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CLASSIFIEDS TRADER: CARS, CARS, CARS - AND TECH!

Teachers pay hike promise

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

electronic tablets throughout the country within a year or two. He also said his ministry is in the process of revamping the current curriculum to lessen the number of classes students are required to take.

"We are going to capacitate the Professional Development Institute, so that you will and continue to be equipped with the required skills and supplies to do an effective job. I invite you to go on to get your master's degree and PhDs and I promise you that the Ministry of Education is going to make the resources available so you may do so," Mr Lloyd said.

"Today the scholarship mindset is 'Let us give

SEE PAGE SIX

EDUCATION Minister Jeff Lloyd pledged yesterday to increase the salaries of teachers "to match the role educators play in society" as well as provide scholarships to instructors seeking to obtain master's degrees and PhDs.

Addressing newly appointed teachers at an orientation exercise at Uriah McPhee Primary School, Mr Lloyd urged teachers to "help me help you" as he assured them that whatever he promises them, he will deliver.

Mr Lloyd also said the government hopes to extend its pilot programme of equipping pre-schools with

WATSON - JUDGE FNM IN SIX MONTHS

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

day marked 100 days since the FNM was overwhelmingly voted into office.

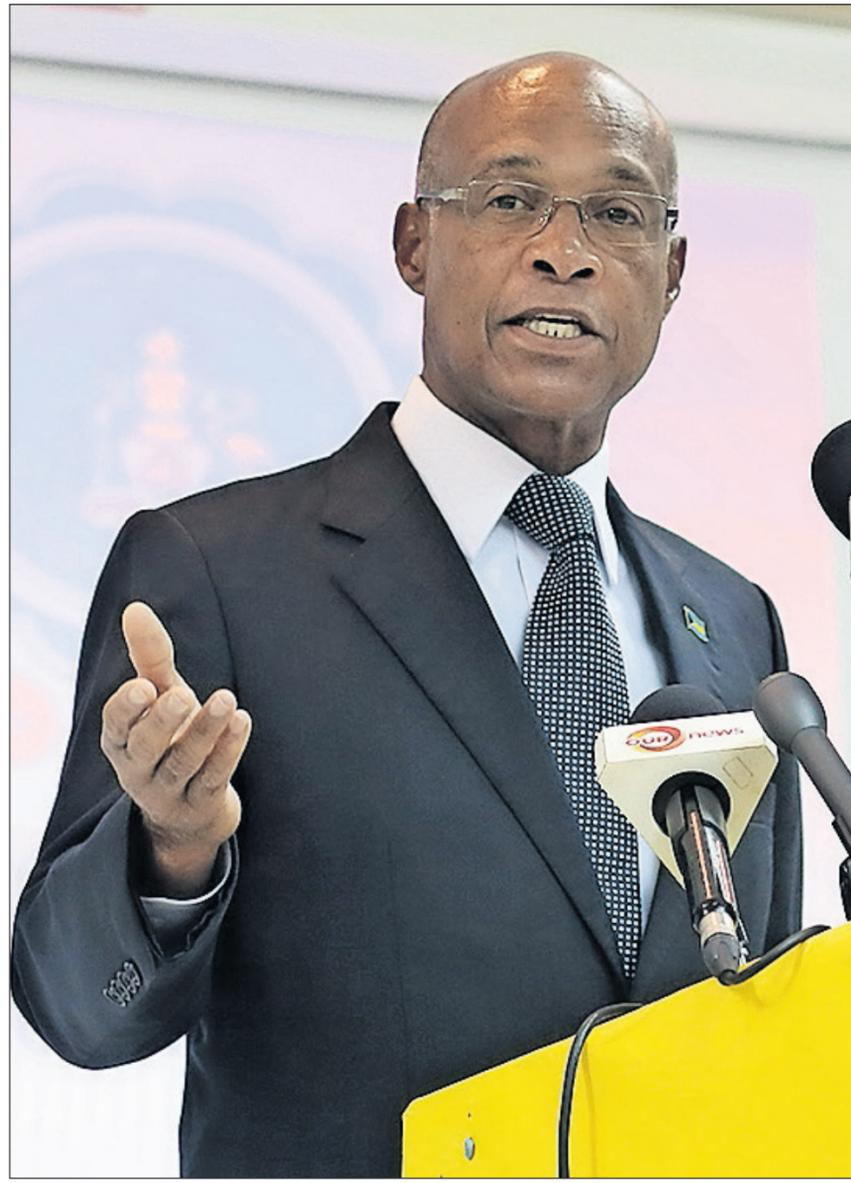
An official in the Minnis administration said Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis would not release a statement marking the first 100 days.

"(It's) not a marker that the prime minister recognises," the official said: "(He's) continuing to do the work for which he was elected, beginning with the cleanup."

SEE PAGE SIX

FORMER Free National Movement Deputy Prime Minister Frank Watson admitted yesterday the Minnis administration is "maybe not moving as quickly as one would like them to," however he added another six months may be needed to give a proper assessment of the new government.

His statement came as today marks 100 days since the administration's first Cabinet meeting. Last Fri-



JEFF LLOYD, Minister of Education, at the opening ceremony for the orientation exercise for newly-appointed teachers yesterday.
Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

DOWNTOWN STALEMATE NEEDS TO BE BROKEN

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

TOURISM Director General Joy Jibrilu revealed yesterday that shareholders in the downtown Nassau development partnership are all "coming back to the table," with a view to finally address the "unacceptable" state of the area.

"As I said (before), and I am not afraid to say it again, we should be ashamed," the longtime tourism official stated in response to questions on the government's plans for the tourism hub.

Mrs Jibrilu was speaking to reporters following a presentation on the state of the country's tourism economy at a Rotary Club of Southeast Nassau meeting.

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DAVIS TARGETS NEW PARTY CONSTITUTION

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

AS the Progressive Liberal Party's convention nears, Official Opposition Leader Philip "Brave" Davis said he will appoint a constitutional reform committee to fully review the party's constitution to ensure it meets modern expectations.

"I think it's time for us to review the party's constitution in totality to today's reality," he said, "making sure the constitution is more relevant to the political party in today's context. I'll be appointing a committee to do that, we'll do that at the convention."

SEE PAGE SEVEN

UNION: BPL SUSPENSIONS A SIDESHOW

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

BAHAMAS Electrical Workers Union representatives yesterday scoffed at the suspension of two managers from Bahamas Power & Light amid an investigation into a more than \$2m fraud scheme uncovered earlier this year, claiming those "put on the shelf" this week "played no major role" in the alleged matter.

Meanwhile, three employees who were fired from BPL last week in

SEE PAGE FIVE

HUNDREDS CAUGHT OUT IN PINEAPPLE PYRAMID 'SCAM'

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

THE Securities Commission has warned the public that local "asue" business Pineapple Express Asue Holders should be viewed as "unsafe and very high risk" and advised members

of the public to "exercise extreme caution when considering to engage with this entity or persons soliciting membership."

The commission said the methods used by Pineapple Express is structured like a "pyramid or Ponzi scheme" where promoters claim they can turn a small investment

into large profits within a short period of time. The statement urged anyone with concerns about the company to contact police.

