

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In mild cases, rest, a liquid diet and some oral antibiotics for a period of time can resolve the issue. But for patients with severe symptoms or who have had two or more severe attacks of diverticulitis, surgery may be necessary. Join us Thursday, August 17 when General & Laparoscopic Surgeon Dr Ross Downes will talk about Diverticulitis – it's causes, symptoms and when and if surgery is necessary.

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Truth behind fall in jobless number

from page one

office, charging that the vast majority of those jobs were temporary in nature and nothing "people could make a career out of".

Mr Pinder, Bahamas Public Services Union (BPSU) president, said he believes no more than 25 per cent of the 39,505 jobs added to the economy by the former administration between May 2012 and May 2017 are viable ones, and that the rest were the result of various government sponsored programmes or initiatives.

"The Ministry of Labour is pleased that the level of unemployment in the country has declined particularly on the islands of Grand Bahama and Abaco, two of our more populated islands," Mr Foulkes said on Monday.

"We are, however, mindful of the fact that the survey was conducted during the period April 24-30, 2017, just a few weeks prior to the recent general elections. Encouraged by the statistics gathered during

the sampling period, which is reflective of the temporary and short (term) jobs associated with the carnival and general elections, many of these employees, sadly, have since reverted to unemployed status and are seeking new opportunities in the labour market."

The senator said the Minnis administration is planning an expansion of the National Training Agency and is in discussions with the Inter-American Development Bank to finalise the implementation of the National Apprenticeship Programme as a way to better train young people to enter the job market.

He said the opening of more hotels at Baha Mar in Winter 2018, the reopening of the Grand Lucayan Resort in Grand Bahama and an increase in new businesses as a result of government confidence will all increase job opportunities.

"The bold and innovative policies of the Minnis administration are designed to provide permanent and sustainable employment for our citizens. I am confident

that during the next Labour Force Survey, the results of our policies will cause the unemployment rate to be further reduced," Mr Foulkes said.

Doubt

Meanwhile, Mr Pinder said Urban Renewal, the Christie administration's Yes Bahamas campaign for the 2016 referendum on gender equality, and employment in the construction sector after Hurricane Matthew are examples of these "short-term" opportunities that likely boosted job figures.

Mr Pinder said while the statistics showed a 29.2 per cent boost in civil service employment – the greatest increase in any sector, the "bulk" of those hirings were likely those made throughout the various law enforcement agencies.

Mr Pinder's comments were in response to the recent jubilation expressed by PLP Chairman Bradley Roberts over the country's unemployment rate dipping below 10 per cent for the first time since the great re-

cession.

The labour survey was conducted between April 24 and April 30 by the Department of Statistics.

According to the survey, the unemployment rate in New Providence was 10.4 per cent; 12.4 per cent in Grand Bahama and 7.8 in Abaco.

The results listed employment increases in the civil service, tourism industry and construction sector as contributing factors for the decrease. However, no sector experienced a greater increase in employment than the civil service.

In a statement Friday, Mr Roberts said the employment numbers show that 39,505 jobs were added to the economy between May 2012 and May 2017, and that 7,770 of that total were added in the last six months of the Christie administration.

Mr Roberts said those figures "represent further empirical evidence that the PLP did the heavy lifting and laid a firm and strong foundation of progress on which to build."

"Out of those 39,000 jobs they (claimed) may have produced or cut the unemployment rate, I will bet you no more than about 25 per cent of them are sustainable jobs where people can work...and reach the point where they are able to receive a pension or even qualify to lending institution for mortgages or any long-term lending," Mr Pinder said.

"So based on that, they would have hired over the last five years, hundreds of police officers, hundreds of defense force officers, hundreds of customs and immigration officers. "I believe the bulk of hiring was in the uniformed branches and the disciplined forces. But honestly the persons who were hired under Urban Renewal, and round here to clean the street and the contract workers, I don't call them job creation.

"The hurricane created some jobs because you got to cleanup, and there's a cleanup effort after that. During the referendum, they had people all over the

streets handing out fliers, Urban Renewal would have created some short-term jobs that relates to them cleaning up properties and trying to refurbish old people's homes and stuff like that.

"I want them to be able to create jobs that people could make a career out of."

Mr Pinder said the statistics were more curious given Grand Bahama's high unemployment issues, a problem he thinks is graver than the statistics suggest.

"I would jump off a bridge if you could really tell me that the unemployment rate in Grand Bahama is 12.5 per cent," he added, referring to Grand Bahama's statistics. "Are you kidding me? I'm in Freeport two, three times a month. Freeport is a ghost town. Ain't no employment in Freeport, unless the people have all moved to New Providence or Bimini and stopped looking for jobs. But don't tell me the unemployment rate in Freeport is 12.4 per cent. I don't believe that."



NIB MANAGER DENIES CORRUPTION CHARGES

from page one

receiving business from NIB.

She was asked whether she wished to be tried in Magistrate's Court or Supreme Court.

The 56 year old elected the Magistrate's court and pleaded not guilty to both allegations.

She is scheduled to return to the Magistrate's Court on November 1 and 2 for her trial.

"The court does not have jurisdiction to consider bail, therefore you are remanded to the Department of Correctional Services," the chief magistrate told the accused.

Sweeting was allowed a brief moment with relatives who were in court before being taken away from the courtroom.

