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The Tribune Weekend

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THE PEOPLE'S PAPER: \$1

Weekend

Battle of the beauties

Clash in contest conclusion

LIMITLESS DATA

WEEKEND: A STORMY FINALE TO MODEL SEARCH CONTEST

Scam warning

Police alert as second scheme fails

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

POLICE are urging members of the public to report instances of suspected fraud after several alleged "asue" companies have been accused of scamming persons out of thousands of dollars.

In an interview with *The Tribune*, Assistant Commissioner of Police Clayton Fernander said as far as he knows, the Central Detective Unit (CDU) has not received any official complaints regarding theft and fraud despite seeing several accusations on social media.

His comments came as nearly a dozen persons contacted *The Tribune* on Thursday over concerns about a company called Golden Chess Asue Holders.

The calls came one day after this newspaper reported a warning from the Securities Commission advising the public that local "asue" business Pineapple Express Asue Holders should be viewed as "unsafe and very high risk." The commission also 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.

SEE PAGE SIX

SALARIES FOR BUS DRIVERS SENT TO THE WRONG PEOPLE

SCHOOL bus drivers in Cat Island have been waiting for two months for salaries owed to them after money the Ministry of Education sent for them was paid out to the wrong people.

Island administrator Don Cornish confirmed this yesterday, telling *The Tribune*: "The money was not paid to contracted persons."

It's unclear how much money is owed overall to the drivers, but Miriam

Storr, one of the drivers, said she and the other five haven't been paid for May or June. They were last paid in April.

She said they are typically paid \$86 per day. She said she worked 22 days in May and 10 days in June. When *The Tribune* informed her that the money owed was paid to the wrong people, she said this was the first she had heard of it.

SEE PAGE SIX

DIAMOND DELIGHT FOR SHAUNAE



SHAUNAE Miller-Uibo celebrates after winning the women's 200m during the Weltklasse IAAF Diamond League international athletics meeting in the Letzigrund stadium in Zurich, Switzerland, yesterday. See Sports for the full story. Photo: Walter Bieri/Keystone via AP

CALL TO DECRIMINALISE MARIJUANA

By **AVA TURNQUEST**
Tribune Chief Reporter
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A HANDFUL of young Bahamians are hoping to turn their social media traction into a political movement for the decriminalisation of marijuana.

Marijuana Bahamas spokesperson Renaldo Cartwright told *The Tribune* his group hopes to overcome the local stigma surrounding the illegal

drug to allow for informed debate over potential economic, social and medical benefits.

Mr Cartwright, 23, stressed the group's aim was not to promote drug use but lobby for a modern approach to shifting global attitudes.

The group is looking to launch a public relations campaign to raise awareness, and plans to host a march early next year.

"When I started researching the reasons why it was illegal," he said, "and the health and social benefits of the drug as compared to alcohol, tobacco, or other drugs, I was like let me see how Bahamians feel about the issue."

"I put up the group in December 2016, there were other groups out there but there was not much activity. I said let me try my hand at it."

SEE PAGE SIX

HOSPITAL BED PETITION WINS SANDS' SUPPORT

By **SANCHESKA DORSETT**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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HEALTH Minister Dr Duane Sands said yesterday he "fully supports" a recently launched petition urging the government to increase the number of beds and improve the service at the Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama.

SEE PAGE SEVEN

CAR BOOT VICTIM BEGS: DROP CHARGES

By **NICO SCAVELLA**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE case of two brothers who were arraigned in connection with the alleged abduction of a woman was adjourned for two weeks yesterday after the complainant informed the chief magistrate of her desire to withdraw the charges against the accused.

Khalilah Farrington, the woman who was seen thrown in the trunk of a car in a cell phone video that spread on social media, told Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt that "it was my fault" and that she wished to withdraw the one count of causing harm against the two men.

Both brothers, 27-year-old Travis Knowles of Ross Corner and 29-year-old

Valentino Knowles had pleaded not guilty to the charge just moments before. They are both represented by attorney Ian Cargill.

In response to Ms Farrington's statements, the prosecutor told the court that he would need at least a week to receive instructions from the Office of the Attorney General on how to proceed.

SEE PAGE FIVE

BODY OF MAN FOUND IN CAR

By **DENISE MAYCOCK**
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

GRAND Bahama recorded its eighth murder for the year late Wednesday evening when a man was discovered shot dead in a vehicle in the South Bahama area.

SEE PAGE SIX



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SURPRISE PARTY HONOURS PSYCHIATRIST



FOUNDER and principal director of The Family Group Therapy Project Dr David Allen surprised as he arrives at a birthday party thrown for him by members of "The Family". Dr Allen was joined by his wife, Dr Victorial Allen; daughter, Dr Marie Carroll and other members of his family. Photos: **Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff**



DR David Allen relaxing at his birthday celebration.



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It's finger lickin' good

MEMBERS of The Family Group Therapy Project (The Family: People Helping People) organised a surprise birthday party on Wednesday for noted psychiatrist Dr David Allen.

This party was intended to give many people whom he has helped secretly over the years through his free counseling programme the opportunity to honour him

and say thanks. The event was held at the East Street Gospel Chapel. The group therapy project helps people with recovery from trauma, grief, violent crime, domestic abuse, etc. The group works free of charge in the prison, juvenile detention centres, public schools and other organisations. It also offers adolescent and adult thera-

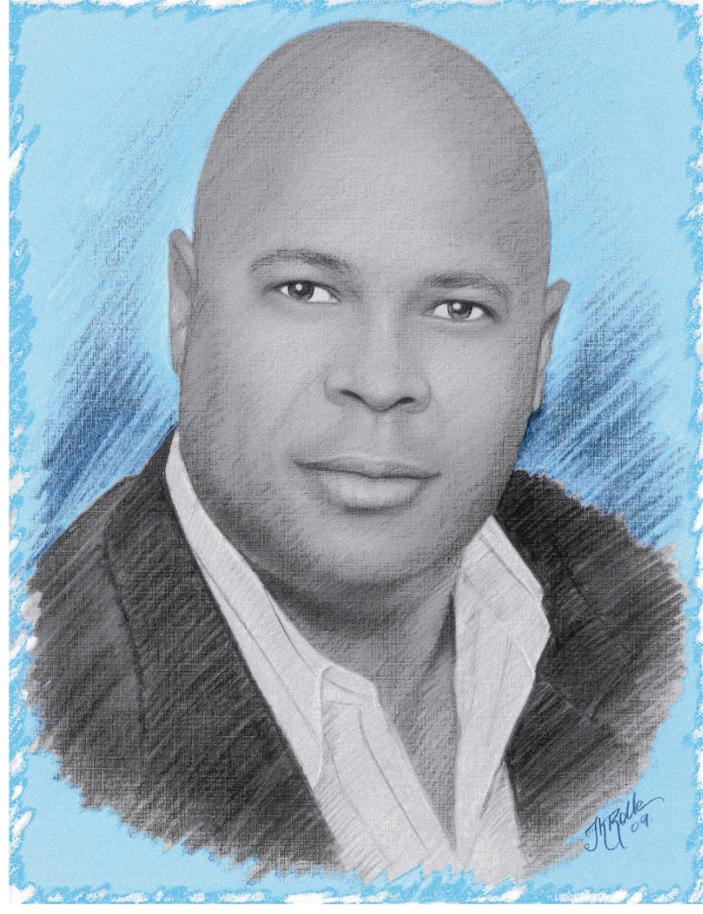
py to the general public. Dr Allen, who founded the Renaissance Institute in Nassau, is renowned for his work in the 1980s about crack-cocaine addiction. He was awarded the Bennett Commonwealth Prize in 1987 for his work. In 2008, Dr Allen, 74, founded The Family: People Helping People programme.



