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WOMAN: CHANGING ABUSER'S BEHAVIOUR TO TACKLE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

BPL's \$1.5m payout on eve of election

- Gibson's order eight days before poll
- CEO sacked as firm chases fraud money
- Management deal may collapse

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor
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SHANE Gibson ordered Bahamas Power & Light (BPL) to pay a collective \$1.44m "lump sum" bonus to all its staff just eight days before the May 10 general election, Tribune Business can reveal.

E-mails obtained by this newspaper show that the then-minister of labour and national insurance "directed" top BPL executives and the former Board to make the payments by May 5, 2017, so that the energy monopoly's unions maintained

"parity" with their public sector counterparts.

The documents show that the payments were rapidly calculated, authorised and paid within a four-day period following Mr Gibson's directive.

A May 2, 2017, email from now-terminated BPL chief executive, Pamela Hill, to a senior human resources executive, stated: "I have been advised that the Minister of Labour has directed BPL to provide a one-time lump sum payment, equal to an increment, payable to all staff in both unions."

SEE PAGE FIVE

'PRIVATISED CARNIVAL' PLAN UNDER STUDY

By **RASHAD ROLLE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE Minnis administration is considering treating Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival "like any other event," one where Bahamians interested in hosting it can approach the government and perhaps secure "some kind

of subvention or assistance" to do so, Youth, Sports and Culture Minister Michael Pintard said yesterday.

"We would evaluate all proposals inclusive of those that might end up having carriage of carnival," he told *The Tribune* on Monday.

SEE PAGE SIX



When the clouds parted...

THE SOLAR eclipse around 3:46pm yesterday over The Bahamas. See page two for more photographs from The Bahamas as the solar event took place in the skies. Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

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SACKED WORKERS NEED JOB OPTIONS

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

INTERMITTENT public service firings stand to create a "snowball effect of fear and pandemonium," according to Bahamas Institute of Chartered Accountants (BICA) President Gowan Bowe, who has urged the Public Service Commission to take

a centralised approach to the government's stated restructuring efforts.

Mr Bowe said the private sector was keenly eyeing reports of terminations in the public service, adding that the firings will only shift the government's burden from one pocket to another unless economic initiatives are fully espoused and implemented.

SEE PAGE SIX

PRE-SCHOOL ENROLMENT BELOW 50%

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

EDUCATION Minister Jeff Lloyd yesterday underscored the low enrollment numbers for public preschools as he stressed the government's efforts to legislate early childhood learning.

More than half of the country's preschoolers are

not enrolled in school before grade one, with only 550 pre-schoolers currently registered in the public system, he said.

Mr Lloyd spoke of education challenges and the government's plan for a course correction at the National Public School's Administrators conclave at the Melia hotel.

Major reform initiatives

SEE PAGE EIGHT



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BAHAMIANS looked to the sky yesterday as a partial eclipse of the sun took place over the islands.

Tribune photographer Terrel W. Carey, pictured above, captured the main image on this page of the eclipse at about 3.46pm yesterday.

Meanwhile, fellow Tribune photographer Shawn Hanna joined youngsters Judith and Jeremy Marshall, below, as they made pinhole viewers to watch the eclipse, before watching from the top of Lagoon Court in Sandyport (top and bottom right).

GAZING AT THE CRESCENT SUN



Mrs. Anthea B. Cox,
Vice President, Human Resources & Training

Congratulations on Your Retirement!

The Board of Directors, Management and Staff of Commonwealth Bank salute Mrs. Anthea B. Cox, Vice President Human Resources & Training, on the occasion of her retirement on June 30 2017, after 18 years with the Bank.

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WE Rise T-shirts on show ahead of the group's planned protest on September 2.

We Rise group to protest govt's lack of progress

By RICARDO WELLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
rwells@tribunemedia.net

WE Rise, a new group established "to do something," has scheduled its first protest for Saturday, September 2, aiming to highlight what it sees as the government's lack of progress in areas of national importance.

Detractors have labelled the new group as nothing more than the Progressive Liberal Party's (PLP) attempt to rally its base in opposition to the government. While the PLP has not publicly endorsed the group, PLP Senator and former Fox Hill MP Fred Mitchell was pictured meeting with members of the group at PLP headquarters last week.

However, in a statement released to the press on Monday, the group insisted it didn't belong to any political organisation, but rather is composed of "Bahamians who simply want to ensure that our government acts in the interest of



MEMBERS of the We Rise group with Senator Fred Mitchell during a visit to PLP headquarters.

all Bahamians."

The group appears to be trying to emulate We March Bahamas, another

protest group that gained prominence after more than 1,000 protesters marched from Arawak

Cay to Rawson Square in November 2016 to demonstrate over the Christie administration's perfor-

mance.

The leader of that movement, Ranard Henfield, parlayed his success with the organisation into a Senate appointment by the Minnis administration earlier this year.

"As 100 days since this current administration assumed office has come and passed us by, we have yet to see progress, or hear of concrete plans for the way forward, as it relates to tackling unemployment and crime, which are rising steadily, and threatening the way of life that we have come to enjoy," We Rise's statement noted.

"Hence, we invite the government to sit and hear our concerns; and to also act responsibly in the governance of our sovereign nation.

"We are inviting Bahamians, who wish to see our country and people move forward, upward, on-

ward, together, to join us Saturday, September 2, as We Rise takes the streets across every island of the Bahamas, and voices our collective concerns about the current state of our nation.

"We ask for the public to stay tuned for further details, as we work effortlessly to organise this revolutionary event.

"We will rise and march against the injustices, against wrongful terminations, against violent crime, and for democracy, freedom and the rights of every Bahamian."

The statement concluded: "We must all rise; not only for ourselves, but for future generations."

"The time is now to put on the full armour of God, and get ready to protest peacefully."

We Rise is being spearheaded by Alex Dorsett and Coderro Emanuel Armbrister.

TWO HELD AFTER WOMAN 'THROWN IN CAR TRUNK'

TWO men were arrested shortly after they allegedly abducted a woman and threw her in the trunk of a car.

According to police, officers are investigating the incident surrounding an alleged abduction which was captured on cell phone

video and widely shared on social media.

Shortly after 7pm on Sunday, police received a report of an alleged abduction of a woman by two men in a Honda Accord on Taylor Street. Mobile Division officers on routine patrol were immediately dispatched to

the area, where they intercepted the vehicle at the corner of East and Taylor Streets. The two male occupants were approached and taken into custody.

During a search of the vehicle, police said they found a woman "hidden in the trunk in good health."

Investigations are continuing.

DEPOSIT BAG TAKEN IN ARMED ROBBERY OUTSIDE CHURCH

TWO gunmen robbed a man of a bank deposit bag outside of a church on Sunday morning, one of three armed robberies that occurred between Sunday and early Monday.

Shortly after 11.30am on Sunday, a man was standing outside of a church located on Montrose Avenue, when two men armed with handguns approached and robbed him of a deposit bag containing an undetermined amount of cash before fleeing on foot, police said.

Then shortly before 3pm on Sunday, a man was sitting in his truck parked in front of a business on

Prince Charles Drive, when two men armed with handguns approached and robbed him of cash, a gold chain, and a Rolex watch before speeding off in a silver coloured Jeep Cherokee driven by another man.

Then shortly after 2.30am on Monday, a man and a woman were walking north on Blue Hill Road, when two men armed with handguns approached and robbed them of cash and a cell phone before fleeing on foot.

Anyone with information on these incidents is asked to call police at 919 or Crime Stoppers at 328-TIPS.