Hundreds of Bahamians have now been left in limbo after the business temporarily closed its doors

SEE PAGE THREE

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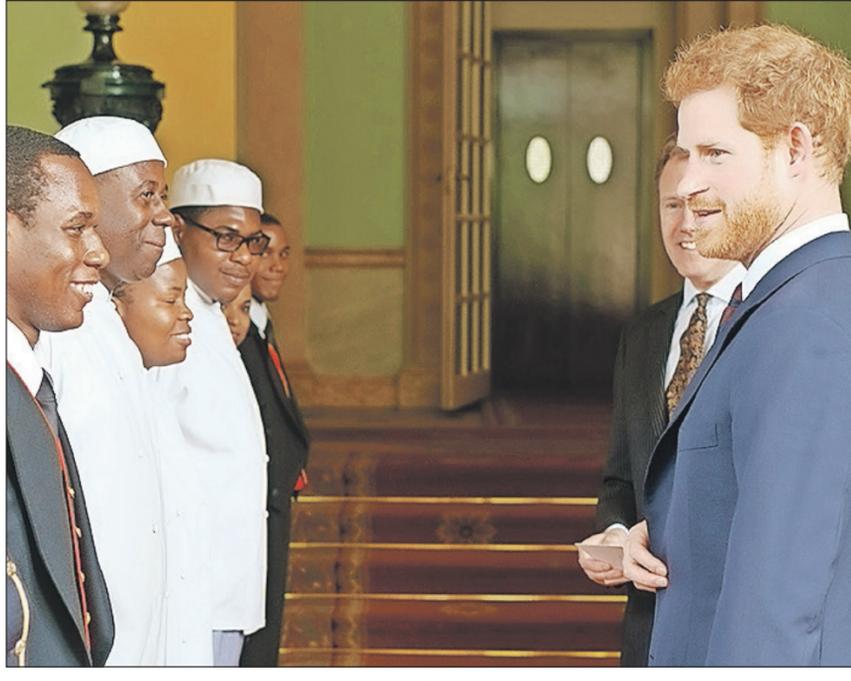
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CHEF Jared Forbes and fellow members of the Royal Household Hospitality Scholarship meeting Prince Harry.

By **GENA GIBBS**
Bahamas Information Services

CHEF Jared Forbes, Government House's food service manager for the last six years, gained the unique opportunity to participate in the Royal Household Hospitality Scholarship training in Britain recently to enhance mastery of his culinary craft.

The programme of six weeks provided study with seven other scholars within the master of the household's department in the Queen's Residences at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle.

The circle of eight students were from Caribbean Commonwealth nations of Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, St Lucia, and St Vincent and the Grenadines.

During a recent Royal Tour of the Caribbean, Prince Harry made a public statement regarding the opportunities the scholarship



JARED FORBES

has offered to talented Caribbean hospitality professionals.

The programme tests the scholars' ability to quickly use their individual problem solving techniques with real time scenarios that take place in the royal household daily to improve upon their efficiency while building positive relationships.

By assisting the royal household during the complex pageantry of royal events, such as the delivery of the 2017 Royal Ascot week at Windsor Castle this past June, the scholars showed significant improvement in high level hospitality service on a multi-international level.

The royal household stu-

dents learned and implemented the royal household techniques, and they also were afforded the opportunity to meet industry leaders and trade contacts with specialist suppliers, experiences that helped them understand the networking necessary to support the hospitality industry.

After the programme was completed, the eight students attended a reception as they looked back at what they accomplished together in six weeks. They each received a certificate presented to them by the Master of The Household Vice-Admiral Tony Johnstone-Burt, in the presence of the Caribbean High commissioners representing each nation that participated.



CARIBBEAN participants in the Royal Household Hospitality Scholarship training programme in Britain. The participants were on a six-week programme.

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THE PINEAPPLE Express premises yesterday.

Photo: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

Hundreds caught out in Pineapple pyramid 'scam'

from page one

following a meeting with government officials earlier this week.

Pineapple Express, according to their Facebook page, is an asue holders company "dedicated to helping persons thrive financially".

The Tribune understands that on Monday, the company, after being unable to pay out several "hands" or disbursements to customers was called into a meeting with the Securities Commission.

In order to join the "asue," persons are required to pay a one-time fee of \$200 and receive \$1,050 or pay \$100 and receive \$540. Participants are also required to pay a \$25 membership fee. Persons are also required to pay a \$25 processing fee each time they rejoin for a payout. After signing up, persons receive a payout in "around 14 business days".

"In reality, participants make money solely by recruiting new participants into the programme. The scheme gathers momentum until it crashes," the Securities Commission said.

"Fraudsters behind these schemes typically go to great lengths to make their programmes appear to be legitimate multi-level marketing schemes, but the schemes eventually fall apart when it becomes impossible to recruit new participants, which can happen quickly...Ponzi and pyramid schemes are very harmful to the unsuspecting public as invariably, any payouts for all people joining these schemes depend solely on what comes from the people who join afterward. So, without new investors, money for payouts

very soon becomes insufficient. Therefore, under no circumstance are these schemes to be viewed as bona fide investment programmes as they tend by nature to involve fraud.

"The commission hereby advises that the activity of Pineapple Express, its agents or consultants should be viewed as very high risk and unsafe. Therefore members of the public are advised to exercise extreme caution when considering to engage with this entity or persons soliciting on behalf of this entity. Persons who decide to do so, do it at their own risk. Anyone who is concerned about having transacted with the above named company, their agents or their consultants, should contact the police," the commission added.

According to Pineapple Express' Facebook page, several hundred persons were able to receive payouts before the company experienced difficulties.

On Monday evening, Pineapple Express executives met with members at the Breezes Resort to discuss the way forward.

Hours before the meeting, the company posted that they would be closed on Monday, August 21, and reopen for business on Tuesday, August 22.

However on Tuesday, they remained closed and asked anyone with questions or concerns to send them a message on Facebook.

Shortly before midnight, the company issued a statement saying government officials and authorities have "asked them not to open".

"We will not resume operations until a new system is in place," the company's statement noted. "We understand fully that this process can take longer than we anticipated and so we are

willing to refund members but there will be a process.

"Members will be contacted in groups based on the dates they joined to schedule times to receive their refunds. We are truly sorry and apologise for the inconvenience," Pineapple Express added.

Many persons have described the business as a "pyramid scheme," similar "loom" phenomenon, which became popular in The Bahamas several months ago.

In January, the Securities Commission announced that looms are fraudulent pyramid schemes.

In the loom scheme, persons were asked to join groups and contribute small sums of money to get a larger payout, for instance \$100 with the promise of getting \$800.

Despite the issues and concerns with Pineapple Express, an overwhelming number of persons have decided not to request their money back and instead "trust" that the company

will reopen.

Under the company's statement on Facebook one person wrote: "Why go to the bank for money for back to school when we could go to Pineapple? Their hands are being forced by the government. This is truly for the poor people. Think out of the box."

Another member said: "Until I see a post saying 'sorry guys, this failed' then I will get my money back, until then I will chill. The dream is still alive, they are just looking for a better way to assist us."

Other persons, however, were not as forgiving.

One person wrote: "Please try hard give me my money back. I been messaging for weeks now and cannot get a response. Please do not go missing with my money. I knew this was too good to be true, I should have known better (sic)."

The Tribune attempted to contact Pineapple Express but calls were not returned up to press time.

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THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD	C		1:00	3:20	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
ANNABELLE CREATION	T		1:05	3:35	N/A	6:05	8:25	10:45
KIDNAP	C		1:10	3:30	N/A	6:10	8:20	10:50
THE DARK TOWER	T		1:15	3:45	N/A	6:15	8:45	10:50
EMOJI MOVIE	A		1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:30	10:35
GIRLS TRIP	C		1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45

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PYRAMID AND PONZI SCHEMES

PYRAMID schemes are scams where promoters claim they can turn a small investment into large profits within a small period of time. In reality, participants make money solely by recruiting new participants in the scheme. The scheme gathers momentum until it crashes when it becomes impossible to recruit new participants.