LEVITA THURSTON, mother of a murder victim is pictured giving a tribute to Dr David Allen at his surprise birthday party held at East Street Gospel Chapel.



PATRICE Johnson giving a tribute to Dr David Allen.



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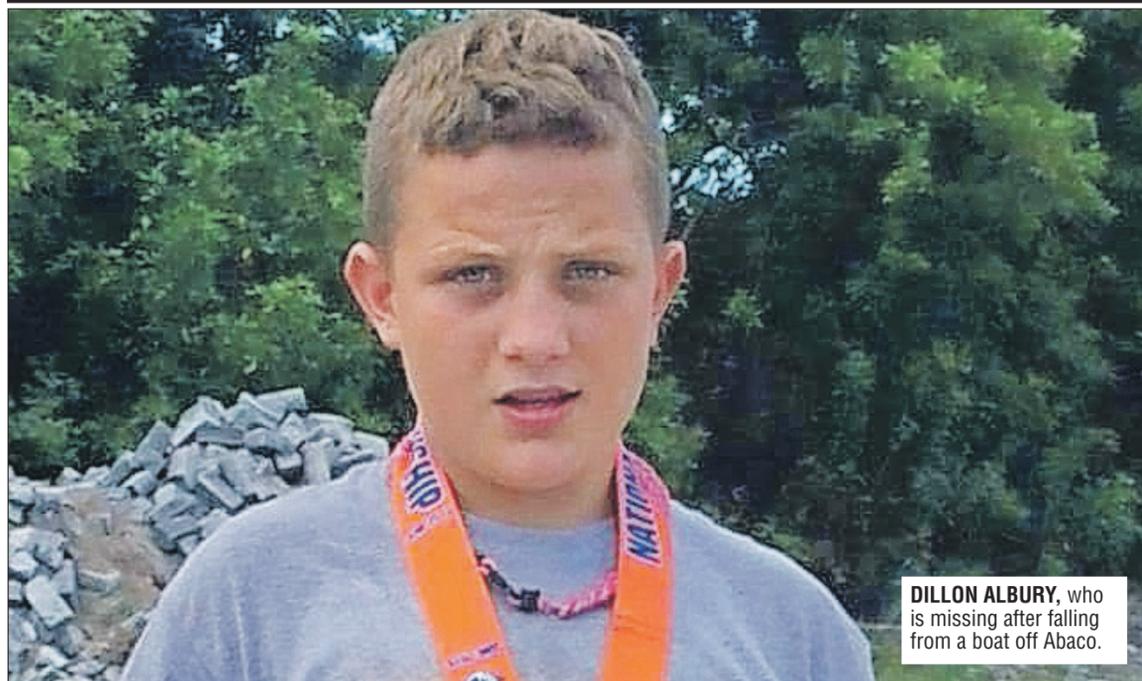
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DILLON ALBURY, who is missing after falling from a boat off Abaco.

RESIDENTS HUNT FOR BOY WHO FELL FROM BOAT

By **RASHAD ROLLE**
Tribune Staff Reporter
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ABACO residents are looking for Dillon Albury, a 15-year-old resident of the island who they said fell off a boat around 8.30pm Wednesday.

He was in the Marsh Harbour point area near Pelican Shores in a 17-foot whaler, according to reports from residents. The boat

was later found with a broken steering wheel.

Yesterday, residents were asking people with boats to help search for him.

Chief Superintendent Kevin Mortimer said the police, Royal Bahamas Defence Force, US Coast Guard and residents were searching for the boy and will continue to do so for at least another couple of days.



'NO INTERRUPTION' IN DOWNTOWN TALKS

By **RICARDO WELLS**
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THE Downtown Nassau Partnership, consisting of key private sector stakeholders in the downtown area, asserted Thursday they have "been fully engaged and at the table without interruption," as development talks for the tourist hub continue to take shape.

DNP managing director Ed Fields, in a statement to *The Tribune*, said the group has long-held the belief that to succeed with plans, both sides of the equation - the government and the DNP - have to be "committed to bring about change."

His statement came in response to comments made by Tourism director general Joy Jibrilu, who on Wednesday insinuated that talks had slowed down between the two sides, and private sector shareholders were now being encouraged to return to negotiations.

Mrs Jibrilu, specifying the section of downtown Nassau east of East

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

Mrs Jibrilu said ideas were 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."

However, Mr Fields told *The Tribune* yesterday that for years DNP stakeholders, specifically those east of East Street, have engaged with government to advance redevelopment plans.

He added that other plans that have been forwarded include improvement of the downtown transportation system, parking logistics and the cleaning up of Woodes Rogers Wharf.

He stated: "I am happy to report that we have had several extremely productive

meetings with the relevant ministries and we anticipate the implementation of many of these ideas over the next 12 months."

Mr Fields added: "The DNP recently convened a board/stakeholders meeting and has been restructured so as to more efficiently activate the initiatives required for the redevelopment of downtown to commence in earnest and we are confident that we have the full support of the government."

Earlier this summer, Financial Services and Immigration Minister Brent Symonette, owner of a property in the downtown area, indicated that property owners have provided the government with various options for a proposed boardwalk.

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."

Additionally, China Construction America, following its acquisition of the British Colonial Hilton,

submitted to the government a 'master-plan' for the wider redevelopment of downtown Nassau - from Arawak Cay to Potter's Cay.

ANGER OVER POWER OUTAGE

A RESIDENT of central New Providence complained that he and his neighbours suffered without electricity for nearly ten hours yesterday, as he lashed out at Bahamas Power and Light workers for reportedly not moving fast enough to address the problem.

The resident said the areas of Shirlea Park, Buen Retiro and Sears Road - all off Shirley Street - were without power from 6.30am Thursday. The issue was still not corrected by 4.30pm, he said.

He claimed when he complained to BPL, a representative from the utility provider said the company did not realise the areas were off and that workers had just fixed issues in a nearby community. He said a truck was promised to come at 12.30, but he was still waiting after 4pm.

"What kind of engineers they have on these jobs? I've been home all day, ice is melting in my freezer," the angry resident said, adding that he had called BPL a few times to complain, but with no success.

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Death Notice for ELSIE JANE THOMPSON, 96



of #112 Lincoln Boulevard, off Balfour Avenue and formerly of Millerton, Long Island, died at her daughter's residence on Thursday, August 17th, 2017.

She is survived by her **Sons:** Don Amechie, Jeffery and Nathaniel Thompson; **Daughters:** Judy Russell and Mary Marva Conyers; **Grandchildren:** Keith, Divii, Terrance, Garrat, Mechie, Donika, Candy, Sherry, Chad, Gerrard, Jerrica, Laverne, Taffari, Neville Jr., Mandy Megan, Amanda, Betty Anna, Rebecca, Lisa, Jeremy, Tarinda, Taria, Carlos (Tykie), Mara, Yolanda, Dominic; **Numerous Great Grandchildren including:** Isiah, Aalyiah, Mose, Ishmael, Joshua, Marcus, Keilan, Justin, Rihanna, Clevinique, Peyton, Carlos Jr. Dominic Jr. Trinity, Rhozeah, Shiloh, Tafari Jr. Tiara and Tafarah and numerous other relatives and friends.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date.

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Fears about US world leadership

WITH the US presidency stumbling from one crisis to another during the last few months, those who want it to fail are now scenting blood in the aftermath of the furore over the drama at Charlottesville and the latest in a string of high profile departures from the White House. But what does this mean for America's position in the world?

Inevitably, the current political turmoil continues to take centre stage. This is fuelled by the sense of instability and even dismay and despair engendered by a president who many now feel he has not only shown a lack of judgment and competence in office – exacerbated by inflammatory and ill-conceived comments and tweets – but is not to be trusted to make the right choices as commander in chief with the awesome responsibility of having a finger on the nuclear button.