SEARCH FOR SHOOTING SUSPECT

POLICE are asking the public to come forward with any information that might assist in locating a suspect responsible for a shooting incident that occurred early Monday.

Shortly after 2.30am, a man was walking through a track road near his home located in Garden Hills #2, when another man armed with a shotgun shot him before fleeing on foot. The victim is

in hospital in stable condition. Investigations are continuing.

Police also said that officers from the Selective Enforcement Team arrested a murder suspect after 11.30pm on Sunday.

The man was arrested at his home in Chippingham.

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

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Trump returns to Arizona - and a chaotic political landscape

PHOENIX (AP) — Donald Trump was just a few weeks into his candidacy in 2015 when he came to Phoenix for a speech that ended up being a bigger moment in his campaign than most people realised at the time.

Trump savaged his critics and the media, vowed to fine Mexico \$100,000 for each immigrant entering the country illegally, talked tough on trade, promised to return America to its winning ways and borrowed a line from Richard Nixon in declaring, "The silent majority is back."

The packed crowd ate it up — the raucous enthusiasm an early sign of the overwhelming support among Trump's base that would help carry him to the presidency.

As Trump returns to Arizona on Tuesday in need of another big moment, he will find a place where his agenda and unconventional leadership style have consumed the political landscape and elevated the state's status in the national fight for control of power in Washington in 2018.

It was Arizona senator John McCain who cast the vote that derailed Trump's effort to repeal the health care law. The other Arizona senator, Jeff Flake, has become the poster child for Republicans who buck the president's agenda and feel his wrath on Twitter. The president is almost certain to back a GOP challenger to Flake in 2018, complicating Republican efforts to maintain control of the Senate.

Trump has also revived the immigration debate and infuriated Latinos here with his talk of pardoning former Sheriff Joe Arpaio over his recent conviction for breaking the law with his signature immigration patrols. The controversy over Civil War monuments has even spilled into Arizona, where the governor has faced repeated calls to take down a handful of Confederate memorials in the state.

And an overlooked item in Trump's agenda, school choice, has made education a hot campaign issue in Arizona. With the strong support of Education Secretary Besty DeVos, Arizona passed the nation's most ambitious expansion of vouchers this year, and public school advocates recently submitted more than 100,000 signatures in a petition drive to get the law wiped out on the 2018 ballot.

If that isn't enough fuel for a political bonfire, Trump's visit to Arizona will be his first political event since the race-driven violence in Virginia and his divisive comments in the aftermath of the protests. That created a dilemma for Republicans like Gov. Doug Ducey on whether to take the stage at the Trump rally while running for re-election. Doing so would subject him to attacks from moderates and the left by appearing with the president so

soon after Charlottesville and possibly at the same time as the president pardons Arpaio and throws his endorsement behind Flake's challenger. But avoiding the stage could hurt him with the base.

Ducey's plan is to greet the president on the airport tarmac and skip the rally, saying he wants to oversee the law enforcement response to protests. The governor supported Trump and appeared on stage at one of his rallies last year in Arizona.

Trump would be hard-pressed to find a state where his Republican base is as faithful and vocal as in Arizona, which is a big reason why he came to the state seven times during his campaign and refers to the "special place" it holds for him. The fierce, non-conformist political spirit evident at Trump rallies here traces its roots to the frontier days and allows hard-fisted politicians like him and Arpaio to thrive.

"The Republican primary base in Arizona is highly partisan, semi-libertarian in the sense that it's against the swamp," said longtime Republican political strategist Chuck Coughlin. "We're the 48th state to join. We're still acting like a juvenile. We still act like we're the last one invited to the party which is sort of what Donald Trump is."

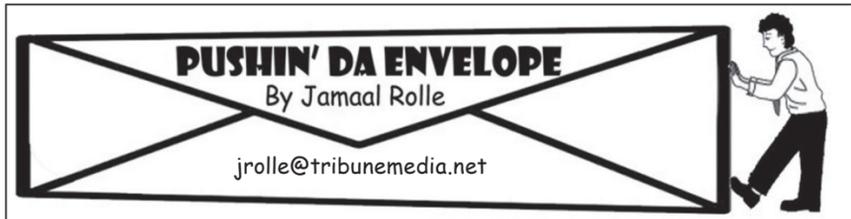
The biggest consequence of Trump's unorthodox governing style may be seen in Flake's re-election effort. Flake has been outspoken in his criticism of Trump, taking him to task in pointed jabs in a recent book.

Trump has been sending out Tweets signaling his support for far-right former state Sen. Kelli Ward, who is running against Flake in the primary. Other Republicans with less baggage than Ward could also enter the race and complicate things further, making it harder for Republicans to keep the seat in the general election. Rep. Kyrsten Sinema is considered the top threat on the Democratic side.

"If the president himself is supporting a challenger to Jeff, it's a serious problem," said Coughlin, who has been polling voters about the intra-party turmoil that has unsettled the race.

Voters like Julie Brown are indicative of the GOP struggle in the Trump administration between the base and establishment. She attended a Trump rally last year and remains steadfast in her support of the president, even after Charlottesville.

"He's not totally polished and everyone tears apart his words, but you'll never have to guess what he's thinking and I like that much better than a politician who just gets up there and buoyantly lies and is bought by lobbyists," Brown said. "He's just straightforward, and like I said, it rocks the boat but we need it."



TOTALLY ECLIPSED



Enforce the death penalty

EDITOR, The Tribune.

THE Bahamas now has a total of 87 murders for the first eight months of 2017. That is an average of a little over ten murders per month. At this rate, the country will once again reach the mark of 120 murders. The FNM government and National Security Minister Marvin Dames have stated that they will use everything on the law books, including capital punishment, to make The Bahamas safe for law-abiding citizens. Bahamians want a safe country. They are tired of the wanton bloodshed on the streets of New Providence and Grand Bahama.

During the last Progressive Liberal Party government of former Prime Minister Perry Christie, the country recorded approximately 600 murders. Under former Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham's administration of 2007-2012, there were about 490 killings. Eleven hundred murders in a mere decade.

This country has developed an unsavory reputation in the international community of being extremely dangerous like Jamaica. In a Facebook debate I had with an Australian atheist in 2016, he pointed out to me (much to my embarrassment) The Bahamas' high violent crime rate, including murder. Small wonder many stopover visitors are no longer coming to our country. The Minnis government must

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

not pander to the Grand Bahama Human Rights Association (GBHRA), as it pushes ahead in enforcing capital punishment. The GBHRA was totally insensitive towards the families of murder victims when in its press release to *The Tribune* it stated that even murderers have an inalienable and sacred right to life.

Each time the government brings up the matter of capital punishment, anti-death penalty lobbyists such as the GBHRA are quick to express their opposition. Mentioning the fact that US states which have retained the death penalty having a higher murder rate than the states which have abolished it will not sway the minds of Bahamians who are at their wits' end with the bloody carnage.

That line of argument rings hollow, considering the fact that successive governments have acquiesced to the position of anti-death penalty lobbyists over the past 17 years -- a timeframe which has been the most violent in modern Bahamian history. My point is this: the powers-that-be has pandered to anti-death penalty advocates by not executing convicted murderers. Yet the country is extremely violent. The position of the GBHRA and other anti-death penalty lobbyists has

not worked at all. It has failed miserably. If it had worked, maybe their argument would have had a leg to stand on.