She has retained attorney Devard Francis to represent her against the allegations.

According to her LinkedIn page, Sweeting is a project manager at the government agency.

HANDCUFFS on Selena Sweeting, 56, as she appears at court yesterday accused of bribery and extortion. Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

PR FIRM HIRED IN WAKE OF CUTBACKS

from page one

Alice Diaz, EVP of Weber's travel and lifestyle practice, told PR Week that ties were severed in 2013 due to "budget restructuring issues".

Attempts to reach Tourism Minister Dionisio D'Aguilar for comment

were unsuccessful up to press time.

The partnership follows redundancies in the Ministry of Tourism's Grand Bahama office earlier this month that affected 11 persons.

In July, 12 persons were recalled to Nassau after the ministry amalgamated its Washington, DC and Los

Angeles offices with New York and Houston.

Mr D'Aguilar had previously said that move would save around \$1m a year.

According to the release, Weber Shandwick will also assist with project work in the UK and Latin America.

"In May of this year, Hon Dionisio James D'Aguilar

was named minister of tourism, taking charge of one of the most crucial portfolios in the Bahamas," the release read.

"Together with Weber Shandwick, his team takes on the challenge of effectively promoting the 16 islands, which comprise a uniquely varied vacation option for travellers.

"Weber Shandwick will work with the Ministry of Tourism team on a comprehensive strategic programme to market the islands. In addition to benefiting from the agency's previous 18 years of work for the destination, the Bahamas programme will centre on an integrated approach enabling the destination to reach consumers with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

"The Ministry of Tourism actively promotes the

distinctive beauty, culture and character of 16 of our 700 islands for tourism. This array of choice is a complex marketing challenge that drives us to deliver creative storytelling," said the release.

Joy Jibrilu, director general at the Ministry of Tourism, was also quoted in the article and expressed optimism for the partnership. She credited the firm's experience with the destination, creativity and industry-leading expertise.

The Bahamas programme will be led by Weber Shandwick's Travel & Lifestyle practice, according to the release, which noted the firm's achievements, including Bronze Anvils, Big Apple awards and HSMAI Platinum awards for past Bahamas Ministry of Tourism programmes.

Yesterday, a former tour-

ism official heralded the move as a "commonsense" decision based on industry standards.

"The idea that an organization such as the Ministry of Tourism would not have a PR agency is something that is so extraordinary," the former tourism official said. "The justification doesn't make sense. General Motors has a PR agency. Microsoft has a PR agency. They are huge companies with the capacity to hire the best to do it all internally, but they have PR agencies. It is just a professional requirement and the large reason very simple.

"This is somebody also saying something good about you. If you're dealing with Tribune, NY Times, you want people to return your call. These relationships have been established for decades. If you're truly interested in building talent, you get people associated with those that have knowledge and capacity. If they don't do that, we're all out to sea," the official said.

"Go and find those countries adding people to offices overseas, go find them, they don't exist. Either you're a genius and you just know something that nobody else can see or you recognize the world has changed. Digital technology is taking over a lot of work that people used to do manually. You can choose not to do that, but you can waste a lot of money doing so."

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Event to unite residents of homes near industrial plants

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

THE Grand Bahama Environmental Association will hold its first "Industrial Plant Residents Day" on the grounds of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lewis Yard on Saturday, August 19.

Bertram Pinder, president of the GBEA, said the event would bring residents of the communities surrounding the industrial plants together in solidarity for a day of food, education, health screenings, and fun and games.

A mini-conference on health and environmental safety will take place from 10am-12.30pm and those attending will hear from an environmental scientist and health professional.

Iram Lewis, the MP for Central Grand Bahama, is also expected to speak, and the association has extended an invitation to Minister of Health Dr Duane Sands.

"This event will give the residents a time of fellowship, to share information on their health and safety, and for the children to have some fun," said Mr Pinder.

Health screening for blood pressure, diabetes and cholesterol will take place from 12.30pm-2.30pm by personnel from Grand Bahama Health Services. There will be a cook-out from 12.30pm-3pm and tickets are available at all Subway stores.

The entire Grand Bahama community is invited to attend and support the event.

Mr Pinder stressed that the association would continue to pursue its goal, which is the relocation of residents of the areas that surround the industrial

plants. "We continue to suffer from the pollution from the industrial plants," he said.

The GBEA/Pinder's Point/Lewis Yard Environmental Committee believes that the chemical emissions from the nearby industrial facilities have affected the health of residents for over 30 years. Three schools have been relocated from the area.

There have been complaints of respiratory problems, skin, eyes and nose irritations, and nausea and vomiting.

It is also believed the alleged pollution is the cause of the high incidents of cancer among residents in those areas.

Former ambassador to the United States Maurice Moore, a resident of Pinder's Point, recently announced that he has cancer and believes prolonged exposure to industrial pollution may be the cause.

In December 2015, a year-long environmental and health risk assessment study was completed by the Pan American Health Organisation (PAHO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) of the affected communities. The study, which was undertaken by the Christie administration, concluded that there were no health risks to the resident living near the industrial plants.

The study also recommended the installation of e-noses in the affected communities to monitor air quality and that a safety risk assessment is conducted.