Even Republican colleagues are now questioning Mr Trump's fitness for the job and whether he has the self-discipline and basic temperament to govern successfully. Furthermore, with his combative and threatening approach there is now doubt whether he will be able to push through his legislative agenda. Such domestic disunity and division has induced concern about possible damage in the longer term to the economy and welfare of the most powerful nation on earth.

This is also of particular importance to neighbouring countries like The Bahamas, dependent as we are on our giant neighbour for our security and economic welfare, not least as a supplier of the country's needs for goods and services and also as a major source of tourists.

What is equally troubling to America's friends and allies is that, while the USA should be a symbol of justice, liberty and democratic governance, a weakened presidency may be unable to provide the sensible, rational and reliable leadership which is needed in the face of global tensions and conflict.

The isolationism of the 1930s was abruptly reversed by the US's crucial role in the Second World War, following which it has remained heavily involved in world affairs. In opposition to the USSR during the Cold War, it called the shots globally in the struggle against communism, but with the collapse of the Soviet Union in the early 1990s America's role in an increasingly dangerous world has become even more demanding and influential.

The special quality of American exceptionalism as an expression of a uniquely free country based on democratic ideas and values has gradually

become less significant following the decline of communism, though it has helped to foster national identity. But the populism which brought Mr Trump to power was based perhaps more on patriotism than nationalism. The former, as a love of country and its values, beliefs and way of life, can be differentiated from nationalism which is rooted in rivalry and a sense of superiority together with a desire to advance one's country's interests even at the expense of those of other countries. The founding principle of the European Union was that war is precipitated by nationalism which has become almost a pejorative term. But it is not clear whether such distinctions may be in the forefront of the President's thinking.

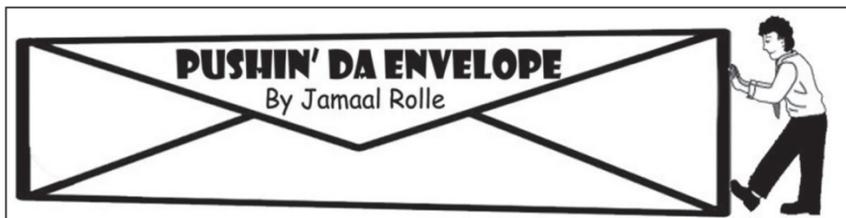
So far, he seems to have performed more successfully on the world stage than at home. Apart from withdrawal from the landmark Paris climate agreement and from the Trans-Pacific Partnership, he has shown a readiness to become engaged far and wide, including visits to Europe and the Middle East and major policy speeches in Poland and Saudi Arabia. He has also vigorously confronted the regime in North Korea over its nuclear weapons threat and, this week, has delivered a sober and thoughtful analysis of America's future involvement in Afghanistan.

Such engagement will be welcomed by many in the West. It might not fit with the disentanglement from the world expected by some of his nationalistic supporters, but it was notable in his speech about Afghanistan that the declared objective was to eliminate terrorists rather than become involved in nation building and the imposition of democracy.

To many people, the danger lies in the sort of bluster and strong rhetoric used in relation to North Korea which raises the stakes and could incite avoidable disaster. It is therefore seen as an ill-advised substitute for quiet but tough diplomacy.

With many dangerous hotspots, it is essential for the one superpower to be fully involved in international relations and continue to work actively for global peace. But the prospect of an impetuous president taking precipitate action without proper consultation and exercise of traditional checks and balances remains unnerving.

The western world, in particular, can only look on with deep concern and hope that wise heads will intervene where necessary to ensure that calm, order and sound judgment will prevail wherever possible in the future conduct of America's foreign policy.



Jamaal Rolle will return on Monday

Graduate's selective morality

EDITOR, The Tribune.

IN long-winded discussions, one can easily forget the core issue being discussed. I think this is what happened to The Graduate in his public discussion with me on civil unions and homosexual marriage. He seems to have forgotten the core issue. Please allow me space to remind The Graduate of the core issue and to point further to his selective morality.

The Graduate writes: "The core of the argument was (is) that marriage and civil unions are legal constructs, and any application for relief must be settled by the judiciary, not the clergy." This is yet another example of The Graduate's less than faithful response to what I actually wrote. I've never proposed that the clergy settle anything pertaining to marriage and civil unions. And frankly, I don't know anyone who has.

From the very outset, this was the core issue: If marriage is to be redefined in The Bahamas, who should determine its redefinition? In that regard, I asked these specific questions: "Should it be determined by a majority of our 39 members of parliament? Should it be determined by our courts? Or should it be decided by voters in a referendum?" I then stated the following: "For something as far reaching as the redefinition of marriage, I believe the best option is for voters to decide, not elected politicians or appointed judges."

The Graduate believes the courts should be allowed to redefine marriage to extend it to homosexuals. He is entitled to that view. Again, I disagree. I believe we should settle the issue in a referendum, as was done in Ireland. Ireland is the only country to approve homosexual marriage by the voters. In all other countries where homosexual marriage is legal, it was imposed on them by elected politicians or appointed judges.

The Graduate writes: "The State presently allows marriage between a man and a woman who are not related, and who are not already in connubial habitation with someone else. Justifiably, it rules out incest and polygamists." Justifiably? I ask The Graduate: Other than the fact that incest and polygamy are immoral, what is the justification for ruling out such marriages (especially bearing in mind that you support homosexual marriage, which is also immoral)? Please tell us.

As one who believes the Bible is God's word, I believe in biblical marriage. Biblical marriage is an exclusive marital union comprised of two persons (the number requirement), one person must be a man and

LETTERS

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the other a woman (the gender requirement), and the parties must not be related by blood (the blood requirement). Any marriage configuration that violates any of these requirements is not a biblical marriage. It is an immoral marriage.

Currently in The Bahamas, civil marriage is exactly the same as biblical marriage: It consists of the same number requirement (two persons), the same gender requirement (one person must be a man and the other a woman), and the same blood requirement (the parties must not be related by blood). This is not the case in some other countries, like the United States, where the requirements of biblical marriage and civil marriage are no longer the same.

The Graduate believes that civil marriage in The Bahamas should cease to mirror biblical marriage. In particular, he opposes the gender requirement and believes it should be expanded to allow a man to marry a man and a woman to marry a woman.

On the other hand, there are people who wish to change the number requirement. They wish to enter into marriage contracts with multiple consenting adults (polygamy), and they believe it is unfair not to allow them to pursue their happiness in polygamous marriage in the same way that The Graduate is advocating for homosexuals to pursue their happiness in homosexual marriage. But The Graduate opposes polygamous marriage.

Then there are those who wish to change the blood requirement. They wish to enter into marriage contracts with blood relatives (all consenting adults, of course). In the case of heterosexual incestuous marriage, they are aware of the possibility of having children with birth defects. Therefore, they propose the requirement that one or both parties be sterilised before a marriage license can be issued for a heterosexual incestuous marriage. Birth defects are not a problem for homosexual incestuous marriage because such unions can't produce children. But even though none of these proposed incestuous marriages can produce children, The Graduate still opposes them all. And those wishing to change the blood requirement, just as The Graduate wishes to change the gender requirement, believe he is being unfair and undemocratic.

Now why is this? How is The Graduate able to support changing one requirement of civil marriage (the gender requirement), while

at the same time opposing any change to the other two (the number and blood requirements)? Simple. The Graduate engages in selective morality. He selectively supports one form of immoral marriage (homosexual) while selectively opposing other forms of immoral marriages (polygamous and incestuous). And The Graduate is unable to provide any coherent argument for supporting one form of immoral marriage while opposing two other immoral forms. So he resorts to ad hominem responses.