The Bahamas is touted as being a sovereign nation. Yet its highest court is the United Kingdom's based Privy Council - a court which has hamstrung the government in its ability to strike fear into the hearts of violent criminal enterprises which are terrorising Nassau. With all due respect to Privy Council Lords Johnathan Mance, Brian Francis Kerr, David Neuberger, Matthew Clarke, Nicholas Wilson, Johnathan Sumpston, Robert John Reed, Robert Carnwath, Anthony Hughes, Patrick Hodge and Lady Brenda Hale, they live in an elitist bubble in a first world country, and are therefore woefully unable to empathise with the masses from the Over-the-Hill communities which have borne the brunt of the 1,100 plus murders in the past decade.

The Justices of that high court are out of touch and hold to views on the death penalty which are irrelevant to this country. If a referendum to decide the way forward with regards to the Privy Council is held, 90 per cent of Bahamian voters would vote to drop that high court without hesitation. Bahamians want the death penalty enforced.

KEVIN EVANS
 Nassau,
 August 20, 2017.

Consult the owners

EDITOR, The Tribune.

LISTENING to the Hon Minister of Tourism chirping on about parity for the hotel owner and the vacation home rental owner following the execution of an agreement with Air BNB, apart from the payment of taxes I wonder where is the level playing field? Also what about home owners who rent without being affiliated with Air BNB.

Hotels benefit from the Hotels Encouragement Act and as a result obtain conces-

sions for the building, etc. The Ministry of Tourism also promotes the hotels on its promotion trips abroad and also with its marketing personnel.

Will the vacation home rental persons be given concessions if they rebuild or renovate? Will their properties be promoted by the Ministry or is this the province of Air BNB?

We all admit that the vacation home rentals have great potential and are extremely popular, especially to Europeans and Canadians. However, will too

much regulation result in stifling this market which is proving a boon to winter residents as well as pensioners and others who find they have space in their homes and need more income?

It is noted that legislation is being planned, and a very pertinent question is, what input will vacation home rental owners have in framing this legislation. Have they been consulted?

JEANNE I THOMPSON
 Nassau,
 August 17, 2017.

Loose lips scare investors

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IF the daily dose of Talk Shows continue as they splurt out daily inaccuracies I suggest the station owners should seriously consider cutting all.

The Show Producers have to know when they must press the button and stop the constant flow of inaccuracies.

Yesterday morning the issue of the Albany comment of their GM came up the host instead of taking his usual extremely cautious position took what was being fed to him without qualification. Did the GM at Albany

say what the host alleges he said?

I heard the News that night after the Cabinet visited and my ears did not hear what this host stated and allowed his callers to masticate thereafter.

The irrational callers saying: well if they said that then Albany needs to be closed down - there are hundreds of investors waiting over the bar! Remember the late Sir Kendal Isaacs saying similar words and we are still waiting for those persons to put a single dime in investment.

Listen carefully to what the GM. Albany said or

certainly implied - Prime Minister in the immediate past with the previous Government (the Christie Government) we have enjoyed a non involvement position which has played to the success of Albany - we hope this atmosphere will continue to the betterment of all. Not word-to-word but paraphrasing. Different to what the Host said and allowed from his callers to say.

Let's be horribly careful not to run-off all potential investors! Loose words hurt.

JESSICA MORRIS
 Nassau,
 August 15, 2017.



PAMELA HILL, CEO of BPL.

Photo: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

BPL's \$1.5m payout on eve of election

from page one

That same evening, Donna Smith, BPL's then vice-chair, obtained confirmation from Mr Gibson that his instructions were correct, while also revealing that former deputy prime minister, Philip Davis, who had ministerial responsibility for BPL, "has no objection" to the payment being made.

Ms Smith wrote that "it would appear that we are obliged in the circumstances" to make the payment, and added: "I am asking DPM and Minister of Labour to confirm knowledge of, and agreement with, above matters so that payments may be made without further delay."

Mr Gibson provided his confirmation two hours later. Neither Mr Gibson nor Mr Davis could be contacted for comment yesterday, and the latter did not respond to Tribune Business e-mails.

Many observers are likely to interpret the BPL 'payment' and its timing as a 'vote-grabbing' bid by the former Christie administration. However, Paul Maynard, the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union's (BEWU) president, yesterday told Tribune Business there was "nothing sinister"

FIRING IS PART OF 'ACCOUNTABILITY'

By RICARDO WELLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
rwells@tribunemedia.net

THE removal of Pamela Hill as CEO of Bahamas Power & Light was confirmed by a press statement from chairwoman Darnell Osborne.

At a news conference later in the day, Ms Osborne suggested the move was made as a means of accountability, as specified in the management services agreement (MSA) signed between the government and PowerSecure, BPL's management company.

In a surprising step on Monday, the board also instructed its legal counsel to demand reimbursement from PowerSecure of all funds gone missing due to the vendor fraud scheme.

Additionally, the board called on PowerSecure to "cure all deficiencies and/or breaches" set out under the MSA within 30 days.

AND WHEREAS the Minister of Labour has confirmed his commitment to this agreement and the Deputy Prime Minister, as Minister responsible for Works & Urban Development, has confirmed his concurrence and as such the Board is now required to indicate its approval of the one-time lump sum payment equal to an increment as promised.

IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that a one-time lump sum payment equal to an increment be paid to the aggregate amount of \$1,439,047.17 on or before 5th May, 2017.

THE LETTER from Shane Gibson requesting the payout to BPL employees ahead of the election.

about the one-time payment, and denied it was politically motivated.

He explained that the one-off lump sum payments, which were as high as \$1,500 for some BPL staff, were part of what he negotiated on the BEWU union's behalf in 2014.

Mr Maynard said its industrial agreement stipulated that if any other public service union was to receive more favourable payments and benefits, then the BEWU would receive the same by May 2017.

He added that the BEWU's 'Most Favoured Nation' clause kicked-in when the Water & Sewerage Corporation union received a lump sum equal to one increment, requiring that his members receive the same treatment.

"I asked for it and I got it," Mr Maynard told Tribune Business of the May 5 payment to BPL staff. "As soon as they [the Water Corp union] got it, I asked

for it. I said: 'You owe me that because you gave it to them.

"As soon as they got that extra, I went and told the Deputy Prime Minister and Shane: 'You gave them that; you've got to give me that'. They said: 'No problem; we'll do it.' They promised it to me, and they delivered."

Mr Maynard suggested the timing so close to the May 10 general election was a coincidence, since he had asked for the payment to be made around the end of the union's contract year on April 30.

"It just happened that there was a general election on May 10," he told Tribune Business. "There was nothing sinister about it."

Asked whether the payment may have been politically motivated, Mr Maynard replied: "No, it wasn't. Elections are over; it's time to get on with it. They promised it to me; they gave it to me. That was that."

The BPL resolution

manager, further processed by the employees and then finally signed off by that supervising manager.

Furthermore, all cheques used would have had to have been made out to a vendor recognised and sanctioned by BPL, and if any issues are raised, the audit department would step in, it was claimed.

Ms Osborne on Monday also confirmed that firings at the company will continue as the investigation into the scheme is still ongoing.

She said the company has communicated with both the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union (BEWU) and the Bahamas Electrical Managers Union (BEMU) on the firings, and has received the "full support" of both groups.

Sources have indicated that several managers at the company are expected to be reprimanded, in some form, in connection with the scheme.

the beginning of 2017.

The documents obtained by Tribune Business show that no formal BPL Board meeting was called to discuss the payment. Illustrating the rushed nature of the payment, Lenise Flowers, BPL's corporate secretary, informed directors by e-mail on May 4: "Your urgent approval, or otherwise, is requested.

"Should you not provide a response by 12 noon today, it will be deemed that you have no objection to the following resolution" authorising the \$1.439m payment.