THE GBEA and the residents have rejected the findings by PAHO and WHO. They were not happy with the results of the final draft of the safety risk assessment, conducted by the



SHUFFEL HEPBURN, pictured at a public meeting in Grand Bahama previously.

Antea Group of the Netherlands, and e-nose studies that were also completed last year.

Shuffel Hepburn, a GBEA member, claims

that the studies do not adequately address the actual extent of the safety risks and the dangers to residents posed by the nearby industrial businesses, and a possible catastrophic event.

They claim that e-nose devices are installed too high and are not monitoring the actual air breathed by the residents.

The affected communities are Pinder's Point, Seaco Town, Lewis Yard, Hawksbill, Wellington Pinder Heights Subdivision, Hunters, and Mack Town.

MOXEY TO REACH OUT TO SISTER CITIES AFTER BOARD APPOINTMENT

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

GRAND Bahama businesswoman Ginger Moxey has been appointed country representative for the Bahamas and regional representative for the Caribbean for Sister Cities International.

Ms Moxey, president and CEO of Immerse Bahamas, was approved for her new role by the board of directors of Sister Cities International during its 61st annual conference in Virginia Beach, Virginia on July 14.

Country and regional representatives are highly distinguished leaders of Sister Cities International who help connect the organisation with communities abroad.

The organisation believes that Ms Moxey is highly suited to take on the role of Caribbean representative due to her vast national and international network and previous work developing sister city partnerships in the Bahamas.

Chairman Tim Quigley said: "In her new role, she serves as an integral part of Sister Cities International's diplomatic and partnership outreach and will help promote the mission of Sister Cities: to promote peace through mutual respect, cooperation, and understanding—one individual, one community at a time."

Ms Moxey stated that the opportunities and benefits of Sister Cities International need to be fully explored throughout the Caribbean.

"There are many worthwhile initiatives that can be executed to bring about sustained development," she said. "These initiatives will cover a broad range of topics that fall under four categories: youth and education; arts and culture;



GINGER MOXEY

business and trade; and community development."

Ms Moxey hopes to establish an annual regional conference in 2018 that will specifically cater to reinvigorating existing relationships between the Caribbean and US cities.

Sister Cities International said that it looks forward to working with Ms Moxey in her new role and is confident that her experience and network will be beneficial to all partnerships in the Caribbean.

Sister Cities International was founded by President Dwight D Eisenhower in 1956. Sister Cities International serves as the national membership organisation for over 500-member communities with relationships in over 2,000 communities in 145 countries.

The network unites tens of thousands of citizen diplomats and volunteers who

work tirelessly to promote peace and understanding through programmes and projects focusing on arts and culture, youth and education, economic and sustainable development, and humanitarian assistance.

Cities in the Caribbean region interested in developing or renewing a sister city relationship can contact Ms Moxey at gmoxy@immersebahamas.com.

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The public is invited to attend a public discussion on the BAHAMAS POWER & LIGHT (BPL) CONSUMER PROTECTION PLAN

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The Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) is the independent regulator for the Electricity Sector in The Bahamas. This Public Consultation is mandated by the Electricity Act (EA) 2015. Under the EA, URCA is responsible for approving a set of standards proposed by Public Electricity Suppliers, for the protection of electricity consumers.

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MINISTER of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield, at centre right, shakes hands with Chinese Ambassador Huang Qinguo, in a group photo with Ministry of Foreign Affairs personnel including Permanent Secretary Sheila Carey, in front row, fourth from right. Photos: **Raymond A Bethel Sr/BIS.**

20 years of friendship

By **GENA GIBBS**
Bahamas Information Services

AFTER 20 years of establishing diplomatic relations with China, The Bahamas continues to expand its cultural influence internationally through promoting diversity, building people-to-people friendships, and establishing sister city relationships through Sino-Bahamian expressions of mutual respect.

“There have been many exchanges of high-level delegations between our two countries as we deepened and strengthened our knowledge, understanding and appreciation of one another’s cultures, priorities, commitments and needs,” said Minister of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield.

“To be sure, much has happened between us. It is the people-to-people exchanges that have demonstrated to us the face of the relationship, and which helps to provide mutual



MINISTER of Foreign Affairs Darren Henfield speaks at a ceremony to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the Bahamas’ establishment of diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China on August 11, 2017 at the British Colonial Hilton.

benefits and understanding.”

Mr Henfield presented his remarks at the 20th anniversary celebration of the Bahamas’ establishment of diplomatic relations with the People’s Republic of China at a ceremony on August 11 at the British Co-

lonial Hilton.

“Official bilateral relations between our two countries were established on May 23, 1997. As two member-states of the United Nations, we have been able to develop a mutually respectful and beneficial relationship in the twenty years since.

“Ours has been a particularly harmonious relationship that has been guided and solidified, in the first instance, through the will and effort of our two na-

tions to develop that relationship into a friendship. So, Ambassador Huang, we welcome this opportunity to share this evening with you to acknowledge and celebrate the achievements reached between The Bahamas and China in those 20 years.”

Mr Henfield pointed out that the international relationship has introduced The Bahamas to the appointments of eight Chinese ambassadors to The Bahamas and three Bahamian ambassadors to China, as “the immediate and official link between our two governments... to facilitate the communication, planning and implementation needed to realise our common aims and goals.”