The Graduate berates me for supporting our current definition of civil marriage that excludes all persons who do not wish to enter an exclusive marital union with one person of the opposite sex, and to whom they are not related by blood. Yet he fails to see that he is likewise supporting a new definition of marriage that will continue to prohibit some of these same currently excluded persons from marrying. I'm forced to wonder if The Graduate does not see his inconsistency, or if he simply refuses to admit it.

If we in The Bahamas change one requirement of civil marriage (the gender requirement) to expand it to one group of currently excluded persons (homosexuals) then true civil marriage equality dictates that we should change the other requirements (the number and blood requirements) to expand it to other groups of excluded persons as well (like polygamists and incestuous persons). But The Graduate opposes this. He invokes selective morality against some. And he still accuses me of being "like a theocrat living in a country like Iran rather than someone committed to democracy."

The unvarnished truth is that once civil marriage is no longer fixed between a man and a woman, it begins to float into whatever immoral configurations consenting adults choose and states allow. And what you do for one excluded group (eg, homosexuals) you should, in fairness, do for other excluded groups (eg, polygamists and incestuous persons). The history of the redefinition of marriage around the world bears this out: What you do for one, you will eventually do for all. And the result is a quagmire of immoral civil marriages.

I pray to God that we in The Bahamas will not go down into the abyss of immoral civil marriages, and I will use my voice and my vote to do all that I can to prevent it. And I encourage all those who believe in biblical marriage to do the same.

PASTOR CEDRIC MOSS
Nassau,
August 21, 2017.

Tasks for Tourism

EDITOR, The Tribune.

TENDERS-RFP's for providing services or alike to Government? There is a requirement under Law that any item over \$50,000.00 must go to a published tender - why didn't Tourism send the marketing contract to public tender?

To the past Minister: all those awards that you say were won meant nothing to Visitor Arrivals, stay-overs we were at zero percent!

Music Festival fiasco - big plans, stage set-up in Rawson Square blocked off Bay Street and zelgist except Tourism had advanced I believe \$700,000.00 to the promoters.

Changes in the company

might have taken Alfred Sears out of the target but this \$700,000.00 is the people's money - you know what you have to do, Mr Minister of Tourism.

Disclosure Commission - hmm declarations that have been presented to the Commission as far back as 2014 seemingly are being analysed! So the 2017 declarations will be processed when?

Surely this simply makes total fun of the process? Abolish it, Mr PM. Why not a Declaration of Debts (what the MP owes)?

PLP convention - to me a non-event if through dire stupidity the old guard, the Christie-ites will push their candidates' nomina-

tions when the public rejected them all except for four!

Every piece of rope has an end - every candle can only burn so long then it dies - it is dying time for the oldie guard of the PLP that is if you wish to have any future.

This rubbish of trying to raise the old PLP is totally out of whack with today.

Those old things no longer resonate in fact the raising of them weakens the PLP. Adios, the oldie guard. Please hurry up and leave and then keep your comments quiet!

W THOMPSON
Nassau,
August 17, 2017.

Car prices

EDITOR, The Tribune.

WHAT are we coming to here in The Bahamas when we have private businesses complaining about Bahamians trying to save themselves some money by purchasing reasonably priced, good condition, well-running vehicles for themselves and their children to get around instead of having to

pay high monthly payments to a bank that has no concern for you.

These complaints are coming from a selfish point of view with no concern about how we spend our money as long as we are spending it with them.

I for one don't want the auto repair industry nor the new car sales industry feigning any concern for me

because the last time they pretended to show concern the donkey cow PM at the time passed into law the banning of all vehicles over ten years old and now I can't afford a 2007 dump truck that I need for my small business. Help!

FRANCIO SMITH
Nassau,
August 22, 2017.

Deal done with churches on reporting of finances

By RASHAD ROLLE
Tribune Staff Reporter
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THE government and the Bahamas Christian Council have resolved a dispute over a requirement that some churches submit their financial information to the Registrar General's Department in accordance with non-profit organisation regulations, BCC President Delton Fernander

said yesterday. The BCC had been concerned that not all denominations were required to submit such information.

"But everyone will now be asked to do the same thing," Bishop Fernander said yesterday. "...Some of the stringent requirements have been relaxed."

In July, the Registrar General's Department listed in newspapers hundreds of NPOs, including such

organisations as the Bahamas Historical Society and the Bahamas Chamber of Commerce and Employers Confederation, that had to submit information that show their purpose, objectives and activities, the source of their annual income, the identities of the people who own, control and direct them and annual financial statements or other financial records while also explaining their

transactions in and outside the Bahamas.

Churches were given a 30-day extension on the time to submit such information.

A paramount concern of the BCC had been the requirement that churches submit financial information about churches.

"Now we're kinda going to self-regulate those financials," Bishop Fernander said. "The financials will

be checked by accountants who will report to the ministry that it was done. If there are violations or something untoward shows up, we will gladly turn over the information.

"We'll make notice to that church that it's been requested and we will pass that information. Otherwise, the financial information will remain in the possession of the BCC."

It's unclear if this same

process applies to other types of NPOs.

Bishop Fernander said the government has agreed to pay accountants to collect the financial data for churches that can't afford to do so themselves.

"This is more secure in the approach and is across the board," the bishop said. "It's fair for every person and church that are asked to do these same things."

SUSPECT CHARGED IN STABBING MURDER CASE

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A 30-YEAR-OLD man was arraigned in Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the stabbing death of another man in the Munson Village area last week.

Stephen Burrows, of Smith Street, appeared before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt on crutches facing one count of murder for allegedly killing Ricardo Frazier on August 13.

According to police reports, shortly after 2pm on the day in question, a man was involved in an argument with another man on

Munson Village Road that led to him being stabbed.

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

Burrows was not required to enter a plea and was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDCS) until October 11, when a voluntary bill of indictment will be served.

Before the conclusion of his arraignment, however, Burrows asked the court to have him readmitted to hospital because he feared he might have popped some of the stitches and/or staples

in his left knee.

Burrows told the chief magistrate that he broke his left knee in three different places before being taken into police custody, which resulted in him receiving some 36 stitches and two dozen staples.

He said at some point in time, he aggravated or popped some of the stitches or staples, and consequently felt what seemed like pus or blood draining down his leg beneath his cast.

Chief Magistrate Ferguson-Pratt made a note for Burrows to be seen by medical staff at the BDCS, whom she said will ultimately make the decision on whether or not he should be readmitted to hospital.



STEPHEN BURROWS, 30, arraigned on murder charges. Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

CAR BOOT VICTIM BEGS: DROP CHARGES

from page one

The matter was ultimately adjourned to September 7 at 10am. The brothers were remanded to the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDCS) until that time.

Before the adjournment, however, Travis Knowles informed the chief magistrate that he needed medical attention to have stitches removed from his back, the result of previously being stabbed multiple times in that area. The chief magistrate noted his submissions and said the matter would be brought to the attention of the relevant medical officer at the BDCS.

Both brothers were arraigned in connection with an alleged abduction on August 20 that has been widely publicised on social media.

Shortly after 7pm on the day in question, 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.

During a search of the vehicle, police said they found a woman "hidden in the trunk in good health." The two male occupants of the vehicle were subsequently taken into custody.

Meanwhile, a 32-year-old man was arraigned in connection with the attempted rape of a 49-year-old woman last year.



TRAVIS KNOWLES, 27 (above), and Valentino Knowles, 29 (below), outside court yesterday. Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff



William Penn, aka "Penn Boy" of East Street, stood before Chief Magistrate Ferguson-Pratt facing one count of attempted rape for the incident that allegedly occurred on October 28, 2016.