BPL's then-chairman, Nathaniel Beneby, and fellow directors Andrew Rogers; Patricia Hermanns; and Deepak Bhatnagar all gave their approval via e-mail, despite the latter revealing he had only just seen it because he was in a plane.

The original payment resolution was also amended by Mr Beneby to say that BPL's manager, PowerSecure, had agreed to the payment. The final draft included the words "the management company has

considered and agreed to honour the said promise", although there is nothing to suggest its director on the Board, Ronnie Brannen, had approved it.

Marisa Mason-Smith, BPL's assistant general manager of training and human resources, warned Ms Hill in a May 3, 2017, midnight e-mail that the payment would run afoul of BPL internal audit procedures without official approval from the Board or herself.

"Failure may result in human resources getting an infraction regarding non-compliance," she said. "I am in the process of working on this assignment now, and will do my best to meet the deadline, but would be very grateful for your confirmation and/or directions.

"Employees have been beating me and my team to the ground that this payment is due on Friday. Overtime will be included if my team gets this out by Friday."

• Relationship with PowerSecure in meltdown - see Business.

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Pizza Hut

'Privatised carnival' plan under study



THE CROWD at the 2015 Bahamas Junkanoo Carnival. The government is considering options for the future of the event.

from page one

“That’s why we have been looking at the option of privatising it. Carnival might well become something significant in The Bahamas over time but that certainly will not be because the government is investing the kinds of resources our predecessors did.” Mr Pintard was responding to questions about the status of the Bahamas National Festival Commission (BNFC), which has organised and managed carnival in past years. Contracts for members of the BNFC expired recently, Mr Pintard confirmed, though he said the commission has not been disbanded. *The Tribune* understands that no more than about five people had contracts through the commission.

The government has not repopulated the commission and is instead conducting an audit of its affairs to determine how best to use it moving forward.

While the commission has been known mostly for its responsibility for carnival, the Minnis administration, Mr Pintard said, wants it “to administer all festivals”.

“Presently, as the public is aware, as the prime minister has mandated, an audit of all government ministries and quasi-government agencies is being done, including of the commission,” he said.

“The second thing that is happening is an audit of the inventory held by the commission. Consultations are going on with persons who have been involved with the commission in the past. Those will continue over the next couple of weeks. We are defining the role of the commission going forward. One of the long standing objectives of the FNM has been a desire to develop and promote The Bahamas as a place of festivals and to put together a master list of all festivals throughout the country. The commission might turn out to be the appropriate vehicle to oversee and administer this process of developing The Bahamas as a place of festivals. Based on what we have seen, we intend for the commission to function differently from what it has been.

“It would’ve been imprudent for us to disband the commission on day one when the people have invested what we believe amounts to more than \$25m through it. We are obligated to see if there are ways to recuperate funds invested.”

In opposition, the Free National Movement repeatedly criticised the Christie administration’s investments in carnival, stressing that the resources could have been directed elsewhere, especially to Junkanoo the country’s premier festival that occurs on Boxing Day and New Year’s Day.

However, carnival has been popular with many Bahamians, attracting large crowds since its inception.

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Funeral Service
ESTHER ANNE WILLIAMS, 80



of Mount Vernon, will be held on Thursday, 24th August, 2017 10:30am at Christ Church Cathedral, George Street. Officiating will be The Very Reverend Patrick L. Adderley, Dean of Nassau, assisted by The Most Reverend Drexel W. Gomez and The Right Reverend Gilbert A. Thompson. Interment will follow in Christ Church Cathedral Columbarium, George Street.

Esther will always be missed and lovingly remembered by her **husband**: Edward Patrick I; **Two Sons**: Edward Patrick II & Peter Neil; **Two daughters**: Celeste Antoinette & Karen Jacinta; **three Grandchildren**: Nicholas Alexander, Falon Patricia Angela-Anne, Gerald Augustus; **daughter-in-law**: Elizabeth Anne and **her adopted**: Ryka.

Her siblings include: Ayres Neely, Weston, Lowell, Philip & Joan Mortimer and Ann Whitehead. **In-laws include**: Gloria, Delores, Elaine & Linda Mortimer and Tracey Whitehead; Carleton & Katherina Williams, Iva Williams, Jacquelyn Smith, Shirley Francis, and Rodney & Frances Williams. **Numerous Nieces, Nephews, family and friends.**

In Lieu of flowers those who wish may donate to The Altar Guild of Christ Church Cathedral, P.O. Box N-6538, Nassau, The Bahamas.

Please visit our website: www.bethelbrothersmorticians.com to share your memories and condolences with family and friends.

SACKED WORKERS NEED JOB OPTIONS

from page one

Mr Bowe said: “It creates a snowball effect of fear and pandemonium. If all the ministries are doing a survey of their needs assessment, there should be a central statement saying we see the need to disengage however many persons, and these are the reasons why, and these are the initiatives or opportunities so there’s a calming effect.

“There should be a conclusive statement so we’re very clear on how many we’re disengaging over a period of years, and stating this is how we do so to ensure impact is minimal.

“This way we achieve both aims of right-sizing but also ensuring that they don’t negatively impact the average person’s reliance on a paycheck,” he told *The Tribune*.

Mr Bowe underscored the need to develop and positively reinforce a culture of saving in the country as many Bahamians were living paycheck to paycheck.

“It’s either on the payroll or Social Service benefits. Shifting the problem from one pocket to the next doesn’t solve it.

“If you don’t stimulate activity for the private sector to absorb them, you’re going to pick up that expense somewhere else. The culling or trimming down has to be done in the mind-set where certainly the jobs that are not warranted, those should be terminated and if they were only done for short-term political gain they should be looked at. But more importantly how is the government stimulating short term and long term economic activity?”

“What are the low hanging fruit that you can go after, like helping small to medium businesses so that as you have the right-sizing and restructuring of the civil service, that the impact or the blow is minimised by the private sector’s ability to absorb them.

“What needs to be carefully laid out is how they plan to do this,” he said.

Mr Bowe’s comments follow the termination of at least 27 employees from the Ministry of Tourism this month.

Last Friday, the Ministry of Tourism confirmed that 16 employees were terminated - 13 from New Providence, and three from Bimini.

Redundancies in its Grand Bahama office earlier this month affected 11 persons.

Fifteen persons were let go from the Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation last week. An official in the Minnis administration said the workers were pre-election hires and were sent home because their contracts were up.

Mr Bowe said the intermittent nature of the firings create fear and an opportunity for the matter to be used as a political football to distract from the government’s agenda.

He added: “It may be wiser for the Public Service Commission to lay out that these are the submissions from the various ministries, this is the total we’re going to be disengaging, and these are the programmes we put in place, whether its resume writing, apprenticeship programmes, to soften the blow of the necessary move.

“It’s not beneficial to do it piecemeal.”

Suspect accused of killing man who was out on bail



EDISON MCQUEEN, 30.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
nscavella@tribunemedia.net

A MAN was charged in a Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the murder of a man on bail and attempted murder of another individual three weeks ago.

Edison McQueen, 30, of Faith Gardens, stood before Magistrate Subusola Swain facing one count of murder and one count of attempted murder in connection with an incident that occurred on August 5.

It is alleged that McQueen, being concerned with another, murdered Terrence Darling, also

known as Terrence Rolle.

It is also alleged that McQueen, being concerned with another, attempted to murder Cameo Bain.

According to police reports, shortly after 2.30pm, two men were sitting in a parked vehicle on Lily of the Valley Corner off East Street, when the occupants of a dark coloured car pulled up and shot them.