A Ponz scheme is similar to a pyramid scheme, the primary difference being that a Ponzi scheme involves the scheme's operators persuading other persons to invest a sum of money, purportedly involving an investment vehicle or product such as a mutual fund, in return for a greater sum of money or payout from the purported investment with little to no risk to the initial sum. In reality, there is no mutual fund or investment vehicle and therein lies the primary fraudulent activity.

TWO HELD BY POLICE FOLLOWING ARMED ROBBERY AND DRUG FIND

POLICE took two men into custody shortly after an armed robbery and the seizure of a large number of dangerous drugs on Tuesday.

Shortly before 7pm, police received a report that a man was held up and robbed of a large amount of cash near a business near the Lynden Pindling International Airport by two men armed with a handgun.

The two men in the vehicle were stopped without incident and taken into custody.

During a search of the vehicle, police recovered the stolen cash and uncovered 40 pounds of marijuana.

Investigations are continuing.

(APB) for the vehicle and a short while later officers from the Selective Enforcement Team on routine patrol intercepted the vehicle on Emerald Coast Road near Gladstone Road.

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Decisions for ACLU on free speech

NEW YORK (AP) — Faced with an angry backlash for defending white supremacists' right to march in Charlottesville, the American Civil Liberties Union is confronting a feeling among some of its members that was once considered heresy: Maybe some speech isn't worth defending.

Cracks in the ACLU's strict defense of the First Amendment no matter how offensive the speech opened from the moment a counter-protester was killed during the rally in Virginia. Some critics said the ACLU has blood on its hands for persuading a judge to let the August 12 march go forward. An ACLU leader in Virginia resigned, tweeting, "What's legal and what's right are sometimes different."

"This was a real tragedy and we're all reeling," said Lee Rowland, a senior staff attorney at the ACLU's headquarters in New York City. "Charlottesville should be a wake-up call to all of us."

The backlash, reminiscent of one that followed the ACLU's 1978 defense of a neo-Nazi group that wanted to march through Skokie, Illinois, a Chicago suburb with a large number of Holocaust survivors, set off a tumultuous week of soul-searching and led to a three-hour national staff meeting in which the conflict within the group was aired.

What resulted from the backlash was an announcement that the ACLU will no longer stand with hate groups seeking to march with weapons, as some of those in Charlottesville did.

"If people are gathering armed to the hilt and hoping for violence, I think the ACLU would be doing damage to our free-speech rights in the long term," Rowland said.

The newfound limit on how far the nearly century-old ACLU is willing to go to defend free speech sets up intriguing choices in the months ahead. Will it intervene, for example, in the case of a white nationalist rally at Texas A&M that the university cancelled after Charlottesville? The ACLU said it won't discuss when and where it might take a stand.

The seeds of upheaval in Charlottesville were planted when a judge agreed with the ACLU that white nationalists should be able to protest the removal of a statue of Confederate Gen Robert E Lee where the monument stands, instead of at a neutral site sought by city officials.

It was a position consistent with the ACLU's history of defending free-speech rights for protesters on all parts of the spectrum. But then James Alex Fields Jr was accused of using his car to kill 32-year-old Heather Heyer and injure several others who were staging a counter-demonstration.

Within hours, a board member of the ACLU's Virginia branch, Waldo Jaquith, resigned and fired off a stinging tweet that ended with, "I won't be a fig leaf for the Nazis."

In an opinion piece in The New York Times, K-Sue Park, a race studies fellow at the UCLA School of Law, argued that the ACLU's defend-in-all-cases approach to the First Amendment "perpetuates a misguided theory that all radical views are equal," adding that group is "standing on the wrong side of history."

Virginia Gov Terry McAuliffe went further, accusing the ACLU of creating a "powder keg" in Charlottesville. The ACLU of Virginia responded by saying it was "horrified" by the violence but didn't cause it.

"We do not support Nazis," it said. "We support the Constitution and the laws of the United States."

After the 1978 furor over the neo-Nazi rally in Skokie, which never actually got off the ground, the ACLU stood firm even as it received hate mail and hundreds of members quit.

The latest criticism of the ACLU has come from some of the same people who had heaped praise and donations on the organisation for its resistance to President Donald Trump's travel ban. Membership surged from 425,000 to 1.6 million, with \$90m in online contributions, in the months since Trump's election.

"The ACLU has faced much worse before and emerged stronger and more dynamic," said Ron Kuby, a New York civil rights attorney. "Refusing to represent people who intend to march while visibly armed is a reasonable line to draw given what we've seen from the white supremacists."

ACLU member and Charlottesville resident Ira Bashkow said he never considered quitting the group but feels the disturbing episode in his city showed it has to rethink its "old-line" approach to the First Amendment.

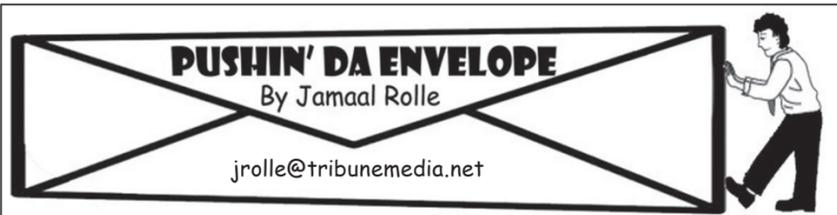
"I believe in the right to free speech, but it doesn't mean (demonstrators) can say whatever they want and hold a weapon at the same time," he said.

Stacy Sullivan, an associate director with the ACLU, said that after Charlottesville, a small increase in people quitting as members or dropping off social media last week was made up for by new sign-ups.

She said the ACLU will not shy away from taking unpopular positions.

"If you can't stomach respecting the First Amendment rights of people you despise," Sullivan said, "you don't work here."

By Tom Hays and Larry Neumeister,
Associated Press



KIDS GO BACK TO SCHOOL



Police probe is not a witch hunt

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IT must be quite clear to the public at this time that the witch-hunt being alleged by prominent politicians and lawyers is not deserving of their acceptance.

It is their way of trying to stop the intensive investigations being conducted by the Police (not the politicians) into the blatant corruption and criminality practised in high places and the misappropriation of our public finances, which have resulted in the dangerous economic state that exists today.

There are those persons, who would wish the investigations to cease. It is my position, that the staff provided to Assistant Commissioner Paul Rolle could be increased, if we ask for assistance from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, the FBI, and the Metropolitan Police from London. Other Caribbean nations have received such assistance, which enabled them to expedite investigations and expose the villains involved in the criminal acts.

The Police are under attack by attorneys and others for what appears to be efficient and effective probing being done and the arrests of persons allegedly involved. I concur with the critics with regards to the handcuffs and shackles, but do not agree that detention of the persons arrested was unnecessary.

As a Policeman, I was trained by experts, such as

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

Mr Salathiel Thompson, Sir Albert Miller and Mr Stanley Moir. I had the opportunity to attend many institutions overseas for training. I have read The Bahamas Constitution, the Criminal Procedure Code and other laws of The Bahamas.

A provision of the Constitution, that is relevant is where the Police Officer has reasonable grounds for believing that the persons arrested will interfere with or harm the evidence connected with the office or interfere with or cause injury to other persons, has reasonable ground to believe, that the persons arrested will alert other persons suspected of being involved in the same crimes; who are yet to be arrested or has reasonable grounds that the persons arrested will hinder the recovery of any property obtained as a result of the crime.