Penn was not required to enter a plea and was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services until October 11, when a voluntary bill of indictment will be served.



WILLIAM PENN, 32, accused of rape.

MAN CHARGED WITH HOUSEBREAKING

By NICO SCAVELLA
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A 31-YEAR-OLD man was charged in the Magistrate's Court with attempting to break into another man's house earlier this year.

Andrew Cooper, of Devonshire Street, stood

before Chief Magistrate Joyann Ferguson-Pratt charged with attempting to break into the house of Herman Coston Jr at Cambridge Avenue on January 22 intending to commit a felony.

After electing to have his matter tried in the Magistrate's Court, Cooper pleaded not guilty to the one charge of attempted

housebreaking.

The chief magistrate subsequently adjourned and transferred the matter to Court 10 on September 20 at 10am for fixture.

Cooper was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services (BDCS) until that time. He has the right to apply to the Supreme Court for bail.



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Scam warning

from page one

Golden Chess, similar to Pineapple Express, promised persons a "big payout for a small investment".

In order to join, persons were required to pay a one-time fee of \$85 and receive \$800 or pay \$170 and receive \$1,500. Persons were also required to pay a \$20 membership fee. After signing up, a member was supposed to receive a payout in about "14 business days."

However, *The Tribune* understands after collecting money from persons interested in the scheme, Golden Chess allegedly shut down without paying anyone the money promised or without issuing refunds.

On the company's Facebook page, representatives from Golden Chess claimed that two persons stole the money and as a consequence they were unable to continue business. The post claimed that the alleged theft was reported to CDU and the persons responsible were being sought by police



ACP Clayton Fernander. Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff in connection with stealing by reason of employment.

However, ACP Fernander said CDU never received a report from Golden Chess in reference to theft and police are not currently searching for anyone in reference to the matter.

In an interview with *The Tribune*, a former employee of Golden Chess, who asked not to be named, alleged she was scammed by the company twice, once when she invested her money into the company and then when she agreed to

work for them and allegedly never got paid.

"I went to carry my money to a house on Carmichael Road with some members of my family and there was a lady there who said they needed drivers. At the time, I was pregnant and said I could work for them for a few weeks to get some extra money," the former employee said.

"On my first day, I worked from 7am to almost midnight collecting money for the company and having people fill out the forms - that day I collected nearly \$5,000. When I got home, the persons came to the house and got the money from me. I never had it overnight.

"The next day on Monday, I went back on the road and collected some more money but that was the day everything fell apart and so I was able to return the money I collected from persons that day but the persons who gave the money to me on Sunday, it was already gone. I just want persons to know that it wasn't me that (took the cash), I got ripped off

too," she claimed.

"I was just an employee. That's it. I really thought this was a real job and straight forward and legit. They asked me for my passport and my NIB card and everything. I never got paid. I went to CDU to report what happened and they told us that it was a civil matter and they did not even take my statement," the former employee said.

Another woman, who claims she was also scammed but wanted to remain anonymous, shared a similar story.

"So about two Saturdays ago I went to a house on Carmichael Road and paid my money and signed up. They told me to come back the following Monday to get a membership card and in 14 days I would receive my payment of \$1,500," she said.

"So on Monday, when I was going to get the card I saw online they posted a thing about these persons running away with the money and so they said they can't pay out any funds. Turns out these people never went to the police and

reported any stolen money, it's like they just took our money and shut down. One girl started giving people a portion of their money back out of her pocket but most people got nothing. This cannot be right. I didn't know it was an (alleged) scam, I felt confident in the fact that it was a new company and I trusted they would not steal people's hard-earned money because people are getting killed in Nassau for less."

ACP Fernander is urging members of the public who feel they were scammed to speak with the police.

"Currently we don't have any complaints so there is nothing we can do if people do not come forward," ACP Fernander said.

"If these people come to us we will investigate and see if there is anything there we can do with respect to the law. If they have a complaint, come let's sit down and talk and we will determine whether it is a civil matter or not. I would rather people come to us than to take matters into their own hands."

CALL TO DECRIMINALISE MARIJUANA

from page one

Mr Cartwright said response to the page was slow at first, but has started to pick up with an average of 100 likes per week. He attributed the uptick in activity to his recent appearance on a radio talk show with Senator Ranard Henfield. Mr Cartwright said he has met with Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis on the issue

in April, when he was still in opposition, and is trying to set up a meeting with the Christian Council.

"The response has been very good," he said, "Bahamian people now they scared of the issue itself, the taboo of it all. We have people that say we support it, but don't put my name.

"We've been getting support for a lot of people in the Out Islands, where

it's so taboo you can't talk about it. We also get a lot of tourists who are trying to find out what the laws are about it. We have five people on board now. It's so taboo people have to watch out for their job."

Mr Cartwright continued: "But I feel like the climate is just right now to push a marijuana movement. How this government changed, Bahamians feel like we could make

a change, this is a group of young people saying if we push for something we could make it happen.

"This isn't just about marijuana itself, it's about the whole concept if you want something done don't just talk about it. Get a group together, organise, and get it done. Don't just complain about it, we always have people complaining about all these young boys getting lock up. It's a whole social issue, not just the marijuana."

The medicinal marijuana industry is estimated to be worth billions of dollars, and the drug is regulated for medicinal use in more than 20 US states.

In July, Minister of Health Dr Duane Sands made it clear that the Minnis administration was not currently considering the decriminalisation of marijuana or legalisation of the drug for medicinal or recreational purposes.

Dr Sands explained that while the government will be "objective and open

minded" on the issue, it does not think that "the Bahamas should lead the world in this particular exercise."

In 2015, Jamaica amended its Dangerous Drugs Act to create the framework for the decriminalisation of offence under the law, and to make it a ticketable offence to possess two ounces or less of marijuana. It also created the framework for the development of legal medical marijuana, hemp and nutraceutical industries.

In April, St Kitts and Nevis announced the establishment of a National Commission on Marijuana/Cannabis saliva. It follows an announcement by SKN Prime Minister Dr Timothy Harris, who stated that his government is ready for open dialogue with the relevant stakeholders on the issue of the decriminalisation of marijuana.

In May, CARICOM's Regional Marijuana Commission hosted national consultation in Antigua

and Barbuda.

Mr Cartwright said: "We're building awareness right now. We're trying to fight for decriminalisation with provision for medicinal marijuana. My grammy right now suffering from opioid addiction where she been on pills for so long. The doctor put her on these pills, and now she has to take them just to sleep and be calm. We have a lot of chronic diseases that could be better treated."

The group will host its first meet and greet at Golden House in Caves Village on Saturday, August 26.

Up to press time, the Facebook page had more than 4,300 likes.

"Come out just to understand where we're coming from," he said, "we're not a drug group, we're not trying to get everyone to smoke marijuana. We're trying to figure out how to get the drug dealers off the street, stop these young boys from getting lock up for petty stuff."

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BODY OF MAN FOUND IN CAR

from page one

According to initial police reports, officers received a report shortly before 10pm about a shooting at Yorkshire Drive. On arrival, officers saw a parked vehicle at a residence with a man inside with gunshot injuries to his body.

Inspector Terecita Pinder reported that EMS personnel were called to the scene, but the victim showed no signs of life.

Police have not identified the man, however loved ones on social media said he is Carrington Smith. He is believed to be in his 20s.

The killing came days after National Security Minister Marvin Dames presented a number of initiatives to tackle violent crime, highlighting plans to

clamp down on persons out on bail, firearm traffickers, drug houses and enhancing senior command at the divisional level of the force on a 24-hour basis.

