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**INSIDE**

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

# Facing justice

## Baby suspect, 19, appears in court

By **NICO SCAVELLA**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
[nscavella@tribunemedia.net](mailto:nscavella@tribunemedia.net)

A 19-YEAR-OLD man appeared teary-eyed after he was arraigned in a Magistrate's Court yesterday in connection with the killing of an eight-month-old baby boy and the hospitalisation of both of his parents following a tragic triple shooting incident earlier this week.

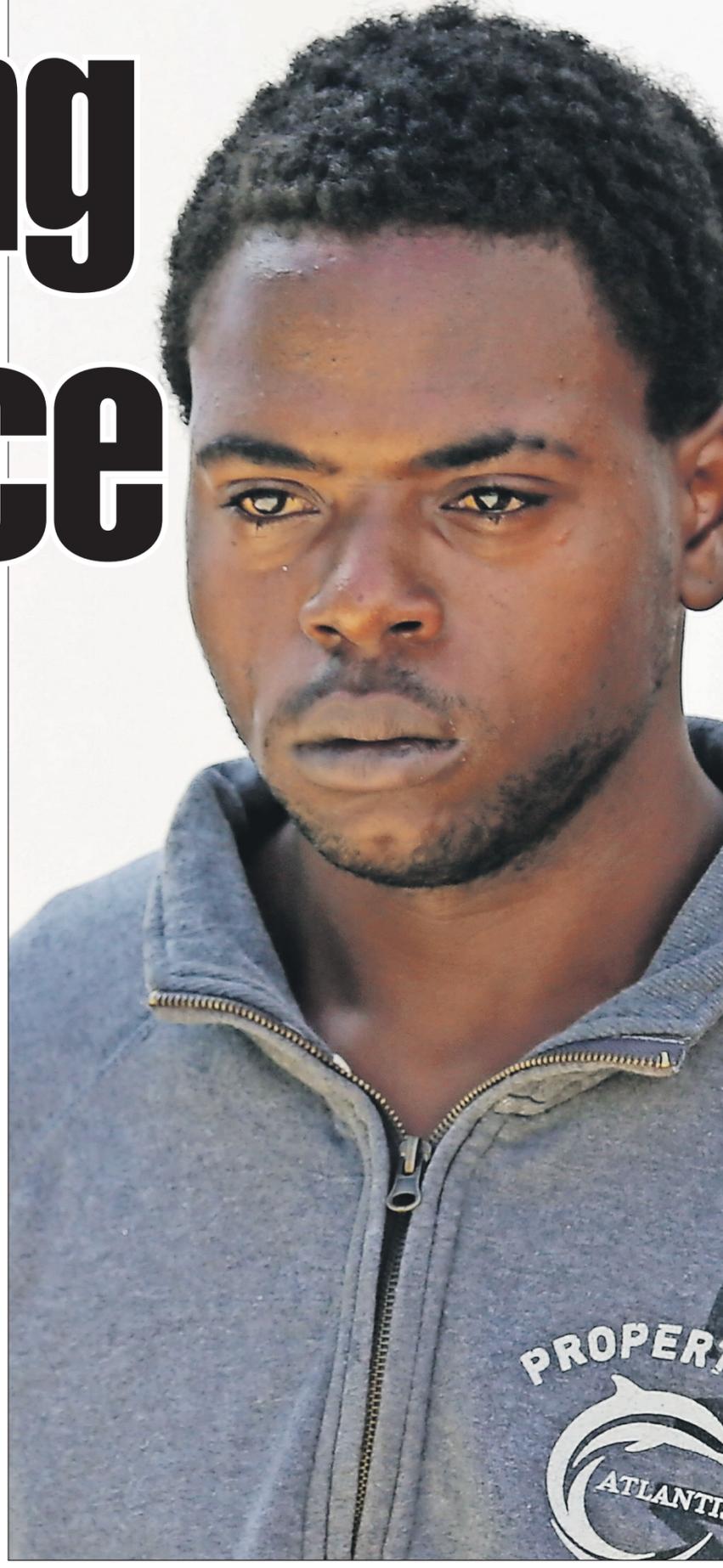
Anthony Anthony Davis, aka "Bigga" of Fleming Street, stood before Magistrate Jeanine Weech-Gomez faced with one count of murder and two counts of attempted murder

in connection with Monday's incident, which police initially said they suspected was an act of retaliation towards the baby's father.

Davis is accused of murdering eight-month-old Shelton Tinker Jr on the day in question. He is further accused of attempting to murder both Shelton Tinker Sr and Jeffrina Sweeting.

The shooting took place shortly after 3am on Monday and took the country's murder count to 90 for the year, according to *The Tribune's* records. It was also the second murder in less than 48 hours in the capital.