As I recall from my training and experience, the Constitution provides for the denial by the Police to permit an attorney to interview an accused person, if the investigating officer is satisfied, that such a meeting would interfere with the investigation.

For example; an accused person is about to take the policeman to recover; a murder weapon; to rescue a kidnapped victim or to find stolen property. The attorney must be denied access to the accused. The 48 hours detention of the accused persons gives the investigating time to pursue and arrest other suspects, check alibis and proceed with other functions to complete the investigation. The 48 hours detention would be increased as I recall to 72 hours on application to a Magistrate.

Our Police Force has been involved in investigations of political figures in the past. A government minister (UBP) was arrested and charged with election bribery; an MP and prominent labour leader was arrested and charged with sedition, two MPs were arrested for stealing and fraud at government institutions and an MP was arrested and charged for attempting to bribe a magistrate. I recall in the latter case cabinet ministers, party leaders and bishops attending the Magistrate's Court. Their presence did not influence to custodial sentence imposed by the Magistrate.

I implore our Police Officers to be honest, fair and work to preserve the legacy of the Royal Bahamas Force.

PAUL THOMPSON Sr
 Nassau,
 August 21, 2017.

Punishment a joke

EDITOR, The Tribune.

WHEN I heard the news about the punishment that was handed down to the two police officers who were caught on video drinking on the job, I was absolutely outraged. This was literally a smack on the wrist.

Anybody whose head is not buried in the sand knows that this had been a problem for a long time now. The Commissioner

had the opportunity to send a clear message that this kind of behaviour would not be tolerated. The precedent has now been set. How could he fire any officer in the future for this same infraction? They would have a good case to argue that they are not being treated fairly.

Police should be held to the highest standard and letting these officers off so easily has lowered the bar.

Has the moral fabric of our society decayed so badly that these sorts of behaviours are dismissed as no big deal? All right thinking citizens should be outraged at this.

With all due respect, I think the Commissioner dropped the ball on this one.

OUTRAGED CITIZEN
 Nassau,
 August 22, 2017.

Gardiner will learn

EDITOR, The Tribune.

CONGRATULATIONS to Steven Gardiner, with his silver medal at the IAAF in London. He has the potential to be one of the world's greatest runners in his time.

However, raw talent must go along with a sensible strategy. Did he believe that the semi-final was the final?

When I saw him flat on his back and doing his personal best in the semi-final, I thought what was he thinking?

It is one thing to lie flat on your back to get into a final, but he had plenty cushion and it was not necessary to

do a personal best and Bahamian record.

He was obviously one of the favourites to win the gold, so going into the semi-final all he needed to do was ensure he was one of the top three finishers. He expended too much energy in the semi-final, his body obviously did not recover, and the photo of him on his back should have been after the final.

His desire to only want to run in the final in the 4x400, shows his lack of understanding; that to run in the finals you have to get into the finals as the coach pointed out.

Only very deep teams

such as the USA can afford to rest their fastest runner in a heat. That he might have to lie flat on his back again, to get this team into the finals, was not appealing to him. The 400 is a punishing race, and the 4x400 was for team and country.

Again, raw talent must combine with common sense race strategy in preliminaries, to produce a world beater.

He is still very young and I trust he can learn for 2020.

EDROY DEVEAUX
 Nassau,
 August 16, 2017.

Union: BPL suspensions a sideshow

from page one

connection with the fraud scheme have filed a trade dispute with the Department of Labour against BPL, saying they were fired without knowledge of what they allegedly did and in the absence of evidence they breached BPL's policies.

Speaking on the suspension of the two managers, BEWU Secretary General Astrid Bodie, in an interview with *The Tribune*, said the union remains "on a mission" to "put right where right should be".

Ms Bodie, while insisting that the union doesn't plan to stage any protest or strike action in the coming weeks, maintained that decisive action must be taken "once and for all".

She claimed Minister of Works Desmond Bannister told the union "change is coming" at BPL and that a conclusion to the police's investigation into the fraud scheme is imminent.

On Monday, BPL's board of directors elected to have CEO Pamela Hill terminated, however a specific reason for Ms Hill's firing was not given.

This was followed by the suspension of two managers on Tuesday.

A clearly frustrated Ms Bodie said on Wednesday: "They wanted to give the impression that they have been busy, I guess. These managers on suspension are not at the core of the issue."

"But the heart is (a certain) department where between the manager, assistant manager and (another high ranking employee) have (allegedly) allowed millions to walk out of BPL."

She added: "I've said it

once and I will continue to say it, we in the BEWU do not and have not ever condoned theft. Our issues are with the fact that these three persons have been kept on despite all their failures in this scheme and other things close to this."

According to staff at the company, employees in the department in question are required to, with any transaction, process claims under the guidance of senior personnel. This means that all transactions would have to go through an authorisation process, checked and approved by a 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.

To this end, union representatives have suggested the scheme was fostered through blatant mismanagement and errors on the part of general workers and management alike.

Ms Bodie continued Wednesday: "These three senior staff should be held accountable for the money going missing on their watch."

"BPL shouldn't have brought them back; those three (managers in question) should have been terminated with our members."

She added: "We are standing firm. We are not going to rest because too much foolishness has happened on their watch and we are on a mission."

Ms Bodie yesterday also revealed the union spent most the day in meetings

with Works Minister Desmond Bannister, discussing issues pertaining to the fraud.

She said the meeting was strictly based on finding out why the three managers in question have been kept on and not punished.

Ms Bodie claimed the minister assured them that a major shake-up was on the way for the company, but didn't offer any "firm details" on the future of the three managers in question.

"He presented his case and we will work with him," she added. "We are not going out there protesting and breaking up the place. We've spoken with Minister Bannister and he has given us his word that change is coming."

"He said the police are almost completed with their investigation and we are confident that resolution is coming," she concluded.

Both the government and the BPL board have received copies of an audit conducted by Ernst and Young into the discovery of a five-month long scheme, which involved approximately 44 cheques paid out to 16 vendors from December 16, 2016 to May 9, 2017.

It was revealed on Monday that BPL's board has 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 its management services agreement within 30 days.

BPL said its board has "addressed further critical performance issues with PowerSecure" and awaits its response within the contractually required timeframe.



ONE of the workers fired from Bahamas Power and Light, who said she did not want her face shown.



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Watson - judge FNM in six months

from page one

The Minnis administration took a ten-week break from the House of Assembly in July that will end on September 13 when Parliament resumes. It is expected that the new government's legislative agenda will ramp up once this happens.

"What I hear people saying is they want to hear the plan which means (the administration) needs to do a better job of explaining what they have in mind," Mr Watson said when contacted yesterday. "I think they are maybe not moving as quickly as one would like them to but I think they are making some decisions that appear to be in the interest of going forward. There are a number of things one might do immediately after getting into office but it takes a while to plan a programme of action that begins to be seen by the general public. We should judge them after six months or so."

While an administration that spent five years in opposition "should have a plan" for what it wants to do

before entering office, Mr Watson said "the circumstances" the administration finds itself in are relevant.

"You don't really know all the things going on when you're in opposition," he said. "You hear many stories but don't really know until you look at the records and books."

The new administration is encountering a similar situation to what the first Ingraham administration did in 1992, Mr Watson said, adding that this scenario may be even worse.