At a press conference Saturday evening at the Paul Farquharson Conference Centre, Mr Dames said effective immediately, the Royal Bahamas Police Force will "double down" on its efforts to combat violent crimes across the country.

Reflecting on the country's latest murders, Mr Dames revealed police will be taking a more aggressive approach to handling drug peddling and shutting down drugs throughout the country, which he referred to as "the source of many of the crime problems that exist".

The Mount Moriah MP also indicated that police

will be increasing intelligence and operational efforts to identify and disrupt gang activities. More specifically, he said from an intelligence perspective there will be an increased focus on firearm traffickers with a view to bringing them to justice.

Wednesday's killing was the 88th homicide for the year, according to *The Tribune's* records.

Yesterday Inspector Pinder said investigations are continuing into the matter and police are appealing to the public to assist with the case. Anyone with information, no matter how small or insignificant the information may seem, should call the Central Detective Unit in Grand Bahama at 350-3107 through 12, 911, 919 or the nearest police station.

SALARIES FOR BUS DRIVERS SENT TO THE WRONG PEOPLE

from page one

Education Director Lionel Sands confirmed to *The Tribune* yesterday that money was sent to their island's administrator for the bus drivers.

"Those persons' money was sent to be paid by the administration from the Department of Education," he said. "Not all the money was sent because we had a shortfall but all should've been sent by now. We have proof that the money was

sent. The money usually goes to the island administrator to be distributed."

For his part, Mr Cornish said: "Money was not available on the account when I arrived but they should've been paid to the contracted persons."

He would not say to whom the money was paid.

The director of local government, Cephas Cooper, said he had no comment on the matter when contacted yesterday. Mr Cornish had referred this newspaper to him.

Ms Storr said: "We are owed hundreds of dollars. We usually get a cheque from the administrator's office. It's been challenging without getting paid. We're getting impatient. It's never happened this long where we haven't got our money."

School resumes September 4. Ms Storr said she'll need money to buy diesel for her bus.

She and the other bus drivers pick up students from settlements on the island and take them to the primary and high school.

Hospital bed petition wins Sands' support

from page one

The petition, which was launched by Chishna Bowe, has received nearly 1,500 signatures.

In the petition, which is addressed to Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis, Ms Bowe said for "several years the Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport has been plagued with the problem of insufficient beds for its patients." She claimed that "sick and weak" patients are forced to sleep in chairs "for up to 48 hours" because there is no room for the patients on any of the wards.

When asked for comment, Dr Sands said he is aware of the problem at RMH, adding the government is "currently working" to fix the issues.

"The hospital has a number of challenges. Some are infrastructural, some are service related and others related to scope and vision," Dr Sands said.

"We intend to modernise the delivery of healthcare through the Bahamas and we are working to fix all the issues. It will take some time but I certainly support the goal of this petition."

In the petition, which has a goal of 1,500 signatures, Ms Bowe said: "For several years the Rand Memorial Hospital in Freeport



MINISTER OF HEALTH DR DUANE SANDS

has been plagued with the problem of insufficient beds for its patients. Sick, weak, painful, Bahamian citizens come to the Accident and Emergency Department for medical care and in many cases, need to be admitted to the ward for medical supervision.

"Unfortunately, they are often told that there are insufficient beds and as a re-

sult are subjected to being confined to the Emergency Room. This has no restroom facility; the hospital is not able to provide proper medical attention from the doctors and nurses as they are swamped dealing with the incoming emergency patients coming in by ambulance. To make matters worse, when those beds run out then patients are given a

chair! That's right, you are gravely ill, or weak, or painful and you have to actually sit in a chair for 10, 24, 48 hours or even longer. This is unacceptable and inhumane and we have all been victims ourselves or have family and friends who have been victims of the 'no beds' fiasco.

"I have been a victim myself and it was a horrify-

ing experience. Please, let's provide the basic necessity for our people and respectable and comfortable healthcare."

Earlier this month, Dr Sands told *The Tribune* scores of patients are being forced to sleep on gurneys in the hallways at the Princess Margaret Hospital in Nassau because of challenges with overcrowding

and a shortage of beds.

Dr Sands said the situation is "embarrassing" and it is sad people have to stay in the hallways for up to "three to four days" because "there is just nowhere to put them."

Dr Sands said the problem will require deliberate structural change, which will not happen in the short-term.

TALKS STILL UNDER WAY OVER GRAND LUCAYA SALE

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
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KWASI Thompson, State Minister for Grand Bahama, confirmed that discussions for the sale of the Grand Lucayan Resort are continuing with relevant parties, amid public statements made by the Wynn Group – the former prospective buyer.

Mr Thompson did not say much, indicating that officials do not want to "jeopardise the government's position."

In a statement issued on Thursday, he said: "The government is aware of the public statements attributed to Paul Wynn. Our position was articulated by the prime minister in his national address.

"We confirm and assure the people of Grand Bahama that our discussions with the relevant parties are continuing. We would not want to say more at this stage to jeopardise the government's position. We remain determined to complete our discussions

and see the (Grand Lucayan) hotel opened in the shortest time possible."

A deal for the sale of the hotel property in Lucaya is critical to the survival of Grand Bahama's economy, which has been struggling since last October when the three resort hotel property closed following significant hurricane damage.

About 1,000 Bahamian hotel and casino workers are unemployed, and many of the merchants at the nearby Port Lucaya Marketplace that relied on visitor traffic from the resort are experiencing financial challenges with paying rent and keeping their stores open.

The closure of hotels has resulted in the loss of 1,200 rooms, a 40 per cent decrease in room inventory on the island.

On Thursday, the Nassau Guardian reported that Paul Wynn, CEO of the Wynn Group of Canada, had pulled out of the deal to purchase the Grand Lucayan Resort on the Lucaya Strip, and was seeking to get his refundable deposit back from Hutchison Whampoa,

the owners.

Tribune Business has reported that the government is focused on curing the underlying structural problems that have undermined the resort and Grand Bahama's wider tourism/hotel product, both to ensure it can rapidly "exit" its temporary ownership and ensure it "does not face another quagmire in five years."

A strategy involves creating a destination product along the lines of an Atlantis and Baha Mar, combining hotel, retail, cruise, marina and other associated resort amenities and attractions into one.

Tribune Business has reported that government potential equity partners include the Port Lucaya Marketplace's owner, Peter Hunt, and his fellow investors. Sunwing and its Memories hotel brand affiliate, which departed Freeport in February following a dispute with Cheung Kong (CK) Property Holdings, the Grand Lucayan's owner, over Hurricane Matthew repairs have also been potentially lined up to return.

In late July, Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis revealed during a national address the government is negotiating to become tem-

porary joint owners of the Grand Lucayan Resort in a bid to boost the hotel until it can sell off its equity. At the time, he said "all signs

point to the beginning of renovations at the resort" sometime this month, with the facility "ready for business for the winter season"

WILSON FAMILY GIVES \$35,000 FOR UNIVERSITY SCHOLARSHIPS

CHAIRMAN of Sunshine Holdings Ltd Sir Franklyn Wilson and Lady Sharon Wilson have made a \$35,000 contribution in support of endowed student scholarships at the University of The Bahamas, affirming the crucial role that the institution plays in national development.

On Wednesday, August 23, UB President Dr Rodney Smith announced that the Wilsons have become royal donors to the President's Gala Soiree, scheduled for November 11. Billed as an elegant evening of entertainment and celebration, the soiree is a grand fundraiser for endowed student scholarships and will also commemorate the first anniversary of the charter of the University of The Bahamas.

Representative of Sunshine Holdings Ltd, Chakita Archer, expressed the Wilsons' resolve to help build an institution with the capacity to make an enduring international impact.