SEE PAGE SIX



ALLEGED baby killer Anthon Anthony Davis, 19, outside court yesterday.  
Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

## JUDGES ORDER BIRBAL RETRIAL

By **NICO SCAVELLA**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
[nscavella@tribunemedia.net](mailto:nscavella@tribunemedia.net)

TEACHER Andre Birbal has won his appeal against his conviction and sentence for sex offences against a boy at his Grand Bahama school.

But in a ruling released yesterday, the Court of Appeal ordered Birbal to now stand trial for a third time to allow a new jury to decide his guilt or innocence.

Birbal was first convicted in 2011 on eight counts of unlawful sexual intercourse with two boys and was jailed for a total of 35 years. He appealed the conviction and at a retrial in 2014 - when he faced charges against just one of the boys - he was again found guilty and jailed for 28 years.

In 2015, he began the appeal process again and in their ruling yesterday Court of Appeal justices Dame Anita Allen, Stella Crane-Scott and Jon Isaacs upheld his case on the grounds that at his last trial the judge hearing the

SEE PAGE SIX

## BANKS BATTLE ATM CHEATS

By **RICARDO WELLS**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
[rwells@tribunemedia.net](mailto:rwells@tribunemedia.net)

IN the wake of a \$72,000 ATM skimming scheme uncovered earlier this month, Central Bank Governor John Rolle said yesterday commercial banks are working to make their electronic platforms "safer."

Noting an increase in schemes predicated on taking advantage of persons using card based systems, the governor said the Central Bank is also putting in place a stronger regulatory framework for the conduct of those providing banking and related services.

SEE PAGE NINE

## BISHOP CONDEMNS 'RAGING CRIME LEVEL'

By **SANCHESKA DORSETT**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
[sdorsett@tribunemedia.net](mailto:sdorsett@tribunemedia.net)

PRESIDENT of the Bahamas Christian Council, Bishop Delton Fernander yesterday urged the government to develop short-term and long-term measures to reduce crime days after "the violent slaughter of an

innocent child" rocked the nation.

In a press statement, Bishop Fernander also noted the armed robbery of a church and the family of Anglican Bishop Laish Boyd are among numerous "unconscionable acts" that have occurred in the past few weeks in the capital.

SEE PAGE NINE

## GLENYS: PLP LOST RELEVANCE

By **SANCHESKA DORSETT**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
[sdorsett@tribunemedia.net](mailto:sdorsett@tribunemedia.net)

ENGLERSTON MP Glenys Hanna Martin yesterday admitted that the Progressive Liberal Party is no longer "dynamic or relevant" however she said with her as leader, the party can win the hearts of the people once again.

In an interview on a

ZSR 103.5 radio show with Spence Finlayson, Mrs Hanna Martin said she feels she is the best person to become leader of the PLP because she "is real" and speaks her mind, no matter the cost.

On Monday night, Mrs Hanna Martin officially launched her bid to become leader of the PLP at the party's convention in October.

She is the first person to publicly announce an intention to challenge Cat Island, Rum Cay and San Salvador MP Philip "Brave" Davis for leader.

She is seeking to become the first woman to lead a major political party, having been elected as the first woman chairman of a party in 2008.

"I feel very grateful and I am energised to continue to

stand up for what I believe in. A lot of people don't do that anymore and it is important to stand up for what you believe in no matter what.

"I feel happy that I have principles and I will continue to advocate and stand up for (those) principles," Mrs Hanna Martin said.

SEE PAGE THREE

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# 53 Haitian migrants detained



ABOVE and below, some of the Haitian migrants detained by the Royal Bahamas Defence Force in a joint operation with police and the Department of Immigration.

IN a combined effort between the Royal Bahamas Defence Force, the Royal Bahamas Police Force and the Department of Immigration, some 53 Haitian migrants were apprehended on Tilloo Cay, Abaco, on Wednesday.

Around 6.30 am, the RBDF patrol craft HMBS Kamalamee, commanded by Senior Lieutenant Valentino Rolle, discovered

the migrants while on patrol.

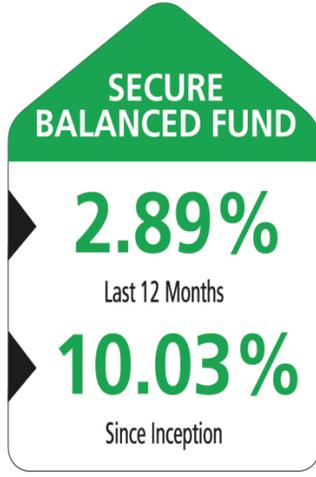
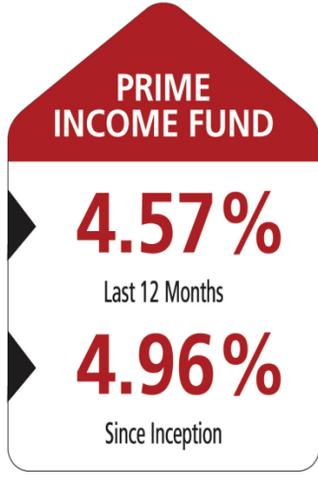
The group included 44 men, six women and three minors, who all appeared to be in good health when discovered.