"I thought it was a very bad situation in 1992, but the financial situation of the country now is much worse," he said.

Still, blaming the former Christie administration for the country's woes will wear on Bahamians, he said.

"Sooner or later they have to speak in clear and unambiguous terms about what their plans are."

In a statement yesterday, the Democratic National Alliance (DNA) labelled the administration's first 100 days "unfulfilled."

"Armed with a myriad of pre-election promises on

how to improve the lives of Bahamians, the Minnis led opposition rode a wave of anti-PLP sentiment into office and declared that after five years of lackluster governance it would finally be 'the people's time.' "Unfortunately, more than 100 days into this term, it has become painfully clear that the FNM, though clearly capable of winning the election, was not prepared to govern," DNA Leader Branville McCartney noted.

He chided the administration for not offering detailed plans on the way forward.

"While the government has been consumed with the arrests of former politicians—a move which in isolation is an important part of efforts to root out corruption—they have ignored the needs of the persons who voted them in," Mr McCartney added.

"Families being crushed by the weight of the oppressive value added tax and who were promised a repeal of that tax on poplar bread basket items, continue to suffer. Business owners and

budding entrepreneurs who have, over the years found themselves buried by miles of red tape, and who were promised a greater sense of ease in conducting their affairs, continue to face challenges. Similarly, Bahamians in Over-the-Hill communities who bought into the prime minister's promised initiatives for the revitalisation of those areas have been left with absolutely nothing to show for all the PM's grandiose promises."

Aggressive

Yesterday, Attorney General Carl Bethel said the government will unveil an "aggressive legislative agenda of reform and improvements" starting next month.

While he did not give specifics, he mentioned the FNM's support for the appointment of an ombudsmen and said "there may be some movement towards that." He suggested that when Parliament returns, the administration's focus on good governance policies, a major talking point for the FNM, will only intensify.

Mr Bethel said: "A host of radical changes are going to be enacted that we hope will become institutional features of governance in this country and bring a higher level of performance for this government while subsequently enhancing integrity and enshrining the highest conduct of officials."

The Minnis administration has not placed a timeline on most of its promises, nor has it been specific about much of what it intends to do. A call from the National Congress of Trade Unions of the Bahamas (NCTUB) last week to start to give timelines for its priorities was seemingly ignored by the administration, despite requests for comment from the press.

In the lead-up to the May general election, one area for which the FNM came closest to giving a timeline for implementation involved value added tax (VAT) repeal on some items.

During a rally in Grand Bahama on May 5, Dr Minnis said: "Your FNM will immediately remove VAT

from bread-basket items to bring relief to the less fortunate."

However, after coming to office, officials suggested this promise would have to wait as the Minnis administration cleans up the fiscal mess left behind by the Christie administration.

Among its promises, the government has pledged to create and enforce anti-corruption legislation for parliamentarians and public officers; bring legislation to amend the Public Disclosure Act to include a campaign finance component and allow for a matter to be referred to an independent prosecutor.

The Minnis administration also pledged to enact legislation to establish the Office of an Independent Director of Public Prosecutions.

The party has also pledged to hold a referendum to constitute an independent Electoral Commission and Boundaries Commission, introduce term limits for prime ministers and introduce a system of recall for non-performing members of Parliament.

TEACHERS PAY HIKE PROMISE

from page one

scholarships to those entering for the first time, maybe here or there we will give the master's degree but hardly ever a PhD and that cannot be intelligent, that cannot be a smart application of our resources.

"No, sir. We want people to continue on with their master's and want them to continue on with their PhDs and teachers are at the forefront of that consideration. I will help you to do so...I am an educator and we have lived with the expectation that because you are doing God's service you should be satisfied with menial, small salaries. Lies. The devil is a liar.

"We like to talk about the importance of education and please understand it's important. Well I invite this country to put its money where its mouth is, if we consider education to be important then let us pay the professionals what you deserve and that will change. I will help you with that."

Mr Lloyd also said within two years, he hopes to have hand held devices in all preschools in The Bahamas.

"We have to rethink education," Mr Lloyd said.

"So we are going to introduce this year, iPads and tablets or handheld devices in a selected number of pre-schools. Right now, we have 340 in the test programme and our in-

attention is to have all other preschools equipped with these iPads within a reasonable period of time and I hope that that can happen within the next year, certainly within the next two years. "The point is that technology is crucial. We are going to make that a priority in the Ministry of Education because that is where the world is today.

"I am happy that our team is already working on reformation of curriculum, look more closely primary schools where they are overwhelmed with the number of subjects they must address. Children are not playing enough, I am not telling you to let children run wild in the yard, even though there is a place



MINISTER of Education Jeff Lloyd addresses the Department of Education Orientation Exercise for newly-appointed teachers at Uriah McPhee school yesterday. Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff for that but in a properly controlled supervised environment, children learn through play that is their method of understanding the world." On Sunday, Mr Lloyd said the Minnis administration plans to build at least one new school in southwest New Providence this term. He also said his ministry is looking into several public private partnership strategies to plan and construct new schools. Once finalised, the government will enter into "25-year, lease to own agreements" with private entities for several proprietries.

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Activist losing faith in FNM over pollution

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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A LEADING member of the Grand Bahama Environmental Association is no longer confident that the Minnis administration will be any different from the previous Christie administration in bringing some resolve to the plight of residents living in Grand Bahama communities near the industrial plants.

Shuffel Hepburn, an executive member of GBEA, claimed Minister of State for Grand Bahama Kwasi Thompson has not responded to letters his organisation has hand delivered to the senator about its members' concerns.

"We had hoped we would receive genuine help...but those hopes are dim at the moment," he said. "I delivered them (the GBEA's letters) myself and signed for them at his office."

He claimed it has been asserted that Mr Thompson has had regular meetings with the GBEA, some-

thing Mr Hepburn said is not the case.

"He had never had meetings with us other than when we were invited to the Office of the Prime Minister, along with the industrial plants and the Grand Bahama Port Authority, to get copies of the two studies - the safety assessment and e-nose studies - that were undertaken by the previous government," he said.

"We already had five years of inaction from the previous PLP administration, and we do not intend to spend another five years of inaction," Mr Hepburn said.

The group also believes it is being censored by ZNS radio and television in Grand Bahama, saying the government owned broadcaster has not aired its recent press conference.

The GBEA held a press conference regarding plans for its first Industrial Plant Residents Day that was held on August 19, the same day of the FNM's 1992 victory anniversary celebration.

The Tribune contacted Mr Thompson's office on Wednesday for a response and was told that the senator had scheduled a meeting with the GBEA for next Monday at his office.

Mr Hepburn indicated that the GBEA had expected things would change after a new government was elected on May 10.

The GBEA, which is born out of the Pinder's Point Lewis Yard Environmental Committee, was formed earlier this year. The group has been agitating for the relocation of residents living in Seaco Town, Pinder's Point, Lewis Yard, Hawksbill, Hunters and Mack Town.

For the past 30 years, the residents have complained of continuous exposure to chemical emissions emanating from the nearby plants. They also claim to suffer from various health issues, from respiratory illnesses to nose, eye, and throat irritations, vomiting, and nausea.

GBEA and PPLYEC have held protests, calling

for the relocation of residents.

The Christie administration had undertaken an environmental health risk assessment study conducted by international independent health organisations PAHO and WHO in November 2014 and December 2015. The study concluded that there was no health risk to residents living near the plants, but made recommendations for the installation of e-nose air monitors and for a safety risk assessment to be undertaken in the affected communities near the industrial facilities.