Both countries have agreed upon the long-term goal of establishing a qualifying academic environment, comfortable for both Bahamian and Chinese students to choose the University of The Bahamas as an eminent educational institution for higher learning, research, and earning their academic degrees.

“The Bahamas has been fortunate with the envoys who have been appointed

to represent China in our country,” Mr Henfield added. “You and your predecessors had a keen understanding of our common goals and aspirations, and the passion and commitment to move towards attainment of the same.”

Some of the notable diplomatic accomplishments over the last 20 years that Bahamians have witnessed emerging from the relationship between The Bahamas and China are construction of the Airport Corridor and the Thomas A Robinson National Stadium, the Baha Mar resort complex, and The Pointe resort.

They also include the infrastructural developments to help buttress local coastlines against the ravages of sea-level rise, and the port developments in Grand Bahama and Abaco, along with the renewable energy endeavours.

“Modern diplomacy is built on a multitude of experiences and realities of different people, which allows them to co-exist peacefully in this shrinking world of ours. The ideals for which we are striving cannot happen unless we come together, meet each other and commit to work side by

side,” said Mr Henfield.

“Respect for the sovereignty of nations, the promotion and advancement of the socio-economic and sustainable development agendas, urban and rural development, the protection of the environment and human rights, capacity building, and the quest for peace take place when, collectively, we combine our efforts.”

Bahamians also enjoy the mutual support for international candidacies, visa-free travel to China, natural disaster relief assistance, as well as the dialogues engendered and arrangements agreed at the national, regional and hemispheric levels.

“All contribute to a strong and mutually beneficial relationship, just to mention a few,” said Mr Henfield.

“China has proven to be a good friend and development partner to the people of The Bahamas. To this end, my government will do its utmost to maintain and promote Sino-Bahamian relations through ongoing dialogue between our capitals, and our business and cultural communities, for the benefit of both our nations and our peoples.”

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Funeral Service
Jean Caroline Thomas, M.B.E.
née Malone, 94



who died on Thursday, 10th August, 2017, will be held at Christ Church Cathedral, George Street, Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas, on Saturday, 19th August, 2017 at 10:00am.

The Very Reverend Patrick L. Adderley, Dean of Nassau will officiate. Interment will be made in The

Garden of Remembrance, Christ Church Cathedral, George Street.

Mrs. Thomas was predeceased by her husband, Brian B. Thomas; parents, Benjamin P. and Emile Malone; brothers, Kenneth and Harcourt Malone.

She is survived by her son, Godfrey Brian Thomas and his wife, Victoria Thomas and her son Kenneth Yowell; her daughter, Monica and Jim Cornwell; great-grandchildren, Austin and Haley Hunt; sister, Anne Craig; sister-in-law, Carolyn Malone; nephews, Stephen Malone, Geoffrey and Connie Malone, their children, Jennifer Baldespino, Jason, Matthew and Michael Malone, Andrew and Laura Lone, Colin Craig and his son Braden and Neil Craig; nieces, Sandra and David Morton, Valerie and Mark Klauss, Susan Malone Guthier and her daughter, Cheryle Mignone, Catherine and Shane Davis and their children Caleb and Sara Davis; great-great nieces and nephews, Juliette, Victoria and Isabella Mignone and Jacob and Jonah Baldespino; cousins, Lilly Lightbourn, Lorraine Lightbourn, Bradley Lightbourn, Desmond Lightbourn and other family and friends.

In Lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Salvation Army, P.O. Box N. 205, Nassau or to a charity of your choice in memory of Mrs. Jean C. Thomas.

Arrangements Kemp’s Funeral Home Limited.



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NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

Bank of The Bahamas Limited (“the Bank”) is pleased to announce that its Quarterly Financial Statements as at June 30, 2017 have been finalized and a copy of the statements can be accessed from the Bank’s website, www.bankbahamas.com

BANK OF THE BAHAMAS LIMITED
Unaudited Condensed Consolidated Interim Financial Statements
Twelve months ended June 30, 2017
Excerpts Only

Unaudited Interim Statement of Financial Position as at June 30, 2017	
Total Assets	\$757,672,025
Total Liabilities	\$691,102,316
Total Equity	\$66,569,709

Unaudited Interim Statement of Comprehensive Income for the twelve months ended June 30, 2017	
Net interest income	\$26,536,675
Total comprehensive loss	(\$43,637,759)



BAIC cuts jobs of 15 short-term workers

from page one

The source said the workers were not fired, but the Minnis administration decided to let them go once their contracts ended.

The Tribune was told some of the workers were upset and were seen crying at the property.

BAIC Executive Chairman Miriam Emmanuel did not comment when contacted yesterday.

This is not the first-time workers hired by the former government have been let go, as the Minnis administration is focused on reducing recurrent expenditure and unnecessary costs.

In early August, the Ministry of Tourism made 11 workers in Grand Bahama redundant. About two weeks earlier the ministry reduced its staff count of employees abroad by 12 as

part of a restructuring exercise.

And in late June, Minister of Public Service and National Insurance Brensil Rolle said 21 workers at the National Insurance Board (NIB) would be terminated, as their contractual agreements were set to expire in the following days.

At the time, he said the group was a part of the former Christie administration's pre-election hires, adding that they were engaged about eight to 12 months ahead of the May 10 election.

He also revealed in June that officials were looking into the files of 1,700 persons who were on contract.