The patrol vessel arrived at HMBS Coral Harbour at approximately 5.30pm yesterday where there were processed and handed over to the proper authorities for further processing.



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# Glenys: PLP lost relevance



ENGLERSTON MP Glenys Hanna Martin at the launch of her PLP leadership bid. Photo: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

from page one

“For the PLP to be successful again, I think that it will require the modernisation of the party. It is not the dynamic, relevant 21st century vehicle it was and needs to be.

“Don’t get me wrong, it has strength nationwide and it is still a powerful organisation but there are certain things and initiatives I think that need to be introduced that are essential to putting the party in the best position to be the government again and that includes technology.

“We have to improve communication, we have not had a convention in eight years before the one in January and that is not good.

“I am one of them who believe that a convention brings together your members.

“Your members are not just people who vote for you, these are the people who believe in your ideology, they are your foot soldiers and they also have thoughts on what is happening in the country and how the party should move forward.”

On Tuesday, PLP Chairman Bradley Roberts said he expects “several more persons” to run for the leader of the party during its October convention, adding that the “competition” will only make the PLP stronger.

As a result of the May 10 landslide defeat at the hands of the Free National Movement, former Prime Minister Perry Christie resigned as leader of the PLP days later.

Mr Davis, former PLP deputy leader, was immediately elevated to party leader, as mandated in the PLP’s constitution.

The PLP held its last convention on January 24-26. At the close of the three-day event, Mr Christie won

with 1,264 votes to 169 for Alfred Sears in a leadership race.

When contacted last week, Mr Sears, former attorney general, said he was mulling his options now that it was clear a convention is happening.

Mr Sears, who also unsuccessfully ran in Fort Charlotte in May, added that with all things considered, he would “weigh all the options” ahead of him, as he remains “solely and completely dedicated to improving the PLP.”

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## DAVIS 'UNINSPIRING' SAY PLP STALWART COUNCILLORS

By RASHAD ROLLE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
rolle@tribunemedia.net

OPPOSITION Leader Philip “Brave” Davis is uninspiring to Bahamians, some Progressive Liberal Party stalwart councillors said yesterday as they prepare to vote for Englerston MP Glenys Hanna Martin at October’s convention.

“Davis doesn’t impress me at all,” Vincent Moss, of Golden Gates, one of the randomly chosen stalwart councillors contacted by *The Tribune* yesterday, said. “Mrs Hanna is more a person I would want to vote for. She’s an outspoken woman and she spoke out from day one. ‘Brave’ Davis don’t know what it takes to be a leader.”

Almost all the people *The Tribune* spoke with supported former Prime Minister Perry Christie over the years for leadership of the PLP.

There was remarkable consistency in their views, with most of them describing Mrs Hanna Martin as “outspoken,” a quality they don’t see in Mr Davis.

Leo Newton of Andros said: “Both are good people but I prefer her. She’s an outspoken woman.”

Said Bishop Martin Allen of Eleuthera: “I would go with Glenys. I think she is more outspoken. ‘Brave’ is a good fella but I would go with her.”

Louise Adderley, of Nassau Village, said Mrs Han-

na Martin “has guts.” “She could speak out more,” she said. “‘Brave’ is all right. He may have more of the roots of the PLP, but he’s not a speaker.”

Roland Albury, from Eleuthera, said while he would support Mrs Hanna Martin if he attends the convention, his financial situation may prohibit him from participating.

“Davis is not a good speaker,” he said. “I wouldn’t support him. He got plenty money and he could buy what he wants to, but Hanna Martin is a better speaker than him, and that’s (Arthur D) Hanna’s daughter.”

Arthur D Hanna is a former governor general. He was also deputy prime minister during the Pindling administration.

“I like everything about her,” Mr Albury added. “I can’t promise I will come to the convention though. I don’t work and I’m an old pensioner. I’m only in Nassau right now looking after my wife who’s getting an operation.”

As the convention nears, the role gender will play in influencing people’s vote will be topical.

One stalwart councillor yesterday, Glenroy Oliver of Pinewood, said he will support Mr Davis because “he’s a man, a qualified man.”

His wife, Elizabeth, only said she’ll support Mr Davis after asking her husband which person should get her vote.