"The decision to support

this initiative as individuals and via businesses such as Sunshine Holdings Ltd, of which Sir Franklyn is the chairman, and Sharon Wilson and Co, of which Lady Sharon Wilson is the named partner, reflects the conscious view that it is important for each of us, regardless of our circumstance, to help build the University of The Bahamas to become what it must become for the full and proper development of the country we love," said Mrs Archer.

"As the university takes giant steps in deepening its footing in the global academic paradigm, it is our resolve that the world sees this institution as one that will attract people from all over the world," she added.

Dr Smith asserted that for the university to be in the position to grow in a consequential way, it must forge lasting public-private partnerships.

"This fundraiser will help to raise a significant amount for our student scholarship endowment, in particular,

giving opportunities to first generation university students," said Dr Smith.

"We are excited to have Sunshine Holdings Ltd, a community leader, support our efforts by partnering with us. With this level of sponsorship, Sunshine Holdings demonstrates its commitment to higher education in the Bahamas, and in particular its continued partnership with the University of The Bahamas," he added.

Endowments are typically used to fund scholarships in perpetuity.

Over the years, Sir Franklyn and Lady Wilson have demonstrated unwavering support for higher education and UB through their philanthropy.

A royal donor is the highest level of sponsorship for the President's Gala Soiree and there are only two remaining donor packages at this level. UB is inviting corporate Bahamas to continue to collaborate with the institution in its quest to extend access to higher learning to even more scholars.



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About National Health Insurance (NHI) Bahamas

We are seeking qualified candidates for new openings at the National Health Insurance Authority (NHIA). All our roles require individuals who have strong communications skills, are results and action oriented, technology savvy and are accustomed to working in a fast moving, collaborative environment. We are also seeking candidates of high integrity and are able to conduct themselves in a manner that supports NHIA values of respect and diversity. All positions listed below are full time placements.

Managing Director

The Managing Director is responsible for the overall management of NHIA and implementing the strategy for the organization in its mission to deliver modern, affordable and accessible health care to Bahamians through NHI Bahamas. The Managing Director is a dynamic leader, and as such will require a comprehensive understanding of the health care system to oversee the management of business operations and collaborate effectively with a network of diverse internal and external stakeholders.

This position is the leader of the Executive Management Team of the NHIA, and as such, will require a University graduate degree in economics, law, medicine, public policy or other relevant field and experience in health care, health care management or related field, at a senior level. Candidates with a Master's Degree, with a minimum of a Bachelor's degree, in a relevant academic area will be given priority consideration.

Deputy Director of Strategy, Legal and Policy

The Deputy Director of Strategy, Legal and Policy is responsible for overall strategy, legal, policy, and communication activities for the NHIA. The Deputy Director of Strategy, Legal and Policy reports to the Managing Director, and has a strong understanding of the health care system and the various branches of the organization to enable decision making based on NHI's strategic direction.

This position is a member of the Executive Management Team, and will require a minimum post-graduate degree and/or professional certificate in law, policy or related area and 10 years' relevant experience.

Deputy Director of Finance and Accounting

The Deputy Director of Finance and Accounting is responsible for the overall financial management, planning, budgeting, forecasting, policy development and reporting of the finance and accounting branch. The Deputy Director of Finance and Accounting is a dynamic leader with a thorough understanding of the health care system, and requires a strong comprehension of the finance and accounting function, as well as the laws that govern finance and accounting in The Bahamas.

This position is a member of the Executive Management Team of the NHIA, and as such, will require a Bachelor's degree in Accounting or Finance, and 8 years' relevant experience, preferably in medical billing or insurance billing in the health care field. Candidates with a Master's degree and certification as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) professional (or the ability to obtain the certification within twelve months) would be given priority consideration.

Further information about NHI Bahamas can be found at www.nhibahamas.gov.bs.

Complete job descriptions can be found at www.nhibahamas.gov.bs/careers. If you feel your competencies, experience and personality characteristics match the postings, please submit your resume with a cover letter, quoting the role for which you are applying by **Aug. 31, 2017** to careers@nhibahamas.gov.bs.



MEMBERS of Rotary Club of New Providence, Rotary Club of East Nassau and The Bahamas Forestry Unit.

Rotary aims to plant 1.2m trees

ROTARIANS around the world have pledged to plant 1.2 million plus trees before April 22, Earth Day, next year.

Ian Riseley, President of Rotary International, requested all Rotary clubs to plant at least one tree for each member in order to work towards environmental sustainability.

The Rotary Club of New Providence (RCNP) partnered with the Rotary Club of East Nassau (RCEN) on Saturday, August 19, to create a Peace Garden at the CC Sweeting School.

The Bahamas Forestry

Unit also teamed up with the clubs and donated 15 fruits trees.

Rotarians and Rotaractors planted trees and flowers to assist with protecting the environment. Benches were also repaired and trash bins were donated by RCNP and painted.

A total of 90 plants have been planted by RCNP and 120 by RCEN.

The initiative represents phase one of a series where Rotarians will plant trees to aid in creating a more eco-friendly environment. The project is designed to have a large impact on the com-

munity.

The trees will remove carbon dioxide and contaminants from the air, which slows down global warming and feed a number of persons.

Mr Riseley, in giving his mandate to Rotary Clubs, said: "It is my hope that the result of that effort will be far greater than the environmental benefit that those 1.2 million new trees will bring... I believe the greater result will be a Rotary that recognises our responsibility not only to the people on our planet, but to the planet itself."



CERTIFIED Trainer Henry Gibson presented with a plaque as a token of appreciation by members of the Kiwanis Club. He is pictured with secretary designate Aldeka Thompson, left, and Lieutenant Governor designate Garnell Kemp.

Kiwanis Club

Kiwanis Club. - Kiwanis Lieutenant Governor Designate 2017-2018 Garnell Kemp held the club's annual Club Leadership Training Conference for Presidents and Secretaries.

In attendance were clubs from Nassau and the Family Islands, namely Berry Island and Eight Mile Rock.

Training for the other Family Island clubs in South Eleuthera, Freeport and Central Abaco is tentatively set for October and November.

Speakers at the training were Kiwanis Division 22 regional trustee Edwin Thompson and Governor Elect Melford Clarke and President Designate Anithra Cartwright.

Training was done by Kiwanis certified trainer Henry Gibson.

The new Kiwanis Year begins October 1, 2017.

The club also extended special thanks to Super Value for allowing the Aktion club once again to use its premises for a bake sale and as always the general public and super value shoppers for purchasing treats for Saturday afternoon snack or Sunday deserts.

Aktion Club is for adults with disabilities.

Kiwanis Club of Nassau A.M.

Kiwanis Club of Nassau A.M. - The Kiwanis Club of Nassau A.M. made a donation to BreAnn Ferguson. BreAnn is the founder of BreAnn's Care Closet. The care closet was created to assist less fortunate children within the community with uniforms for the new school year.

BreAnn continues to have a passion to serve and the club wishes BreAnn continued success.

JOIN THE CLUB

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

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

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



A CHEQUE is donated to BreAnn Ferguson by the Kiwanis Club of Nassau A.M.



CAROLINA Panthers wide receiver Kaelin Clay catches a pass for a two-point conversion in front of Jacksonville Jaguars cornerbacks... oh, what the heck, it's only a pre-season game. Time for men to get household jobs out of the way so there's no interruptions when the real action begins.

What men really mean

IN the spirit of fair play a certain subject must be addressed.

Previously in this column, I gave some insight to my younger Bahamian brethren as to what women really mean when they say certain things.

If I do say so myself, as I recall, it turned out to be a good read.

Despite the raised eyebrows I received from my female co-workers and threats from two of my sister in laws to be shared out of Christmas diner in two house holds.

Ouch!
Fast forward the tape to Wednesday, August 16, 2017.