Last month, Minister of Finance K Peter Turnquest told this newspaper the public sector has been "burdened" with people with "legitimate expectations," adding the Minnis adminis-

tration will "unfortunately" have to address the problem.

"Our hope is to regularise as many of the contract workers as we can into the system," he said at the time. "It's unfair for them to be hanging out there with no real safety and security as to their employment going forward."

"By the same token, we recognise that we will have to rationalise the public service. We cannot burden the Bahamian people with resources that we already have and that we may not need. That's all part of this process we are going through, (finding the) right size of government. We have to figure out how we can reallocate some of that human resource. To the extent that we have excess capacity then we are going to have to deal with that," Mr Turnquest said.

CHIEF OF STAFF IS NAMED FOR HOSPITAL

THE Public Hospitals Authority (PHA) is pleased to announce that Dr Caroline Burnett-Garraway has been appointed medical chief of staff for the Princess Margaret Hospital, which takes effect this month.

With more than two and half decades as a physician in the public health sector, Dr Burnett-Garraway brings a wealth of training and experience to her new position. A graduate of the University of the West Indies Faculty of Medical Sciences undergraduate and graduate programmes in Jamaica and Barbados, she began her medical career at the Princess Margaret Hospital in 1990 as a house officer.

Starting in 1999, Dr Burnett-Garraway served as senior registrar/assistant medical director in the Accident and Emergency Department, eventually serving as consultant, medical director and ultimately as chief of service for the department from 2014 to 2017. She also held the position of deputy medical chief of staff for the hospital from 2010 to 2013. In 2004, Dr Burnett-Garraway completed the Leadership Development for Physicians in Academic Health Centres programme at the Harvard School of Public Health in Boston.

She has formerly held the position of chairman of the external disaster committee at PMH and served on the ambulatory care department management committee from 1994 - 1995. She sat on the continuing medical education committee at PMH from 1999 - 2000 and she



Dr Caroline Burnett-Garraway continues to sit on the Accident and Emergency Department clinical management committee. She is also serving on the medical management/advisory committee at PMH for the second time, with her current term on the committee beginning in 2010 until the present.

In addition to her clinical and administrative experience, Dr Burnett-Garraway is a respected medical lecturer, and holds the post of associate lecturer in the Department of Emergency Medicine at the University of the West Indies - School of Clinical Medicine & Research programme located at the Princess Margaret Hospital.

As medical chief of staff, Dr Burnett-Garraway is a member of the executive management committee, the administrative body responsible for efficient and effective management of the day-to-day operations of the nation's largest hospital. In addition to direct patient care and on-call responsibilities as a consultant physician, in her new position she will also have

oversight responsibility for the physician and allied health services of the hospital.

She is an accomplished musician having played violin with the Bahamas National Symphony Orchestra, the Bahamas National Chamber Ensemble, and the ever popular Strings 'n Tings Quartet. She is married and has one daughter.

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FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE FOR THE QUARTER ENDED JUNE 30, 2017

The Bank began a journey during fiscal 2016 to transform Bank of The Bahamas ("the Bank" or "BOB") into a customer centric institution with sustainable profitability, providing good returns for investors and stability and growth for depositors. As we report on our fourth quarter and year end results, we continue to focus on our initiatives around Corporate Governance, Collections, Cost Optimization and Customer Care. Through these initiatives, we at BOB are committed to returning the Bank to profitability, ensuring that each customer experience is exceptional, and that the solutions we provide are cutting edge.

Total operating income increased from prior year by \$3.4 million or 45.12% for the quarter and increased \$3.0 million or 8.82% year to date. For the quarter, the increase was owing to higher net interest income and higher other operating income. While year to date, the increase was primarily owing to higher net interest income by \$2.2 million and higher net fee and commission income by \$1.2 million as the Bank strengthens its auxiliary revenue streams. The Bank continued to manage its resources effectively and efficiently by successfully reducing operating expenses by \$0.5 million or 5.79% for the quarter and \$1.4 million or 4.17% year to date, mainly on lower staff costs, other administrative expenses and lower impairment losses. The Bank continues to focus on improving its core operating performance.

Despite significant strides made mid-stream into the transformation process, the Bank recognized net loan loss provisions of approximately \$35.4 million during the quarter and \$49.2 million year to date. This was up by \$20.1 million from the same quarter last year and up by \$24.7 million year to date compared to prior year. As a result of the increased credit loss expenses, the Bank recognized a net loss of \$32.8 million for the quarter and \$43.8 million year to date. The Bank continues to focus its efforts on actively monitoring and managing the credit portfolio.

The Bank's return to profitability is largely dependent on the performance of the loan portfolio. Before credit loss expense, the Bank would have recognized net income of \$2.6 million for the quarter and \$5.4 million year to date. As such, a great part of the Bank's profitability will be contingent on resolving its non-performing loans. To facilitate this, subsequent to June 30, 2017, the Government has agreed to purchase certain loans, primarily impaired, by Bahamas Resolve Limited ("Resolve") at a price equivalent to the gross book value of these loans, which is estimated to be \$167.7 million. The consideration for this purchase would be the issuance of a promissory note. In addition, the Government has agreed to redeem the entire \$100 million of the promissory notes from the first Resolve transaction in 2014 between August 2017 and May 2018. It is expected that this transaction will provide substantial relief for the Bank's credit portfolio and overall financial position and restore all of the Bank's regulatory capital ratios to compliance.