Wycliffe Albury of St Anne’s said he’s supporting Mr Davis because he’s known him “for at least 30 years.”

An undecided stalwart councillor, Patricia Thomas of Centreville, said she believes both leadership candidates have strengths and weaknesses. However, she prefers Senator Michael Darville for PLP leader.

“The PLP lost five seats in Grand Bahama and I just thought somebody like him who has experience and who’s not a part of the old guard might be a better person to lead the party right now,” she said.

Exuma MP Chester Cooper told *The Nassau Guardian* this week that he will run for a senior position, although he did not say which.

Stalwart councillors yesterday either didn’t know enough about Mr Cooper to give an opinion or they said they would support him for deputy leader, the post some say he is eyeing.

Several of them said he’s

too “new” to be leader.

“He has to immerse himself in the history of the PLP,” said Ms Thomas. “Chester has never worked for government, never served as a senator. He just went right in. That might be a drawback, but I like him.”

Bishop Allen, however, said the party should give Mr Cooper a chance “because he’s young blood.”

The October convention will be the PLP’s first since its historic loss in May. The party held a convention in January, the first since 2009. Mr Christie retained the reins of the party at that convention, beating challenger Alfred Sears by a wide margin. Mr Christie quit as PLP leader in May after the PLP’s devastating election loss.

Some councillors yesterday said the convention will be important because the party has not been a forceful enough presence since the election.

“They aren’t doing anything as far as I’m concerned,” Mr Moss said.



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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
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## Nuclear brinkmanship with N Korea

TOKYO (AP) — Conventional wisdom says if North Korea were ever to use its nuclear weapons, it would be an act of suicide. But brace yourself for what deterrence experts call the "theory of victory".

To many who have studied how nuclear strategies actually work, it's conceivable North Korea could escalate to a nuclear war and still survive. Tuesday's missile test suggests once again it may be racing to prepare itself to do just that — but only if forced into a corner.

Every missile North Korean leader Kim Jong Un launches comes at a high cost. North Korea doesn't have an unlimited supply, and they aren't easy or cheap to build.

So when Kim orders his strategic forces to launch, it's safe to assume it's a move calculated to achieve maximum political, technical and training value. Tuesday's launch of a ballistic missile over Japan and into the open Pacific Ocean, once again blowing past warnings from the United States and its allies, is a prime example.

There is a solid strategy hidden in each launch. From Kim's perspective, here's what it looks like.

#### How the North could survive

North Korea has never suggested it would use its nuclear weapons to attack the United States or its allies completely out of the blue.

But, like Washington, it has stated quite explicitly that if it is either attacked or has reason to believe an attack is imminent, it has the right to launch a retaliatory or even a pre-emptive first strike.

The trigger for North Korea could be unusual troop movements in South Korea, suspicious activity at US bases in Japan or — as the North has recently warned — flights near its airspace by US Air Force B-1B bombers out of their home base on the island of Guam.

If Kim deemed any of those an imminent attack, one North Korean strategy would be to immediately target US bases in Japan. A more violent move would be to attack a Japanese city, such as Tokyo, though that would probably be unnecessary since at this point the objective would be to weaken the US military's command and control. Going nuclear would send the strongest message, but chemical weapons would be an alternative.

North Korea's ability to next hit the US mainland with nuclear-tipped missiles is the key to how it would survive in this scenario. And that's why Kim has been rushing to perfect and show them off to the world.

"The whole reason they developed the ICBM was to deter American nuclear retaliation because if you can hold an American city or cities at risk the American calculation always changes," said Vipin Narang, an associate professor of political science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a nuclear strategy specialist.

"Are we really willing to risk Los Angeles or Chicago in retaliation for an attack on a US military base in the region?" he asks. "Probably not."

That, right there, is Kim's big wager. If "no" actually is the answer, then North Korea has a chance — though slim and risky — of staving off a full-scale conventional attack by the United States to survive another day.

#### Use 'em or lose 'em

Kim isn't paranoid. He has good reason to fear an attack by the United States.

It's highly unlikely Washington would unilaterally start a war. But if it did, North Korea would face a far stronger and better equipped enemy

able to — literally — bring the fight right to Kim's front door. A successful US first strike could within hours or days take out North Korea's leadership, or at least seriously disrupt its chain of command, and destroy a good portion of the country's fighting power.

So North Korea has a very strong incentive to escalate fast, before all is lost.

Under Kim Il Sung and Kim Jong Il — Kim's grandfather and father — North Korea relied on conventional artillery just north of the Demilitarized Zone to keep Washington at bay, figuring the US wouldn't make any moves that might risk an attack on South Korea's capital, Seoul, and the tremendous casualties and destruction that would bring.