I'm standing on line at BPL trying to pay my gargantuan power bill before a "blackout" strikes or another BPL executive is fired or arrested.

In front of me were two women deep in conversation, the television on the wall which is usually on was off, so the women's conversation in front of me would have to serve as

A Comic's View

By INIGO 'NAUGHTY' ZENICAZELAYA



entertainment.

As I tuned in I could hear the jist of the conversation. One of the women was monologuing about how her husband really understands her after all these years.

Random Woman: "Girl I feel so sorry for my sweetie".

"He so lost without real football games. The NFL still 'practicing games'."

(Major laughs on my part at this juncture.)

"He tell me he so hate dem practice game before the season start, he decided to renovate the guest bathroom."

"Girl I been on him like white on rice for years to do that. He got a finish date too, August 23rd.

"That's means in one

week I will have a new brand bathroom. He loves me."

(More laughs from me at this point.)

Ah, the naivete. Being a woman, her natural instinct was to assume that this was some love offering from her loyal, devoted, loving husband.

NOT!
What her husband really meant: "I can't wait 'til the NFL Preseason is officially over."

"My team ga be carrying on this year.

"So since the vibes done set, I will renovate the guest bathroom so you will have nothing to nag me about and run on with during football season.

"The week timeframe

will keep me focused and save me from having to watch the Oprah Network or another Lifetime original movie, because if I have to stomach another one, I'll take my chances jumping of the bridge.

"So when the season starts remember this gift and don't ask me to do anything non football related until after the Super Bowl."

Right there and then, in BPL the light bulb went on in my head.

I had to think quick, after all I was in BPL a "black-out" could strike at any moment.

WHAT'S GOOD FOR THE GOOSE ...

Ladies, what is good for the goose is also good for the gander, so with apologies to my homies.

Ladies here is what we men really mean.

HE SAYS: I'm going fishing!

HE MEANS: I'm going to get dead drunk sitting on my boy's dinghy. Beer in one hand fishing line in the next as the fish swim completely undisturbed.

HE SAYS: It's a guy thing!

HE MEANS: There is no rational thought process connected to it. You will make nothing logical out of it.

HE SAYS: Can I help with dinner?

HE MEANS: Well muddoes my food ain't ready yet? I dead hungry, I should have stopped at "KFC".

HE SAYS: "My wife doesn't understand me."

HE MEANS: "She's sick of my B.S."

HE SAYS: "Take a break, honey. You're working too hard."

HE MEANS: "Why you decide to clean and run that vacuum cleaner while the game on is beyond me."

HE SAYS: "We're going

to be late."

HE MEANS: "Buckle up now, I have a reason to drive like a bat out of hell."

HE SAYS: "I've read all the classics."

HE MEANS: "I've been looking at Playboy since I was five."

HE SAYS: "I got a lot done!"

HE MEANS: "I got the high score on Candy Crush three times today on my iPhone."

And finally if **HE SAYS:** "That's interesting dear."

HE MEANS: "Are you still talking?"

Well there you go, I hope it makes decoding what your man says a little more fun in the future, ladies.

I, on the other hand, have to go.

My wife calls, I wonder what I have to do now. I can never seem to catch a break, it's so unfair. I was just off to the den to relax and read a "classic".



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Lease deal for Girl Guides HQ



PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis addressing Wednesday's signing of the lease agreement between the government and the Bahamas Girl Guides Association. Also pictured (from left) are: Eugenia Cartwright, treasurer, Commonwealth of the Bahamas and (at right) Dr Gail Saunders, Bahamas Girl Guides Association. Photo: **Derek Smith/BIS.**

SENIOR government officials and executives of the Bahamas Girl Guides Association (BGGA) "reached a mutually agreeable conclusion" on the lease of property located at their Fort Charlotte headquarters on Wednesday, ending a 20-year ordeal.

Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis said the government will grant all concessions provided by law and public policy to the association to assist with the construction, and equipping, of the expanded facility.

Dr Minnis also promised to review - at an appropriate time - the level of subventions provided to the association.

The lease agreement was signed Wednesday in the boardroom of the Office of the Prime Minister by Eugenia Cartwright, representing the government, and Sonia Adderley, representing the BGGA.

Dr Minnis said the agreement was significant as it ended a "longstanding request" from the association.

"In reviewing the history of the association's application, I note that approval to renew the lease for the Fort Charlotte land was granted,

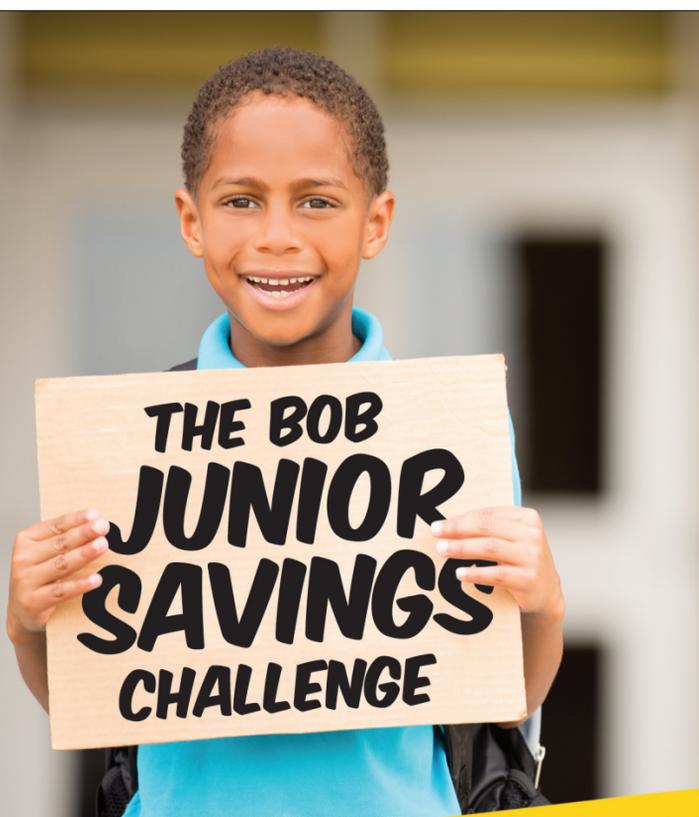
then subsequently revoked on at least two occasions, but be assured there will be no more revoking," Prime Minister Minnis said.

"This was a longstanding request that took over 20 years to fulfill. It took successive governments over two decades to bring this matter to a mutually agreeable conclusion."

Dr Minnis said the association was offered land on Dolphin Drive in the past, but that it was deemed unsuitable by the association as there was no access road to the property and that such a move would have separated the headquarters facilities from its operations.

Dr Minnis said the expansion of the national headquarters will be one of the most exciting and significant developments in the history of guiding in the Bahamas.

"The signing of this lease agreement will remove the frustration and uncertainty which you have experienced over the many years. You will be able to confidently move ahead with your plans," Prime Minister Minnis told guiding officials.



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C O M M O N W E A L T H B A N K

Remembers

J. Rupert Roberts

May 6, 1955 - August 11, 2017

The Management and Staff of Commonwealth Bank are deeply saddened by the passing of our friend and colleague J. Rupert Roberts. Mr. Roberts joined Commonwealth Bank on March 1, 1987 and served in various Management roles including Branch Manager, Marsh Harbour Branch and Sr. Branch Manager, Freeport Main Branch until his retirement on May 31, 2015.

This focused and driven man of honour was devoted and hardworking, contributing to the growth and development of the Bank. We will remember his sense of humor and commitment to Commonwealth Bank's values.

We will greatly miss this remarkable man who has left an indelible impression on the hearts of all those who knew him.

We extend our sincere condolences to his family and friends.