One of the men was pronounced dead on the scene. The other was rushed to hospital where he remains in serious condition. Police have confirmed that the deceased was on bail for murder and was being elec-

tronically monitored prior to his death.

McQueen was not required to enter a plea to the charges and was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services.

Prior to the closure of his arraignment, McQueen's attorney told Magistrate Swain that his client was beaten while in custody at the Central Detective Unit and suffered bodily bruises, which required him to see a doctor.

The magistrate noted the attorney's claims, but ultimately adjourned the matter to October 3 at 10am for service of a voluntary bill of indictment.

FOUR YEARS IN JAIL OVER GUNS AND DRUGS

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
nscavella@tribunemedia.net

A 35-YEAR-OLD man was sentenced to four years at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services yesterday in connection with the seizure of a high-powered weapon and a quantity of dangerous drugs over the weekend.

Franklyn Stubbs, of Moncur Alley, stood before Magistrate Subusola Swain facing one count of possession of an unlicensed firearm, one count of possession of ammunition, and another count of possession of dangerous drugs with intent to supply.

It is alleged that on Saturday, August 19, Stubbs was found with a rusty,

black and brown AK-47 rifle with the serial number destroyed, as well as 10 live rounds of 7.62 ammunition.

It is also alleged that Stubbs was found in possession of a quantity of dangerous drugs – Indian hemp – with intent to supply to another.

According to police reports, shortly before 10pm on the day in question, a team of officers from the Drug Enforcement Unit (DEU), acting on intelligence executed a search warrant on a home located at Moncur Avenue off Kemp Road, where they uncovered an AK-47 assault weapon along with a quantity of marijuana.

Two male occupants of the home were subsequently taken into custody in con-

nection with that discovery. Stubbs pleaded guilty to all of the charges.

Prior to his sentencing, Stubbs told the magistrate that he has a son and dependents. However, the judge noted that Stubbs is a repeat offender, having had several sentences imposed on him before yesterday.

She ultimately sentenced him to four years for each count, with each sentence to run concurrently.

Meanwhile, one of three men arraigned on firearms and ammunition charges was sentenced to 18 months in prison.

Alton Adderley, 24, of Hepburn Alley, along with a 20-year-old man and a minor, stood before Magistrate Swain, each facing one count of possession of an unlicensed firearm and one count of possession of ammunition. However, the prosecution withdrew its charges against the 20-year-old and the juvenile, resulting in their acquittal.

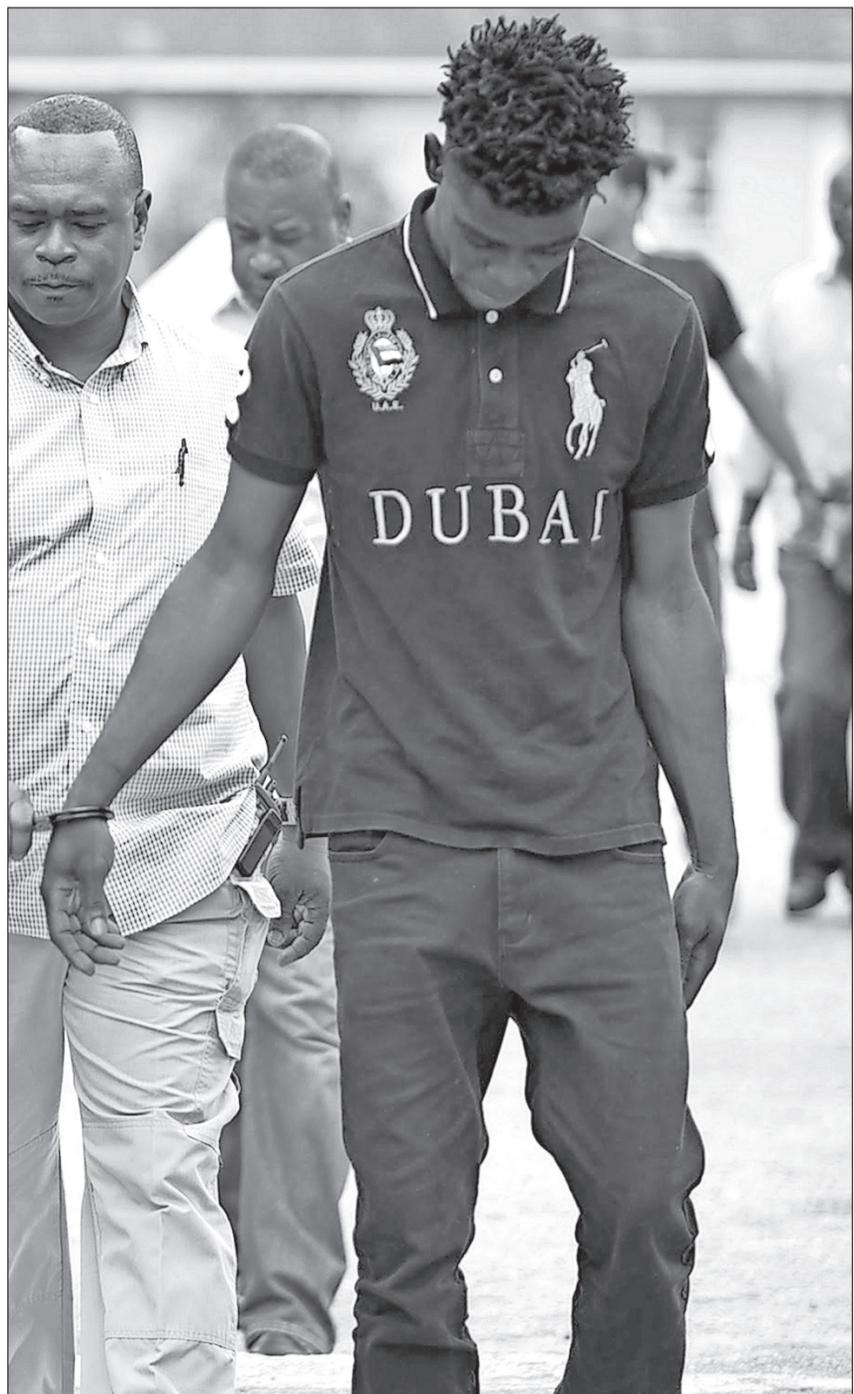
Prior to the withdrawal, it was alleged that on Sunday, August 13, all three were found in possession of a black and brown 45mm Smith and Wesson pistol with the serial number erased.

It was also alleged that all three were in possession of seven unfired rounds of .45mm ammunition.

Adderley was ultimately sentenced to 18 months in prison for count one and 18 months for count two without a fine, set to run concurrently.



FRANKLYN STUBBS, 35, outside court yesterday.



ALTON ADDERLEY, 24, outside court on Monday.

Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

OCTOBER DATE SET FOR BLAIR MURDER TRIAL

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A TENTATIVE date of October 4 has been set for mention of a matter concerning two men accused of being involved in the October 2014 murder of Blair resident Andre Cartwright.

The trial will be heard before Supreme Court Justice Deborah Frasier.

Tiano D'Haiti, of Thompson Lane, is accused of murder and attempted armed robbery, while Kevin Andrews, of Montell Heights, is accused of murder, attempted armed robbery and burglary and in connection with the October 28, 2014 incident.

According to police, Cartwright was at his

Blair Estates home around 1.40am with his mother and father on the morning in question, when three men kicked in the front door of the house.

When he heard the noise, Cartwright got his licensed shotgun and went to investigate, police initially reported. He encountered the three suspects, one of whom was armed with a handgun.

There was a brief exchange of gunfire, which resulted in Cartwright being shot multiple times. He died at the scene. One of the suspects was also shot, however, he and the other

men escaped in a silver coloured Honda Accord, according to initial reports.