The management team of the Bank remained focused on execution of its transformation plan, including improvements to risk management, increasing operational efficiency, and restoring top line sustainable growth. As we prudently, systematically and urgently improve in these areas, the Management is optimistic that the Bank is on the path to success.

We are grateful to our BOB team of employees, senior management, directors, shareholders and most importantly our customers who have remained loyal in their continued support of the Bank.

Renee Davis (Mrs.)
Acting Managing Director



GOVERNMENT supporters perform a parody involving a Venezuelan militia up against Uncle Sam, a personification of the US government, during an anti-imperialist march to denounce Trump's talk of a "military option" for resolving the country's political crisis, in Caracas, Venezuela, on Monday. Photo: Ariana Cubillos/AP

Maduro wants 'truth commission' after military threat by Trump

CARACAS, VENEZUELA
Associated Press

PRESIDENT Nicolas Maduro asked the pro-government constitutional assembly Monday to investigate the opposition for allegedly supporting Donald Trump's remarks on using military action to resolve Venezuela's political crisis.

Addressing a rally of government supporters, Maduro said Trump's comments were prompted by the failure of the opposition's campaign to oust him after months of destabilizing protests.

Calling for "justice," he said the truth commission set up by the constitutional assembly should investigate opposition leaders as "traitors" for not speaking out clearly against the US president. Opponents who

don't co-operate in the investigation will face arrest, he warned.

"If they don't show up on their own, we'll go looking for them with handcuffs," he told a few thousand government supporters, many of them state workers, gathered at the presidential palace.

The main opposition alliance rejected the use of military threats to resolve Venezuela's crisis. But its statement Sunday didn't mention Trump by name, instead blaming Maduro for converting Venezuela into a threat to regional stability and accusing him of ceding the country's sovereignty and oil wealth to Cuba and other foreign powers.

Maduro also ordered two days of civilian-military exercises to dissuade a US attack.

As Maduro and other senior officials sought to rally opposition to Trump, US Vice President Mike Pence found himself doing damage control for the Republican leader in a previously scheduled visit to Latin America.

Seeking to highlight the worsening plight in Venezuela, he met Monday in Cartagena, Colombia, with a small group of Venezuelans who have fled their homeland. He described their stories as "heartbreaking" and before leaving he and his wife, Karen Pence, grasped hands with the group in a prayer circle as she prayed for "comfort to the Venezuelan refugees."

Trump's remarks last week that he wouldn't rule out a "military option" for Venezuela shocked even allies in Latin America who

thought the US had turned its back on decades of big-stick diplomacy in the region. Pence's last stop on the four-nation tour will take him to Panama, which saw the last US military invasion in Latin America, the 1989 "Operation Just Cause" to remove military dictator Manuel Noriega.

"The phantom of military interventions in Latin America disappeared a long time ago and we don't want it to return," Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos, the staunchest US ally in the region, said Sunday at a news conference alongside Pence.

Pence said Monday that Trump's remarks were intended to put Maduro on notice that "we will not stand by while Venezuela collapses into dictatorship" and that "a failed state in

Venezuela threatens the security and prosperity of our entire hemispheres and the people of the United States".

Venezuelans are used to hearing Maduro accuse the US of plotting his overthrow and even some government loyalists attending Monday's rally didn't take Trump's threat literally. But others held up his comments as proof that the US has been working hand-in-glove over the past four months of violent protests to oust Maduro, something the US has denied.

Bento dos Santos didn't attend Monday's rally but watched the throngs file past him as he stood in line at a public notary on behalf of a client who pays him the equivalent of \$1 to stand in line all day to certify documents. The 60-year-old said he needs the extra cash to

supplement the paltry \$20 a month he receives in a disability pension.

Although he blames Maduro for destroying the oil-rich economy, he still reveres the late Hugo Chavez and has no faith an opposition-led government would improve his welfare.

"If these guys are bad, the others are much worse," he said.

Many in the opposition fear Trump's remarks could give the government the perfect excuse to go after its opponents more than it already has.

In the past three weeks, a half dozen opposition mayors have been removed or arrested while the new constitutional assembly has removed the outspoken chief prosecutor and threatened to target the opposition-controlled congress.

SOCIAL MEDIA HARNESSSED TO EXPOSE WHITE NATIONALISTS

NEW YORK
Associated Press

ONE of the social media posts resembled a wanted poster or a missing-persons flyer: Photographs of men were arranged in rows, seeking their names and employers.

But the Facebook post wasn't circulated by law enforcement in the search for a suspect or by relatives looking for a missing loved one. It was an example of ordinary people trying to harness the power of social media to identify and shame the white nationalists who attended last weekend's violent rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

A Twitter account dedicated to calling out racism identified people who attended the rally using photos culled from the news and social media and listed their places of employment and other information.

"I'm a white Jewish man. So I strongly believe that white people in particular have a responsibility to stand up against bigotry because bigotry thrives on silence," the creator of the account, Logan Smith of Raleigh, North Carolina, told The Associated Press. Using the handle YesYoureRacist, his account grew from around 64,000 followers on Saturday to more than 300,000 by Monday afternoon.