The GBEA and PPLYEC rejected the PAHO/WHO findings, and claims that the studies were "faulty".



SHUFFEL HEPBURN

DAVIS TARGETS NEW PARTY CONSTITUTION

from page one

"The manner in which stalwart councillors are (selected) will be among the matters addressed," he said.

In addition, he said the review will focus on ways to "ensure that branches have more say in national affairs and that the provisions of the constitution have more relevance to not just officers, members and leaders, but to the wider general public".

The constitutions of the major political parties have long been criticised as less than democratic because of the power they bestow upon leaders.

Before January's PLP national convention, former Attorney General Alfred Sears derided the election process, saying 355 stalwart councillors were appointed on the eve of the party's internal election.

The former Fort Charlotte MP wrote in June: "At the convention, immediately before nominations for officers on January 25, 2017, the party's constitution was amended giving the leader the authority to increase the number of stalwart councillors 'as he deems necessary.' The appointment of these new stalwart councillors on the eve of the convention automatically conferred voting status on these persons to determine



OPPOSITION leader Philip 'Brave' Davis.

the leadership race."

Mr Sears vied unsuccessfully against former Prime Minister Perry Christie for the leadership of the PLP in January. After holding the post for 20 years, Mr Christie resigned as PLP leader several days after the party suffered an embarrassing defeat in the general election.

The PLP's next convention will take place between

October 22-25. Mr Davis has revealed his intention to vie for the party's leadership. No one has yet announced an intention to challenge him. Former Tourism Minister Obie Wilchcombe has said he will run for chairmanship of the party. Former Minister of State for Legal Affairs Damian Gomez has also said he is mulling over running in the chairman race.

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Jibrilu defends hiring of foreign PR firm by ministry

By RICARDO WELLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE Ministry of Tourism's re-engagement of the global public relations firm Weber Shandwick was in the best interest of improving the country's stagnant tourism product, according to Tourism director general Joy Jibrilu, who insisted yesterday the company offers something "we don't have at this time."

Reflecting on the lack of growth in tourism statistics in recent years, Mrs Jibrilu in an interview with the press following an appearance at a Rotary Club of Southeast Nassau meeting, said the attempt to establish an in-house public relations unit by the former administration proved to be a "learning curve" that didn't yield the results expected.

She said the country's tourism product was in the midst of fighting a "global battle," one that needed a "reach" the team built at the ministry could not get.

"Tourism is the most competitive sector, economic sector in the world and when we start looking at our numbers, we must start asking questions," stated Mrs Jibrilu.

She continued: "Why is it that we are sort of between six million, 6.05, 6.1, 5.98 (million)? Why is it that we are not able to move the needle?"

"And so engaging a juggernaut like a Weber Shandwick who, you know it was interesting meeting them.

"They're the PR agency on record for Google, for Pepsi; you talk about much of the top 500 companies in the world, but they are most excited about the Bahamas, they say that there is something so very special."

An announcement on the reported \$600,000 deal 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.

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

The partnership came as the Ministry of Tourism executed several rounds of firings over the course of July and into August.

According to earlier reports, Weber Shandwick is expected to assist with project work in the UK and Latin America.

When asked what past experiences and the ultimate termination of that previous deal with the firm has taught tourism officials here in the Baha-

mas, Mrs Jibrilu said they are smarter, wiser and more astute.

"I don't discount the years that we were doing it on our own. The learning curve was steep. We are smarter, we are wiser and I think now that we come to the table as equals," she said.

"So engaging them, we know what we want from them, we are demanding it, rather than having it dictated to us. We have people who are working with them who are saying, 'excuse me, what about this,' but it is just that they have a reach that really, we don't have at this time."

Mrs Jibrilu conceded: "But I do look forward to the time when Bahamians can sit, and we have our own in-house agency that can compete with the Weber Shandwick's of this world."

Reacting to the reports on Weber Shandwick, former Tourism Minister Obie Wilchcombe recently said it was unfortunate the Minnis administration would prefer to spend millions creating employment overseas.

He noted that the government saved \$3.5m in agency fees and commissions in 2016.

As he defended the capacity of the ministry's in-house public relations team, at the time, Mr Wilchcombe underscored that the cadre of young professionals at the Ministry of Tourism must not be overlooked or shunned.



TOURISM director general Joy Jibrilu.

DOWNTOWN STALEMATE NEEDS TO BE BROKEN

from page one

Mrs Jibrilu said it is imperative for the government and stakeholders of properties in the downtown area to "make it a priority" to fix the many issues.

She said the area must become an important part of the government's new tourism strategy because it acts as "front entrance" for cruise passengers.

Specifying the section of downtown Nassau east

of East Street, she said it is nothing short of "disheartening" to see the state of an area that could, if re-vamped, play a vital role in the country's tourism product.

"So, sitting down with all the stakeholders, there are some challenges if we look east of East Street and we see a lot of derelict buildings, buildings that are falling to pieces, those are actually privately owned.

"So, you are needing to work with families, people

who owned those properties to say that, 'you've got to do something.'

"I can't trespass and go on their property and start to do something. So it is getting all the stakeholders around the table, ensuring that conversations take place, having a plan that we are working towards, and moving it."

Mrs Jibrilu said ideas have been put on the table for some time and now is the time for them to move from ideas to action.

"I think it has to be a time when we say, collectively, 'enough is enough, let's do something,'" she said.

Asked to clarify what held up potential development in the past, Mrs Jibrilu added: "The fact that you are dealing with stakeholders."

She explained: "Why should one person carry the brunt to do some major upgrade, to do some major renovation when you have, perhaps, six others who are not prepared or not will-

ing to. And so, everybody has to be on the same page. There has to be goodwill.

"This is not something the government can do alone because it is not just government owned property. And this is when we talk about derelict buildings, it has to be a public private partnership.

"So having someone who will champion the cause, having a minister who will be out there, who will speak with his counterparts; and let us hope that the fact that he is from the business sector, that these are people who understand each other, know each other, they speak the same language, that there is now a core belief that this is the right time.

"But it is really discouraging that you have visitors who are coming to our mega resorts for example, and feeling Nassau itself is not worthy to visit or they come and they visit and can't wait to leave.

"So all of us have a role, litter, some things we can do immediately - we are looking at campaigns. But we have to clean it up. All of us have to take pride in our surroundings, dropping rubbish just on the ground like that, it is unacceptable.

"Each and every one of us now has to accept responsibility for the small changes we can make while the big ones are being

planned out."

Back in 2014, following China Construction America's acquisition of the British Colonial Hilton, then Prime Minister Perry Christie said the developer had indicated his willingness to join in a public private sector partnership with the government and other stakeholders along Bay Street to implement an overall plan for redevelopment, extending from Arawak Cay in the west to Potter's Cay in the east.

This comes as Financial Service and Immigration Minister Brent Symonette, owner of a property in the downtown area, has indicated that he and his family, along with other property owners, have provided the government with various options for a proposed boardwalk, which is supposed to run east from the British Colonial Hilton all the way to Potter's Cay Dock.

However, he warned that downtown Nassau's major property owners, his family among them, would not invest in the redevelopment of their landholdings until the government gave them "the rules of the game."

There have been rumblings that a major downtown redevelopment could amend current height restrictions for buildings, which currently exist at four stories.