D'Haiti previously faced a count of burglary stemming from the incident in question. Andrews was pre-

viously charged with being an accessory after the fact.

Prosecutors had alleged that Andrews, knowing that D'Haiti had committed murder, helped him evade the law.

EX-MINISTRY OF FINANCE WORKER GRANTED BAIL IN FRAUD CASE

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
nscavella@tribunemedia.net

A FORMER Ministry of Finance employee accused of defrauding the ministry of over half a million dollars has been granted bail by a Supreme Court judge ahead of his November trial.

James Anwar Johnson, 27, of St Andrew's Beach Estates, was granted \$30,000 bail with two sureties on Friday by Justice Greg Hilton, and must also report to the Elizabeth Estates police station every Monday and Friday.

The Tribune also understands Johnson, a former accounts clerk at the Ministry of Finance, has been terminated in view of the allegations.

It is alleged that Johnson, while serving as an accounts clerk at the ministry, falsified the payment records of VMMS Business Service from December 15, 2016 to April 5, 2017, purporting to show that VMMS Business Service was entitled to receive payments totaling \$530,377.67.

Johnson was also charged with ten counts of stealing by reason of employment.

He is accused of being concerned with others and stealing a total of \$445,996.42 in cash from the ministry between December 21, 2016, and March 31, 2017, which he had access to by virtue of his employment.

Johnson also faced one count of attempted stealing by reason of employment for allegedly attempting to steal \$41,115 from the ministry on April 5, 2017.

Johnson pleaded not guilty to all of the charges on Friday.

The matter was adjourned to November 17 at 11am.



MINISTER of Education Jeff Lloyd speaking to the media.

Pre-school enrolment below 50%

from page one

include legislation to mandate that all children between two and a half years old and three must be enrolled in a government approved programme; a two-year review of the national curriculum; and a two-year project to increase primary school access to technology and digital resources.

In addition to earmarking \$2m for a pilot project in two New Providence pre-schools, the Department of Education's comprehensive review of existing curriculum, inclusive of pre-school through high school, will start in the upcoming 2017-2018 academic year.

Core curriculum components desired were said to be: Bahamian history, civics and culture; multi-lingual and numeracy competence; information technology competence (ITC); entrepreneurship; and personal financial planning.

"One of the many exciting new curriculum ventures will be the Ministry of Education's partnership with the Securities Commission of The Bahamas to launch a financial literacy education pilot project in two junior high schools," he said.

Ten primary schools throughout New Providence and the Family Islands will be expected to participate in the Profuturo's Digital Mobile Classroom Project, he said. The two-year Profuturo's project is expected to improve the quality of education in the Bahamas by providing increasing access to technology and digital resources.

"It is expected that in addition to the development of digital resources to support the curriculum, teachers' knowledge and skills will be enhanced through effective integration of ITC," he said.

"Let me reiterate that this government is committed to doing what we can to equip you and your schools to be able to draw out the best results from your teachers and students, relative to their own ability - but without undue stress in the process. We must do what we can to raise the aspirations of all students - this is the objective of the government of the Commonwealth of The Bahamas.

"In order to truly move our country forward we need your commitment to the achievement of the endeavours spoken about today. We need your constructive criticism, your unwavering support, we need your passion and your dedication. I cannot promise that the road and year ahead will be without curves, speed bumps, stop signs and even pot holes, but the destination will make the journey worth the ride."



**Temple Christian School
Teaching Positions
2017-2018**

Temple Christian School invites applications from qualified Christians for the following positions at the Elementary/High School for the 2017-2018 school year:

- Elementary Teacher/Aide**
- Religious Studies Teacher (Grades 7 - 9)**
- Business Studies Teacher (Grades 10 - 12)**
- Female Physical Education Teacher (Grades 7 - 12)**

The applicant must:

- A) be a practicing born again Christian who is willing to subscribe to the Statement of Faith of Temple Christian School.
- B) In the case of an elementary teacher/aide, have a Bachelor's Degree and Teacher's Certificate. Persons with an Associate of Arts Degree in Elementary Education and relevant work experience will be considered. A valid teachers' certificate is encouraged.
- C) In the case of a high school teacher, have a Bachelor's Degree or higher in the relevant field and/or Teacher's Certificate/Diploma from an accredited/recognized College or University.
- D) In the case of a high school teacher, be able to prepare students for BJC and BGCSE Examinations.
- E) have a minimum of two (2) years of teaching experience in the relevant subject area.
- F) be willing to participate in the school's extra-curricular programmes.

The Application for a Teaching Position is available on the school's website www.templechristianbahamas.com and at the Administrator's Office, 4th Terrace East Collins Avenue (directly behind the New Evangelistic Temple). A detailed job description is also available at the Office of the Administrator.

Applications are to be submitted to:

Dr. Samuel L. Rutherford
Administrator
Temple Christian School
4th Terrace East, Collins Avenue
P.O. Box N-1566
Nassau, Bahamas
Ph: 325-1095

The deadline for applications is Friday, August 25, 2017.

ROBERTS SAYS FNM HAS FAILED TO KEEP PROMISES

PLP CHAIRMAN Bradley Roberts has lambasted the Minnis administration for its first 100 days in office, saying the new government has not kept its key election promises.

The Progressive Liberal Party member's comments came hours after Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis and the Free National Movement celebrated the anniversary of the FNM's 1992 general election victory.

"I am loath to respond to any speech or public commentary attributed to Prime Minister Minnis because he is a stranger to the truth and Bahamians have no legitimate reason to believe anything he has to say," Mr Roberts noted.

"As for the FNM's August 1992 election victory, they have a right to celebrate that anniversary but their social policies over the years have led to mass social dislocation and a precipitous rise in crime and general social decay. Minnis could blame crime on the 1980s drug trade all he wants but the vast majority of the perpetrators and victims of crime are young black males in their twenties who were born during the 1990s. One of the most glaring failures of the FNM is their social policy that continues to cause this country great harm."

He said in the first 100 days, Bahamas Agricultural and Industrial Corporation employees have been wrongfully arrested and detained while some civil servants have been fired "based purely on politics."

Mr Roberts added: "None of the promises he made to the poor were kept: not on VAT elimination and not on tax exemptions for inner city communities to facilitate the development of those vulnerable areas. He has no policy on Baha Mar, Grand Bahama, the unacceptably high levels of crime, environmental protection, energy sector reform or the economy. He continues to talk down the Bahamian economy locally and internationally while injuring this country's international reputation through ill-advised commentary."

Mr Roberts said the FNM has moved to put in place measures which he believes will help big businesses and party donors, citing a reduction in business license fees as placing millions of dollars into the pockets of companies generating \$50m per year or more.

He also said: "Absolutely nothing the FNM said during the election campaign was true and they have been walking back, back peddling and climbing down... ever since May 10."

"Minnis must abandon with his public relations stunts as he buys time, the pointless photo opportunities, the public deceit, the sleight of hands and misleading the Bahamian people and start addressing the issues that really matter to the Bahamian people."

"Bahamians are worse off under this Minnis led FNM government."

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**AC
IN THE AM**

6AM-10AM



**MIDDAY'S
with MJ**

10AM-2PM



**DRIVE HOME
with SARAAN**

2PM-6PM

TUNE INTO TODAY !!!