A website created Sunday dedicated itself to collecting the names, social media profiles, colleges and employers of people photographed at the rally. At least one person has lost his job as a result.

Together, the efforts showed that angry online groups can be used to renounce racism as well as promote it.

"The goal with online shaming is very short term and driven by people's desire to feel as if they are fighting back and having an impact," said Brian Reich, who's written several books on digital communications, behavior and political influence. "They are afraid, appalled and they want to stop it."

But is it helpful? Reich said the people behind these efforts "are arguably fanning the flames," giving attention to a group — white supremacists — that feeds on attention.

Nicholas Brody, professor of communications at the University of Puget Sound, said the events show that in the age of social media, "nothing is really anonymous anymore."



WHITE nationalist demonstrators walk into the entrance of Lee Park surrounded by counter demonstrators in Charlottesville, Virginia, on Saturday. People are using social media to identify and shame white nationalists who attended this past weekend's gathering in Charlottesville. At least one person has reportedly been fired as a result, showing that the power of angry online mobs can go both ways. Photo: Steve Helber/AP

People attending a white supremacist rally decades ago may have had the comfort of knowing that their schools, employers and disapproving family members probably wouldn't find out about their activity.

These days, not only can information be quickly and widely shared, but a lot of data is available about people on Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn. Image searches and facial-recognition technology, meanwhile, can make it relatively easy to identify people online. Smith said he called out the people pictured in photos from the rally through a combination of tips from former classmates and others and on-line sleuthing.

But the method isn't foolproof. In 2013, users of Twitter and the website Reddit wrongly accused a man of being a suspect in the Boston Marathon bombing. Reddit later apologized.

Peter Cvjetanovic, a 20-year-old college student, was photographed shouting with a group of torch-wielding protesters Friday during a march through the University of Virginia campus. Cvjetanovic said in a television interview that he didn't expect the photo to spread as widely as it did.

But spread it did. And thousands of people signed an online petition to have him kicked out of school. Cvjetanovic told a local TV station that he is "not the angry racist they see in that photo," but a white nationalist who cares for all people.

The University of Nevada in Reno confirmed Monday that Cvjetanovic is a student there. Spokeswoman Kerri Garcia said the university is "still monitoring the situation and reviewing information".

Meanwhile, Top Dog, a hot dog company in the San Francisco area, said one of its employees resigned after being confronted by management about participating in the rally.

The practice of publishing private or identifying information — such as an address or phone number — about people online in an attempt to hurt, shame or abuse them is known as "doxing".

In the 1990s, anti-abortion hackers famously exposed abortion providers' home addresses, photos and other information on a website. Names that were greyed out indicated people who had been "wounded." A strikethrough meant they had been killed.

US PRESIDENT DENOUNCES HATE GROUPS AFTER PRESSURE

WASHINGTON
Associated Press

BOWING to pressure from right and left, President Donald Trump condemned white supremacist groups by name on Monday, declaring "racism is evil" after two days of public equivocation and internal White House debate over the deadly race-fueled clashes in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In a hastily arranged statement at the White House, Trump branded members of the KKK, neo-Nazis and white supremacists who take part in violence as "criminals and thugs".

The groups are "repugnant to everything that we hold dear as Americans," he said.

In his initial remarks on the violence Saturday, Trump did not single out the groups and instead bemoaned violence on "many sides". Those remarks prompted stern criticism from fellow Republicans as well as Democrats, who urged him to seize the moral authority of his office to condemn hate groups.

Trump's softer statement on Saturday had come as graphic images of a car plowing into a crowd in Charlottesville were playing continually on television. White nationalists had assembled in the city to protest plans to take down a statue of Confederate Gen Robert E Lee, and counter-protesters gathered in opposition. Fights broke out, and then a man drove into the opponents of the white supremacists. One woman was killed and many more badly hurt. Twenty-year-old James Alex Fields Jr. of Ohio is charged with second-degree murder and

other counts.

Loath to appear to be admitting a mistake, Trump was reluctant to adjust his remarks.

The president had indicated to advisers before his initial statement Saturday that he wanted to stress a need for law and order, which he did. He later expressed anger to those close to him about what he perceived as the media's unfair assessment of his remarks, believing he had effectively denounced all forms of bigotry, according to outside advisers and White House officials.

Several of Trump's senior advisers, including new chief of staff John Kelly, had urged him to make a more specific condemnation, warning that the negative story would not go away and that the rising tide of criticism from fellow Republicans on Capitol Hill could endanger his legislative agenda, according to two White House officials.

Aides were dispatched to Sunday talk shows but struggled to explain the president's position. A stronger statement was released — but attributed only to an unnamed spokesperson.

Tougher condemnations began Sunday night with Vice President Mike Pence, traveling in South America, declaring that "these dangerous fringe groups have no place in American public life".

• President Trump says he may grant a pardon to former Sheriff Joe Arpaio following his recent conviction in federal court for contempt after his immigration patrols racially profiled Latinos, prompting outrage among critics who say the move would amount to an endorsement of racism.

Run away with an iPad Mini

ONE lucky student has a shot of running away with an Apple iPad Mini.

Custom Computers, an authorised distributor for Apple products, has donated an iPad Mini to the Susan G Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure® event.

The device, which has pink accessories, will be raffled off to a youngster who is registered for the 8th annual Komen Bahamas event.