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			HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW		HIGH	LOW		
Banana	40lbs		18.00	20.00	20.00	1lb.	0.49	0.72	0.49	0.49	
Papaya	10lbs		14.00	18.00	16.00	each	1.59	4.99	1.49	1.49	
Habanero Pepper	8lbs		40.00	15.00	12.00	1lb.	5.50	1.88	1.50	1.50	
Avocado Pears	40lbs		36.25	30.00	29.00	each	1.85	2.50	1.82	1.82	
Limes	40lbs		40.00	23.00	21.00	each	0.25	0.30	0.58	0.58	

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18-YEAR-OLD ACCUSED OF KILLING TEENAGER ON BAIL



MARK AUGUSTINE, 18, outside court yesterday.

Photo: **Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff**

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
nscavella@tribunemedia.net

AN 18-year-old man was arraigned in a Magistrate's Court in connection with

the shooting death of a teenage boy on bail for house-breaking in the Claridge Road area late last month.

Mark Augustine, of Freddie Munnings Drive, stood before Magistrate Subusola

Swain facing one count of murder for allegedly killing Tavares Deveaux in the morning hours of Saturday, July 29.

On the day in question, the victim was walking near

Peardale Manor, just off Claridge Road, around 9.20am when two male occupants of a silver coloured Honda Accord armed with handguns, approached and shot him multiple times about the body

before speeding off. At the time of his death, Deveaux was being electronically monitored by police while on bail for a serious offence.

Augustine was not required to enter a plea and

was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDCS). The matter was adjourned to October 24 at 10am for service of a voluntary bill of indictment (VBI).

Ten months in jail for scuffle with police officer

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A 30-YEAR-OLD man has been sentenced to ten months and seven days at the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services for causing harm to a police officer during a widely publicised scuffle near Christ Church Cathedral in which he sought to evade arrest.

Scott Major, of St Alban's

Drive, was sentenced by Magistrate Carolyn Vogt-Evans on August 16 after pleading guilty to one count each of damage, disorderly behaviour, resisting arrest, and causing harm in connection with his August 14 scuffle with Police Corporal 3928 Goddard on George Street.

Regarding the one count of damage, Major pleaded guilty to damaging Cpl

Goddard's trousers valued at \$70, one bush jacket valued at \$95, and one Motorola radio set valued at \$3,678, property of the Royal Bahamas Police Force.

Major was ultimately sentenced to six months for the count of damage, two months for causing harm, two months for resisting arrest and seven days for the count of disorder, set to run consecutively.

The incident in question was captured on cell phone video and was widely shared on social media.

The short clip showed 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 on video rolling on the ground, with the latter fighting to maintain his

grasp on the civilian.

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

The officer continued to maintain his grasp before a man nearby, who appeared to be a security guard, stepped in to assist. The security guard subsequently encouraged the officer to maintain his grasp on the man, while also ordering

the civilian to "stay down." The civilian was ultimately subdued after the police officer managed to body slam him on the sidewalk, and the security officer pinned him to the ground so the officer could retrieve his misplaced handcuffs.

The male civilian, throughout the entire ordeal, loudly protested his circumstances, shouting: "I ain't do nothing boss."

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FULL SPEED AHEAD AT SUMMER CAMP



EDWARD MONROE, Queen's College student, masters the slalom course at Doris Johnson High during the second week of the EduKarting camp. This is the fifth year for the camp and this time 56 students from schools throughout New Providence participated in the programme.

IT felt like 110°F outside but for the 56 kids who donned race suits and helmets and tackled a challenging slalom course in speedy karts they had taken apart and rebuilt, it was the coolest thing ever.

Edukarting Bahamas recently wrapped up its two-week summer camp at Doris Johnson High School where teens and pre-teens created business plans, pitched sponsors, managed

finances, pulled apart karts all while learning how to drive them in a holistic programme designed to teach values of self-discipline, responsibility and teamwork. According to organisers, it was the "best karting camp ever" and wouldn't have been possible without the support of volunteers and sponsors.

"This undoubtedly has been our best camp to date," said EduKarting Bahamas founder and coordinator David McLaughlin. "The kids were fantastic, really absorbing all of the skills the camp is designed to teach, from marketing to mechanics, while having a great time with their teammates and the karts. But it's a camp that we can't conduct without our dedicated team of local and international volunteers and sponsors. We owe our tremendous success to them. We were able to offer the camp for just \$25 per camper per week, including lunch, thanks to sponsors like Pizza Hut. It's a beautiful example of private/public partnership positively impacting the lives of our Bahamian youngsters."

"You can watch these kids mature in one circuit," said Craig 'Cam' Camilleri, who rides on the side of the kart, holding on as a student takes his or her first drive. "They've been in class, they've learned the importance of safety, they've driven the simulator, they've raised virtual money to 'pay' for their gear, but now suddenly they are in the kart. It is just them and the engine and the road in front of them and they have to press the pedal and go. That first touch of the foot to the floor is a moment every kid who has ever driven a kart will always remember. Once they do, there is no stopping them, they want another turn and another. You see the fear dissipate instantly and it is like they are gaining confidence in front of your eyes."

For campers like Elzoria Knowles, 10, and Miracle Carey, 10, a second's trepidation turned to confidence and broad smiles as they took control of the little racing machine that is the world's top Formula One racers.

This is the third year he and Henry Beaudette have used their vacation time from jobs in the UK to volunteer in the Bahamas with the EduKarting programme.

Sponsors included the Ministry of Education, Science & Technology, Rotary Club of East Nassau, Rotaract, JS Johnson, Bahamas Waste, Diane Phillips & Associates, Custom Computers, Oasis Furniture, Pizza Hut, Valvoline, Caribbean Bottling Company Ltd, Aquapure, Battery & Tyre, Jumbex and the FIA.

ASH HENDERSON, director of marketing, Restaurants Bahamas, with week two camper Andria Gardiner and the FIA road safety pledge.





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THE CRANE being brought down at Freeport Container Port and, below, the dismantling in stages.

HURRICANE-DAMAGED CRANE DISMANTLED IN FREEPORT

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

A CRANE that caught fire and sustained hurricane damage last year at the Freeport Container Port was dismantled on Tuesday and will be disposed of, a spokesperson for the company said Wednesday.

The transshipment terminal is expecting the arrival of three new cranes early next year.

The crane, which was dismantled around 1pm on Tuesday, caught fire in

April 2016. It incurred further damage in October 2016 as a result of Hurricane Matthew.

“Crane three was destroyed and written off as it’s from the original fleet over 21 years,” said the spokesperson, who reported that the appropriate decision was one of replacement and not repair.

The deconstruction was handled in house and headed by the engineering department.

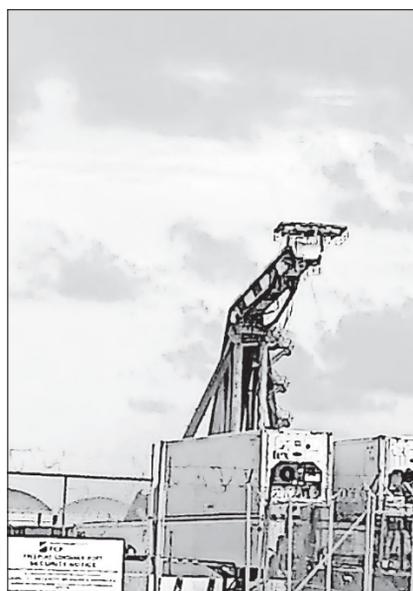
All safety precautions were taken, the official said. Industry partners were notified by

the FCP of the activity.

FCP, which is owned and operated by Hutchison Ports, is undergoing a \$300m expansion, with construction to begin in September/October this year.