Industrial plant's neighbours gather for Residents Day

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

THE first Industrial Plant Residents Day in Grand Bahama was held at the grounds of the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lewis Yard on Saturday. The event, sponsored by Subway restaurant, was organised by the Grand Bahama Environmental Association. It featured a mini health conference, health screening, cook-out and fun activities for children. Iram Lewis, MP for Cen-

tral Grand Bahama, who represents constituents living in the communities surrounding the industrial park, attended and spoke briefly.

Residents of Pinder's Point, Seaco Town, Lewis Yard, Hawksbill, have been plagued by pollution in their communities, particularly chemical emissions believed to be emanating from the nearby industrial plants.

They have complained of various health-related issues over the past 30 years. The GBEA's goal is to raise

awareness of their plight and advocate for the relocation of residents.

"I thought it was a success, it was well attended, and we gained valuable information about environmental pollution from various featured speakers," said resident Lorna Williams.

"Many people came out and spent the entire day with their kids; it was a great experience. We had a chance to sit and talk about what we are going through in our communities and also about our past experiences," she said.

Resident Lowell Pinder said that the community support was very encouraging.

Dr Andrew Moxey and Dr Darlene Cargill of the University of the Bahamas and Samuel Bevans, who holds a master's degree in analytical chemistry, were invited to address residents at a mini-conference, giving them some vital information about the impact of environmental pollution. Rand Memorial Hospital

personnel provided health screening to residents who had their glucose, cholesterol, and blood pressure levels checked. And some 100 bags of school supplies were distributed to the children, who also enjoyed fun activities such as a bouncing castle.

Some 33 persons were screened for cholesterol, glucose and high blood pressure at the event.

Shuffel Hepburn of GBEA said that they are happy about the success of the first event on Saturday, and a church service held on Sunday at the Church of God of Prophecy in Hawksbill.

"We are thankful to the community and the entire team that made this day a success. We thank the Church of the Good Shepherd for providing its facilities for our use, also the Rand Memorial Hospital and all who played a part," he said.

"The GBEA is committed to fighting for the relocation of the residents

living around the industrial plants. In the process, we are committed to... aid them in the fight for their health and their very lives."

Mr Hepburn said the GBEA continues to call on former Minister for Grand Bahama Dr Michael Darville to prove that cost of the environmental studies commissioned during his term.

He claims that the studies undertaken were "faulty."

"We reassert our strong condemnation of these studies and insist that they are bad science and cannot stand firm in a court of law. We put our attorneys on notice to challenge the veracity of these documents if they are put before them in court," said the activist who has family ties in the Pinder's Point community.

The studies that Mr Hepburn referred to are the environmental health risk assessment study conducted by the Pan American Health Organisation

(PAHO) and the World Health Organisation (WHO) between November 2014 and December 2015; the e-nose study which monitors air quality in the affected communities, and the safety risk assessment conducted by the Antea Group last year.

He criticised the powers that be in Grand Bahama claiming they have neglected the cries of residents over the years and have chosen big industry over the small man.

Mr Hepburn noted that while a few schools have been relocated, no effort was made to move the residents who spend more hours enduring alleged polluted air, water and soil.

"They have turned a blind eye to the mounting cases of illnesses among the residents. If the students and teachers have been made sick and needed to be moved, then the residents are made sicker still, and should have been long gone," he said.

ARMED ROBBERY IN FREEPORT

GRAND Bahama police are investigating an armed robbery involving a car-jacking in Freeport over the weekend.

According to reports, a male victim reported to police that around 3am on Saturday while at a business on East Sunrise Highway, he was held up by three men, one of whom was brandishing a firearm and robbed

him of his black Chevy Impala vehicle and other personal items.

Inspector Terecita Pinder said police are continuing their investigation into the matter and are appealing for anyone with information that can assist the police to call 242-350-3107 through 12, 911, 919 or call the nearest police station.

PM praises Girl Guides movement

By MATT MAURA
Bahamas Information Services

PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis met with officials of the Bahamas Girl Guides Association (BGGGA) last Thursday during a visit at the BGGGA's headquarters located Marcus Bethel Way and West Bay Street.

The BGGGA is a non-profit, voluntary organisation for girls and young women.

Dr Minnis was accompanied by Joshua Sears, senior policy advisor in the Office of the Prime Minister. The Girl Guides movement has been in existence in The Bahamas for 102 years.

Prime Minister Minnis lauded the organisation for the "outstanding work" its members have done, and continue to do, in training and developing thousands of Bahamian girls and young women into productive, responsible and contributing members of society.

The leadership of the BGGGA has managed to keep guiding "relevant" in The Bahamas over the many years despite the many social, cultural and other changes that compete for the attention of girls and young women since the movement first hit our shores 102 years ago.

"This programme remains relevant because it is predicated on the premise of the girls learning social and survival skills, through a number of activities including camping, hiking, sports, community service, songs, fun and games,"



PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis meets with officials of the Bahamas Girl Guides Association during his visit on Thursday, August 17. Prime Minister Minnis was accompanied by Joshua Sears, senior policy advisor, Office of the Prime Minister. Photo: Yontalay Bowe/OPM Media Services

guiding officials said. "Not only are these activities fun, but embedded in them also are opportunities for the girls to learn through the patrol system for the girls to develop leadership skills and responsible citizenship at an early age."

Guiding in The Bahamas has produced many outstanding women who have risen to the top of the Bahamian society in areas

such as religion, education, administration, politics, public service, the judiciary, the legal profession, banking and finance, sports, business and industry and culture.

The list reads like a 'who's who' in Bahamian history and includes Dame Ivy Dumont, the first female governor general of The Bahamas; retired Chief Justice Dame Justice Joan Sawyer; Anita

Bernard; Marjorie Davis; Janet Bostwick; Dr Gail Saunders; Clarice Granger, Wendy Craig; retired justice Claire L Hepburn; Elma Garraway and Constance Miller among many others.

Guiding officials say the principles and values that are taught and adhered to, have made "an indelible impact in positively influencing lives and moulding the characters of thousands of

girls and young women, not only in the Bahamas, but indeed worldwide."

The BGGGA promotes a wide range of skills and interests through education, games, outdoor activities, survival skills training, healthcare, arts, crafts and culture.

Fundamental objectives of the association are to provide girls and young women opportunities for self-training and discipline

in the development of good character through service to God, country and fellowman, and to foster and promote a full sense of citizenship through community service and international goodwill.

The Girl Guides movement was started in The Bahamas in 1915 and was incorporated as the Bahamas Girl Guides Association by an act of Parliament on May 4, 1975.

EXCHANGE SEES BAHAMIAN BOOKS GIVEN TO CORNELL UNIVERSITY

MINISTER of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard applauded the exchange of about 20 books by Bahamian authors with New York State's Cornell University and called the initiative "powerful".

"To the extent that we can have more Bahamian publications placed in libraries around the world, it would increase the appreciation that persons have for The Bahamas - that we are more than sand, sun and sea," Mr Pintard said at the official ceremony marking the exchange, held at the National Art Gallery on August 16.

According to a release by the ministry, Dr Carole Boyce-Davies, distinguished professor of African Studies and English at the African Studies Research Centre at Cornell University presented and donated an encyclopedia of the African Diaspora to Dr Rita Pratt of The Bahamas

Heritage Cultural Institute & African Bahamian Museum/Research Centre at the ceremony held that day. In exchange, the Department of Culture, in conjunction with Dr Rita Pratt, donated 20 books by Bahamian authors to the Cornell University Library of African Studies and Research Centre.

Dr Pratt has been doing cultural research in The Bahamas for more than 30 years and has a museum located off Kemp Road, the release stated.

"Dr Pratt is a gem," Mr Pintard said. "Her selfless spirit is something that the country needs to look more closely at - what she is doing - and certainly I, as minister, will be taking a keener interest in what she is doing and find ways we could contribute to her efforts."