Kim, fearing "decapitation strikes," has brought missiles and nukes into the mix for an added layer of protection.

His strategy is to neutralise Washington's military option by holding both Seoul and an American city hostage while building up his own ability to withstand a first strike or a massive wave of retaliation. To do that, North Korea is developing an array of missiles that can be launched by land or from submarines and easily hidden and transported to remote, hard-to-detect sites.

Reasonably enough, countries with big arsenals are generally considered less likely to feel the need to use them or lose them.

North Korea is believed to have an arsenal of perhaps several dozen nuclear weapons, growing by maybe a dozen or so each year. That's a lot, but some analysts believe it may take a few hundred to cure Kim of the itchy trigger finger syndrome.

#### 'The Madman Strategy'

In deterrence circles, ambiguity is considered a must. But confusion can be deadly.

In any confrontation, it's best that an opponent knows better than to cross the line — but not to know exactly where that line is. That fosters caution. Confusion, on the other hand, creates the incentive to make a move either out of frightened self-defence or confident opportunism.

That's what North Korea appears to be doing now, though it's not clear whether the motive is fear or arrogance.

Over the past several weeks, President Donald Trump has promised fire, fury and power like the world has never seen should North Korea issue even a vocal threat — which it did almost immediately, with no major consequences. Trump's Cabinet members walked that back, but in the process set or seemed to erase red lines of their own.

Some have suggested this is a deliberate "madman strategy".

Inspired by the writings of Machiavelli, President Richard Nixon gave this ploy a go against Vietnam in the late 1960s. His idea was to make the Vietnamese and their Communist allies think Nixon would do anything, including use his nuclear weapons, to end the war.

But if Trump is doing the same, he isn't doing it very well, Narang said.

While Kim's government speaks with one voice and maintains consistency, which is what gives the madman approach its credibility, it's "really hard for Trump to make these crazy statements and not have them walked back by someone in his administration."

"At some point," Narang said, "the blurriness goes away and we just look incoherent."

*This article is by Eric Talmadge of the Associated Press*



## SCHOOL REPAIRS CONTINUE



# Principle over pastoral

EDITOR, The Tribune.

AMERICAN comedian and civil rights activist Dick Gregory passed away recently. A few years ago, he was asked about the campaign for civil rights in the US.

Mr Gregory replied that extending civil rights to black Americans had unexpected positive consequences up and down the American social spectrum. By asserting that all people are equal, the Civil Rights Act opened doors of opportunity that had previously been closed to women of all colours, to the handicapped of every stripe and even to white senior citizens. It even provided refuge for Jews and Catholics, two of the most maligned denominations in the US at that time.

Perhaps the obstinate Pastor Cedric Moss has a real fear of what doors may be flung open when we extend the basic human right of equal treatment before the law to our gay brothers, lesbian sisters and transgendered cousins. Could many of our discriminatory laws against women be struck down next?

Pastor Moss seems incapable of grasping the thesis of the moral argument which is to keep church and state separated as the constitution commands.

All Bahamians should vigorously defend his right and that of all other persons of faith to practice their religion without fear or favour. If the pastor doesn't believe in same-sex marriages or civil unions then he should ban them in his church. Case closed.

He must not, however, seek to impose his particular religious beliefs on persons of other faiths or of no faith at all. What could be clearer than that?

Pastor Moss seems incapable of showing any compassion or love towards those same gender loving people he considers to be immoral. He thinks being gay is an immoral perversion despite scientific evidence that people don't choose their sexual orientation — it is in their nature to prefer relationships with members of the same sex, members of the opposite sex or both.

Anything that doesn't comport with his definition of morality or his religion's teaching is therefore immoral.

## LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

Thankfully, we are a commonwealth of different people united around the principle that all men are created equal and endowed by their creator with certain rights. We organise a government to protect and expand those rights.

Pastor Moss' curious references to polygamy and incest notwithstanding, the issue of marriage equality must be addressed on the level of principle, and not sidetracked by pastoral deviations that have nothing to do with equality.

The point bears repeating to the Pastor that a wedding ceremony in a church or a synagogue or a mosque is a faith-based celebration of a legal contract. All religions must enjoy the right to decide who they let in to partake in that celebration. But they do not get a right to decide for the entire country who gets to enter into a legal contract.

Pastor Moss contends that either parliament, by passing a law to codify discrimination against people he finds objectionable, or the people via a popularity contest called a referendum, should decide who gets protected by the constitution's human rights umbrella and who gets rained upon.

Unwittingly he hit on the crux of the matter. Human rights are non-negotiable principles which should enjoy entrenched status in our constitution. For this reason, we have an independent judiciary, immune from influence of the executive and sworn to protect the rights of all, especially "the least among us".