It is the largest container port in the region and one of the largest employers on Grand Bahama.

The spokesperson said that Hutchison Ports remains committed to the growth and development of Grand Bahama island. Safety for all and the protection of the environment are a priority, he said.



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On Da Hook



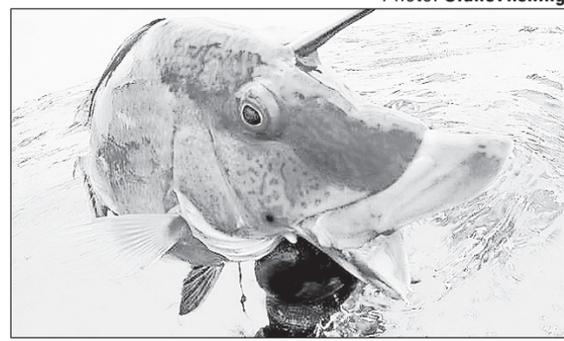
LOCAL boy Luke with a hogfish caught from kayak.



VICTORIA Higgs with a squid of lobster. Photo: Victoria Higgs



A BLUE Marlin landed and released near Harbour Island. Photo: Oldno7fishing



A HOGFISH caught by Luke Maillis. Photo: Reel Addictive Charters



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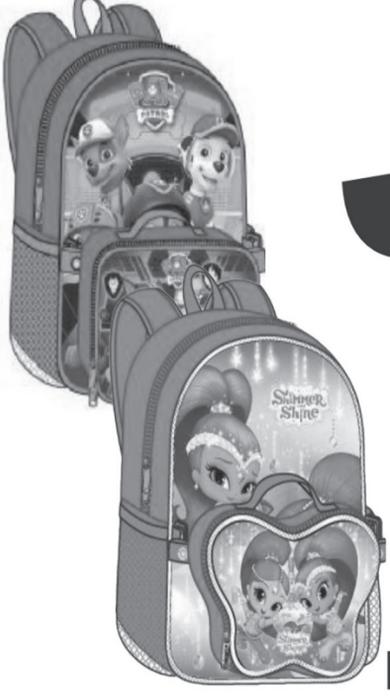


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ALPHANIQUE DUNCOMBE

BTC's Limitless Summer promotion will now assist students all over the country to get ready to enter the classroom to start the new school year.

The company has supported several back to school initiatives and will now be starting a new promotion, "Back to School Spin and Win".

Alphanique Duncombe, the company's vice president for mobile, said that over 1,200 customers will win an assortment of prizes including cash, gift vouchers and free top-up.

"In just a few days our students will return to school and scores of toddlers will start school for the first time. These are indeed exciting times. We realise that back to school is sometimes stressful for parents. So, instead of having a traditional back to school jamboree, we decided to do something that would impact much more persons. In addition to the partnerships that we've had across the country, we are also starting a new Back to School Spin and Win competition. Over a thousand parents and students will be able to benefit from gift vouchers, cash prizes and free top-up. Our grand prize will be a \$10,000 scholarship."

The promotion is simple. To participate, customers should text the word "CASH" to the short code 5014, the text message is free of charge. The customer will then be sent a trivia question, which will cost 50 cents to answer from short code 5015. Customers that answer the question correctly will be sent an internet link, to scratch a BTC card for a chance to win a prize.

"We believe that this promotion will provide a head start for a number of students returning to school and it will also relieve some of the pressure from parents. BTC has always been very community oriented, and we continue to talk with our customers to see what we can do to continue to meet the needs of the community. Last year, we ventured into a partnership with Doris Johnson Senior High School, where we worked along with the administration to reward three students monthly for their hard work and diligence. These were not all typical 'A' students, but they were identified as students working hard to pursue their dreams and make a positive difference on the campus. These are the types of opportunities that we live for at BTC," Ms Duncombe said.

This summer, BTC introduced a number of promotions under its Limitless

Summer campaign. Some of these included Roam Like You're Home, Double Data and Free After 3.

"Two weeks ago, we also partnered with the University of The Bahamas as it hosted its annual freshman week of activities. We were able to talk with the students about their career

choices, and our BTC endorsed celebrity talents also participated in the student council's entertainment and activities," Ms Duncombe said.

The Back to School Spin and Win promotion begins on August 28 and runs for a 90 day period.

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AN ICEBERG floats in the Nuup Kangerlua Fjord near Nuuk in southwestern Greenland, earlier this month. Greenland's glaciers have been melting and retreating at an accelerated pace in recent years due to warmer temperatures.
Photo: David Goldman/AP

It's hot - really hot! Is it climate change?



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The closing date for applications is 8 September 2017.

By **LISA BENJAMIN and ADELLE THOMAS**

TEMPERATURES this summer are soaring across the globe. A heat wave, aptly named Lucifer, has brought scorching temperatures of over 100°F to southern Europe.

Wildfires have been sparked in Portugal, France and Greece, resulting in several deaths. Industries such as tourism, agriculture, as well as public transport services, have all been negatively affected. Emergency alert warnings of the high temperatures have been issued in several European countries. In the Pacific Northwest of the United States, unusually high temperatures peaked at over 100°F, with temperatures being recorded in cities such as Seattle and Portland of 104°F and 107°F respectively. Earlier this year in April, a severe heat wave hit Pakistan, causing temperatures to soar over 120°F. Here at home, it has been an unseasonably hot summer, with temperatures regularly reaching over 90°F. Higher than average air and sea surface temperatures do not bode well for the upcoming hurricane season.

Are these high temperatures due to a changing climate? Climate and weather are two different, but related, concepts. Climate looks at average or long-term weather patterns. Weather

looks at short-term changes in temperatures, rainfall, etc. The difference can be remembered with the short phrase, 'Climate is what you expect. Weather is what you get.' Climate science therefore looks at changing patterns in the Earth's climate over the long term - over decades and even hundreds of years. Climate science and modelling future scenarios of a changing climate is very complex, including many variables. As a result, climate scientists are reluctant to attribute one single weather event to climate change. Instead, they may say that these soaring temperatures are in line with the impacts we can expect to see due to a changing climate.

What scientists are certain of is that average global temperatures have been increasing and that it is clear that humans have contributed to this warming. The last 30 years have been the warmest three decades in over a millennium. Since the 1880s, the globally averaged land and ocean temperature has increased by 0.85 C which has had significant impacts on many natural and human systems including melting of snow and ice, changes to ecosystems, increased intensity of tropical storms, decreased crop yields and sea level rise. As the global temperature average continues to rise, these impacts, and many others, are expected to increase.

Increased temperatures and impacts are particularly disturbing for small island states such as the Bahamas. If temperatures continue to increase, sea level rise can threaten the very existence of many low-elevation islands. Because of this, small island states have been advocating in international climate negotiations to keep the global average warming to a maximum of 1.5 C. Although there will still be impacts from climate change with this level of warming, there will be more adaptation options and increased ability of small islands to survive. However, with 0.85 C of warming already being experienced, there must be urgent and significant action to limit warming to 1.5 C. While small islands are one of the groups most at risk to climate change impacts, they are among the lowest emitters of greenhouse gases, the drivers of warming. Thus, it is imperative that industrialized countries and high emitters such as the USA, China and Russia curb their emissions to limit warming and resultant impacts.

More information about climate change can be found on the Climate Change Initiative's website: www.climatechangebahamas.org.

- Lisa Benjamin and Adelle Thomas are assistant professors at The University of The Bahamas, and co-founders of the Climate Change Initiative

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