All students 18 and under will be automatically entered into the drawing after they register to take part in the race in January.

Custom Computers owner Pia Farmer said her company was happy to get involved. "Custom Computers is proud to support Susan G Komen Bahamas.

This donation is just a small token of our company's commitment to the community at large and to young people," said Ms Farmer.

"The opportunity to reward a youngster who not only wants to help, but goes as far as to register for an event of this magnitude, speaks volumes to their character and we couldn't be happier to take part."

Sunshine Insurance marketing co-ordinator Rogan Smith thanked Custom Computers for the donation.

"It's so good to work with a company that believes in giving back to the community in which they operate," said Ms Smith. "The iPad Mini is a great learning tool and we know that one spe-

cial boy or girl will appreciate it.

"This is just one of many gifts that Susan G Komen plans to raffle off in the coming weeks that we hope will get Bahamians eager to get registered. As a nation, we tend to wait until the last minute, but hopefully this, and the other gifts to come, will incentivise the public to register sooner."

Susan G Komen is the first event in the Sunshine Insurance Race Weekend series, which also includes Sunshine Insurance Marathon Bahamas.

Each year, thousands of breast cancer fighters, survivors and participants flood the Montagu shore for the race, which aims to raise awareness and

money for several cancer charities.

Race organisers encourage schools, churches, civic organisations, families and friends to form teams of 10 or more people and compete for prizes on race day.

"This year, we are focusing heavily on primary and high school children. It's important that we educate the youths from an early age so that they are aware of the disease and understand the importance of not just engaging in healthy practices, but being their brother's and sister's keeper," said Ms Smith.

The 5k (3.1 miles) event begins at Montagu Beach and ends east of the old Paradise Island Bridge next to the police station.

Until December 9, chil-

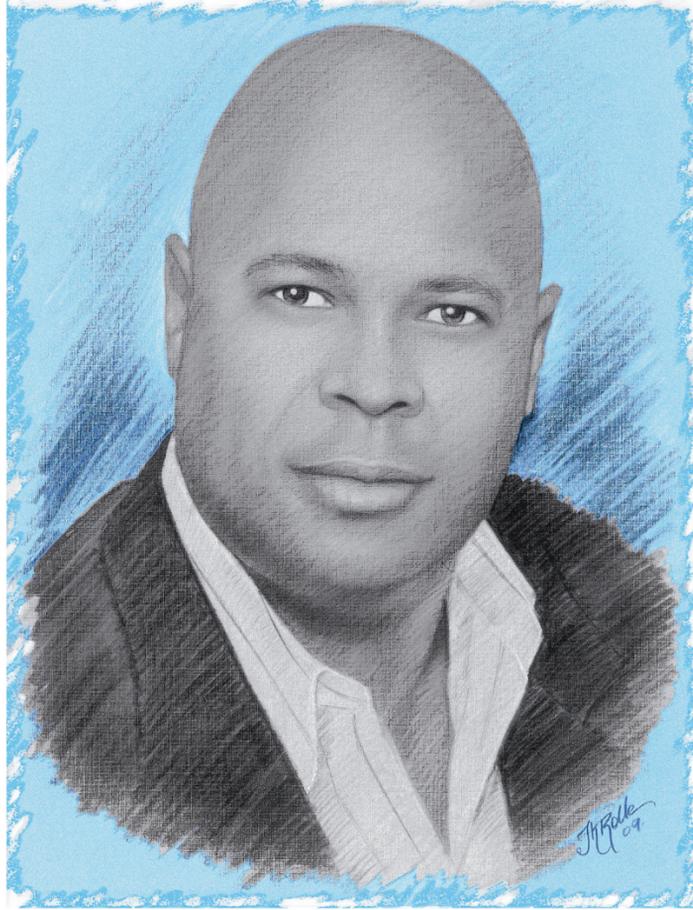


CUSTOM Computers Limited Sales Manager Tammie Thompson, left, presents an Apple iPad Mini to Sunshine Insurance Marketing Coordinator Rogan Smith for the Susan G Komen Bahamas Race for the Cure 5K event.

Photo: **Chakita Archer**

dren under the age of 12 pay a rate of \$15. The price for adults is \$30. Each participant will get a finisher's medal. To register online, visit www.komenbahamas.org.

Online registration closes January 11, 2018 at midnight. To register in person, visit the Sunshine Insurance office on Shirley Street or Baillou Hill Road.



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KELLY's shopper Shakhia Godet, above and below, after her trolley dash in the store for back to school prizes.

TROLLEY DASH PRIZE FOR LUCKY SHOPPER

ON Friday, Kelly's House & Home made the dream of going on a shopping spree come true for one lucky Kelly's shopper, Shakhia Godet.

For the second year, the company decided to give back to its valued customers by adding a new twist to its annual back to school prizes.

Customers purchasing \$50 worth of school supplies were eligible to fill out an entry form to participate in a shopping spree and also have a chance to win one of two bicycles or a laptop

with bag or a fully loaded back to school basket.

At 8.30am, Ms Godet had a few minutes to map out a strategy to capture as many school supplies from the store as she could.

When the clock started, Ms Godet stacked her cart high with multiple items during her one minute and ten second long shopping spree. She managed to stuff that cart with over \$793 worth of school supplies.

Winners of other prizes will be announced on Friday, September 1.



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