An MP who is going to stand for re-election might place political survival above morality or conscience. A judge with security of tenure is presumed to be free to forgo popularity and uphold the law. The court is a counter-majoritarian institution.

It has been suggested that an ambitious young lawyer may challenge the court on marriage equality. I expect our judges to exercise the John F. Kennedy doctrine. In a speech 57 years ago, the Catholic presidential candidate said: "I believe in a President whose religious views are his own

private affair, neither imposed by him upon the nation or imposed by the nation on him as a condition to holding that office."

Judges live in the real world and they see evolution all around. They have gay family and friends. They see that long-held views on gay people have been debunked around the world and they have come to see the marriage equality debate in terms of human rights, not religious ideology.

Despite what Pastor Moss may think, the public's attitude towards gays has evolved. Bahamians are more tolerant of each other today than the pastor would have us believe. On gay issues, The Bahamas is more progressive and accepting than many of our Caribbean sister states.

In a 2013 case in the US Supreme Court, *United States v. Windsor*, the Court gave an instructive clue to how their judges were in lockstep with changing mores:

"For marriage between a man and a woman no doubt had been thought of by most people as essential to the very definition of that term and to its role and function throughout the history of civilisation.

"That belief, for many who long have held it, became even more urgent, more cherished when challenged. For others, however, came the beginnings of a new perspective, a new insight. The limitation of lawful marriage to heterosexual couples, which for centuries had been deemed both necessary and fundamental, came to be seen as an unjust exclusion."

Pastor Moss seems incapable of grasping the fact that while he may reside on solid religious ground, his argument against marriage equality is built on legal quicksand.

Pastor Moss and others of his mindset may choose to look the other way as the locomotive of justice rolls on, but they can never again say that they did not know what was coming.

I refer Pastor Moss to a quote from a noted Bahamian philosopher and scholar who used Latin to close out debate back in the day: *Fini disputationem* (end of discussion).

THE GRADUATE  
 Nassau,  
 August 27, 2017

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 August 30, 2017



**TIANO** D'Haiti (centre), of Thompson Lane, is accused of murder and attempted armed robbery, while Kevin Andrews, of Montell Heights, is accused of murder, attempted armed robbery and burglary and in connection with the October 28, 2014, incident. Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

# Injured suspect went to hospital

By **NICO SCAVELLA**  
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A POLICE officer testified yesterday how one of two men accused of the 2014 murder of Blair resident Andre Cartwright presented himself to the accident and emergency room suffering from an injury shortly after the incident in question.

Police officer Dawkins, taking the witness stand before Justice Renae McKay, said Tiano D'Haiti allegedly showed up at the hospital in a silver coloured Honda vehicle on October 28, 2014, the same day Cartwright was shot and killed by home invaders.

Officer Dawkins, one of three officers who testified in day two of the trial, said the vehicle, driven by a woman, pulled up at the hospital, and D'Haiti jumped out, bareback, and told him he was stabbed.

The officer said he did not

actually see the wound because D'Haiti had his hand covering the injury, which he claimed was on the left lower side of D'Haiti's torso.

Nonetheless, he said D'Haiti was rushed inside by nurses and taken to the emergency room. The officer said he later saw D'Haiti in the emergency room, and cautioned and arrested him. The female driver was also later cautioned and arrested, he said.

However, defense attorney Jairam Mangra challenged the officer's testimony, charging that there were inconsistencies in what he was telling the court and the police report he wrote at the time of the incident. Mr Mangra further suggested that Officer Dawkins never spoke with D'Haiti.

The matter was adjourned to today at 11am.

Yesterday marked the second day of trial for

D'Haiti, of Thompson Lane, and Kevin Andrews, of Montell Heights, in connection with Cartwright's murder which occurred on October 28, 2014.

D'Haiti, represented by Mr Mangra, is accused of murder and attempted armed robbery, while Andrews, represented by Murrio Ducille, is accused of murder, attempted armed robbery and burglary.

According to initial reports from police, Andre Cartwright, 44, was at his Blair Estates home around 1.40am with his mother and father on the morning in question, when men kicked in the door of the house.

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

There was a brief exchange of gunfire, which

resulted in the victim being shot multiple times. He died at the scene. One of the suspects was also shot, however, initial reports from police said he and the other men escaped in a silver Honda Accord.

# RETRIAL ORDERED OF MAN FOUND NOT GUILTY AT JUDGE'S DIRECTION

By **SANCHESKA DORSETT**  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
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THE COURT of Appeal yesterday ordered a retrial for a man accused of a 2014 murder after an appeal was lodged by the Office of the Attorney General.

Michelet Auguste, appeared before Justice Vera Watkins in 2015, accused of the murder of Charles Pandey. Mr Pandey was in the area of his residence off Malcolm Road east, when he was shot several times. He was taken to the Princess Margaret Hospital where he later died of his injuries.