"The Department of Culture is pleased to organise this exchange of books which will greatly

benefit the cultural research capabilities of persons in The Bahamas and provide students from The Bahamas in particular and others interested in the field with a nice range of materials with which they can do further research," Assistant Director of Culture Dereka Deleveaux-Grant said. "The donation of the Bahamian books will mark the first opportunity for Bahamian authors to be at the Cornell University library and provides the opportunity for millions of persons to research and learn more about The Bahamas."

Among the exchanged books were works by Patricia Ginton-Meicholas, RBDF Commodore Tellis Bethel, Obediah Michael Smith, Sir Randol Fawkes, Rev Dr Philip Rahming, as well as a number of publications from the National Art Gallery on artists such as



MINISTER of Youth, Sports and Culture Michael Pintard, culture stakeholders, Bahamian writers and their representatives were photographed on August 16 with Dr Carole Boyce-Davies, professor of African Studies and English at the African Studies Research Centre at Cornell University, during the official ceremony for the exchange of Bahamian books with that university held at the National Art Gallery. Pictured from left are Patricia Ginton-Meicholas, Director of Culture Rowena Sutherland, Dr Boyce-Davies, Minister Pintard, Dr Rita Pratt, Rev Dr Philip Rahming, Dr Jacinta Higgs, RBDF Commodore Tellis Bethel, Mia Smith-Johnson (representing her father, Bahamian poet Obediah Michael Smith) and Sandra Clarke. Photo: Eric Rose/BIS

Max Taylor, Amos Ferguson, R Brent Malone and Kendal Hanna.

"We are a people with a powerful cultural history and heritage, and, of

course, an intellectual heritage; so this is a very important step forward and we are appreciative of the contribution that Dr Davis is making - her attachment

to the region in general; but to The Bahamas in particular," Mr Pintard added.

"We are appreciative of it and we are going to build on those relationships."

Honouring broadcasters



THE CARIBBEAN Broadcasting Union held its 48th Annual General Assembly Opening Ceremony and Hall of Fame Induction at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel yesterday evening. Pictured is Governor General Dame Marguerite Pindling; Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis, Caribbean Broadcasting Union officials and CBU 2017 Hall of Fame recipient Victor Torres Crespo. Photos: **Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff**



PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis during his keynote address.



MICHAEL SMITH, executive chairman of the Broadcasting Corporation of The Bahamas, speaking yesterday.



CBU 2017 Hall of Fame recipient Victor Torres Crespo and his daughter.



ATTENDEES at the Caribbean Broadcasting Union's 48th Annual General Assembly opening ceremony and Hall of Fame induction at the British Colonial Hilton Hotel.



THE ROYAL Bahamas Police Force Pop Band performing yesterday.



GARY ALLEN, President of The Caribbean Broadcasting Union.



BEVERLY CURRY, co-chair of the AGA 2017 Local Organising Committee.



PAKESIA PARKER EDGECOMBE, Parliamentary Secretary Office of the Prime Minister.



THE ROYAL Bahamas Police Force Pop Band performing.



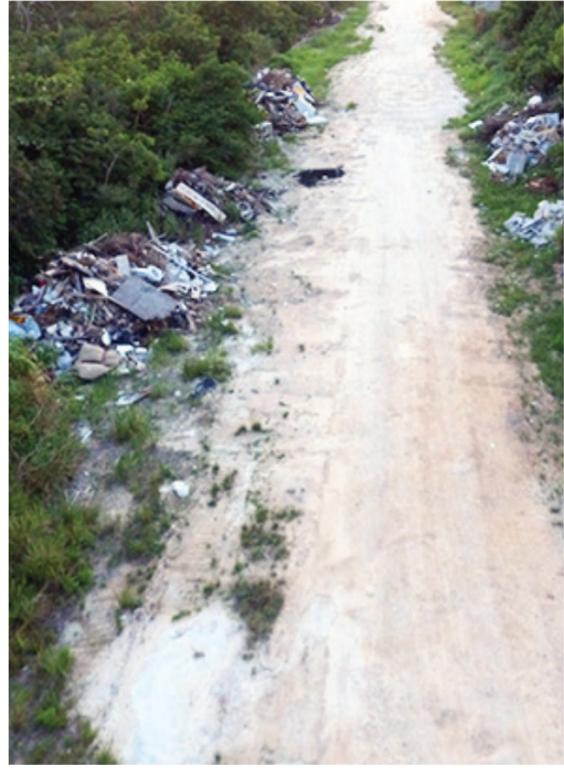
ROSE WILLOCK, 2015 Hall of Fame Awardee.

The Bahamas deserves better



ILLEGAL dumping found near Bahamas Waste through a dirt road of Gladstone Road.

Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff



Back to school in style with Solomon's initiative

THIS Saturday, Solomon's Super Centre is helping parents and students get in gear for the new school year with a trade show and community outreach initiative.

Beginning at noon, more than 15 clubs and after school programmes will showcase activities for students heading into the fall semester. Vendors will also be on hand sampling healthy snack options to fill lunch boxes and offer-

ing tips for hair, skin and dental care. During the event, shoppers will have a chance to support the AIDS Foundation of the Bahamas' After School Programme by donating new uniforms, clothing, school supplies and food to the non-profit initiative spearheaded by the Zonta Club of Nassau.

"It's already August and before we know it, our children will be back to school. Each year, we put on the

trade show to help parents plan for the upcoming semester. It's a way for them to find reputable after school activities for their kids. We also use it as an opportunity to extend savings during a time when most parents are looking to stretch their dollars," said event organiser and Solomon's brand manager Monalisa Sweeting.

"As always, we are excited to team up with the Zonta Club of Nassau for the

uniform and supply drive to assist the AIDS Foundation of the Bahamas' After School Programme. This is our third year partnering with them to provide much-needed supplies for the students who benefit from this programme and we hope that our customers will extend the same generosity this year as they have in the past."

On Saturday, sports clubs from judo, soccer, track and field and swimming will be showcasing their organisations. Dance and musical

instructors as well as bilingual instructors will be on hand to share information on their after school and weekend programmes. Representatives from the Governor General's Youth Award (GGYA) are also expected to attend to answer questions about the character-building programme.

Health and wellness nutritionists are set to offer tips for staying fit and incorporating a well-balanced diet throughout the school year. Learning and devel-

opment coaches will also be available to share information on setting up successful study habits.

Shoppers can enter to win a free club membership, certificates and giveaways from participating vendors. The trade show will take place at Solomon's Super Centre Nassau on the East West Highway on Saturday from noon to 4pm. Residents in Grand Bahama can also participate at a similar event being held at Solomon's Freeport on Queen's Highway.

LISTERINE
LET'S BRING OUT THE BOLD. TOGETHER.
BACK TO SCHOOL SMILES

With purchase of \$20 or more of Listerine you receive one of the following:

- \$50** Visa Gift Card
- \$50** Gift certificate to John's shoe store
- \$50** Gift certificate to Lorraine's

Please bring receipt to Lowe's Wholesale head office on Soldier Road (next to the entrance for Nassau Village).

Duration: Aug 1st-30th

DISTRIBUTED BY **LOWE'S WHOLESALE**



PARTICIPANTS at a recent event hosted by Solomon's Super Centre.

CHRISTIE CELEBRATES 74TH BIRTHDAY



FORMER Prime Minister Perry Christie celebrated his 74th birthday yesterday. In a post to Facebook, he is seen with a piece of cake and his wife, Bernadette, to mark the occasion.

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