On February 1, 2015, Auguste pleaded not guilty to the murder charge and a trial began. According to the ruling, during the trial the prosecution relied heavily on the testimony of an anonymous witness identified as only "Alpha".

Alpha testified that on the night in question, while looking through a window of her home, she saw the individual who shot the deceased fleeing the area with a gun in his hand. Alpha identified that individual as "American," someone she had known for a year previously and who she would see every day as the person

would pass her house daily. Alpha provided the police with a description of the individual, attended an identification parade at which she identified the respondent and at the trial, she identified the respondent as "American."

After the prosecution had closed its case, counsel for Mr Auguste made a no case to answer submission claiming that the prosecution's evidence was of a tenuous nature.

On March 6, 2015, Justice Watkins found that the evidence was vague and inherently weak and ruled that a jury, properly directed, could not safely convict upon it. Consequently, Justice Watkins directed the jury to return a unanimous verdict of not guilty. The jury did as directed and, thereafter, the judge ordered the release of the respondent from prison.

On March 6, 2016, the AG's Office filed an appeal on two grounds. Firstly, that the decision of the trial judge was erroneous in the point of law and that the justice erred when she found that an essential element of the Crown's case was missing and secondly that the justice usurped the function of the jury when she withdrew the case from

them on the basis that "there was a difficulty in regard to the issue of identification of the person responsible for the shooting."

In a 13-page ruling, the Court of Appeal found that "there is a crucial distinction between a judge stopping a case where there has been no evidence to prove an essential element in the alleged offence and a judge stopping a case due to his evaluation as to the reliability of a prosecution witness. The former scenario is permissible but the latter is not."

The ruling also said: "In the present case the trial judge descended too minutely into the evidence of witness Alpha and therefore ventured beyond matters of quality of the evidence. As such, the judge entered the impermissible realm that is the domain of the jury. In so doing, the learned judge usurped the function of the jury and she erred in finding that the Crown had failed to show the respondent was responsible for the death of Mr Pandey."

The matter has now been turned over to the Supreme Court for retrial and a warrant of arrest has been issued for Auguste.

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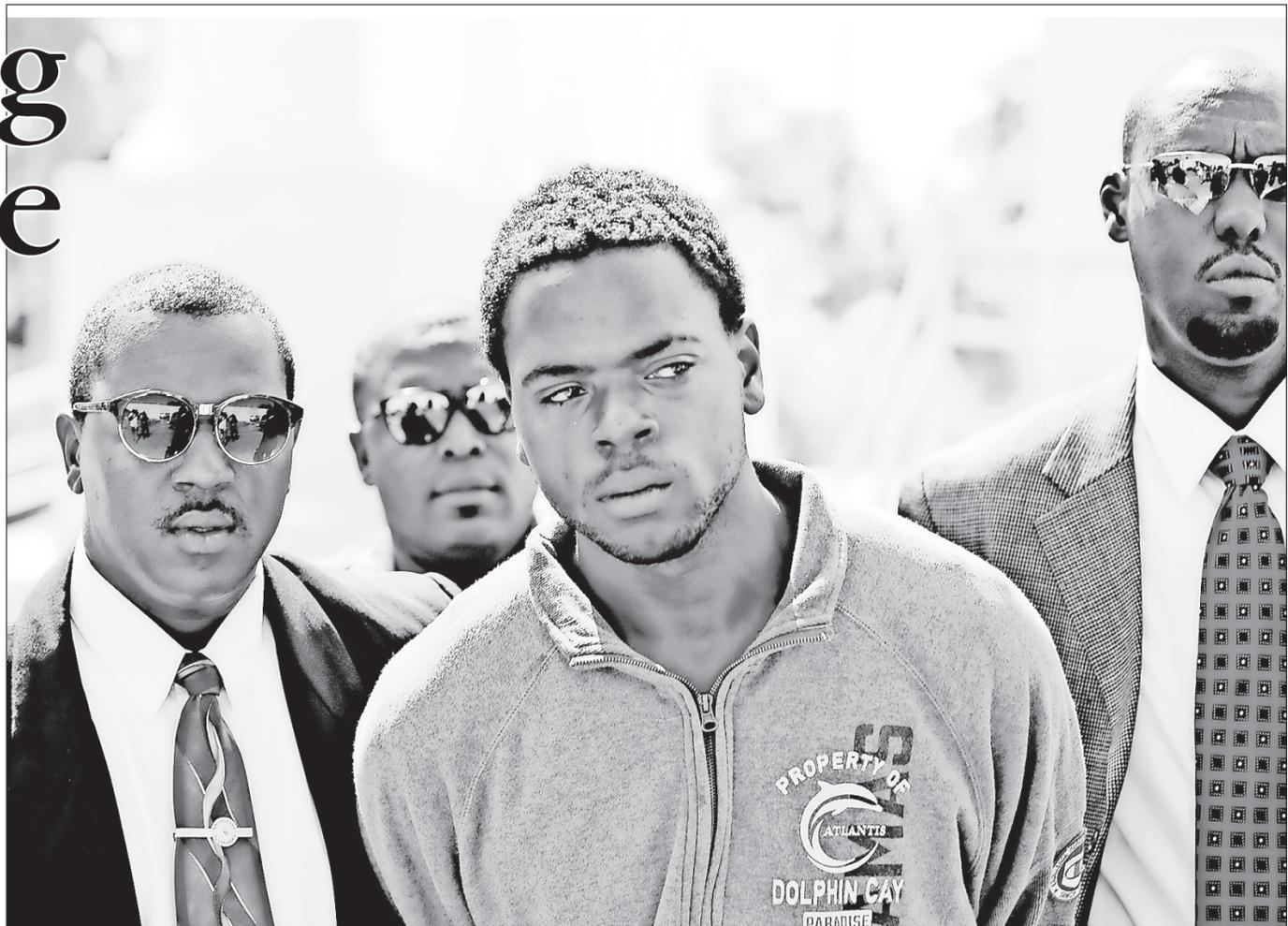
from page one

Davis was told at yesterday's arraignment that he would not be required to enter a plea and that the matter would be adjourned to October 26 for the service of a voluntary bill of indictment. Davis was remanded to the Bahamas Department of Correctional Services until that time. However, Davis, who appeared emotional as he was led out of court, has the right to apply to the Supreme Court for bail.

According to initial police reports, the baby's father was about to enter his home off Rupert Dean Lane when he was forced into the residence by a gunman he knew.

The suspect subsequently fired a number of shots resulting in three persons being shot, police said on Monday.

The infant died on the scene, while the baby's father and mother were taken to hospital by ambulance and were said to be in serious condition.



ALLEGED baby killer Anthon Anthony Davis, 19, outside court yesterday.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

## JUDGES ORDER BIRBAL RETRIAL

from page one

case should have directed the jury to Birbal's previous good character and absence of any criminal convictions.

In her judgment yesterday, Justice Crane-Scott noted: "The appellant elected not to give evidence in his defence at the trial and relied on the denials contained in his pre-trial statements to police. This was therefore a case which involved... the classic 'clash of credibility' between the prosecution and the defendant in the sense that the truthfulness and honesty of the witnesses on either side was directly in issue and where the need for a good character direction was acute.

"...The judge correctly told the jury that the central issue in the case was (the boy's) credibility and that the question for them was whether they accepted him as a witness of truth. The judge further reminded the jury that it was the burden of the prosecution to prove the case so that they felt sure of the appellant's guilt and that the accused had no obligation to prove anything.

"Even though the appellant elected not to testify and relied on his pre-trial statements to police, had the jury been told that the appellant had no previous convictions and that he must be regarded on that account as being more readily to be believed than a person who has been previously convicted, due to the nature of the case, it is impossible to say whether the jury would inevitably have reached the same verdict."

In considering whether Birbal should now be freed or face a third trial for the same offences, the Court of Appeal judgment said: "Having determined that this appeal should be allowed and the appellant's convictions quashed, we are required... to balance the relevant factors and the competing interests and to exercise judgment in deter-



ANDRE Birbal at a previous court appearance.

mining... whether the interests of justice require a new trial to be ordered.

"In this jurisdiction, the offences for which the appellant was charged and convicted are undoubtedly very serious offences. The abhorrence with which Bahamians view the act of sexual intercourse between an adult male and another male who is a minor is reflected in the... Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act, which stipulates that the maximum punishment for such an offence is life imprisonment.

"An added feature of the evidence in this particular case was the fact that the appellant taught at the child's school and held a position of trust and authority over the young persons in his charge. The Bahamian public, accordingly have an interest in being assured that the justice system works and that those persons who... are guilty of such crimes do not escape justice merely because of some technicality or other error which occurred during the trial.

"As to the strength of the case... While not in any way discounting the evidence of the complainant, it must

be said that the Crown's case against the appellant was not an overwhelmingly strong one. Nonetheless, as the trial judge found, it was sufficient to be placed before the jury. It is obvious from his testimony... that even in 2014 (some 11 or 12 years later) the complainant still gave a vivid and emotional account about what the appellant allegedly did to him so many years before.

"The complainant's interest in seeking justice and in telling his story to a jury once again on a re-trial cannot be ignored in arriving at our decision.

"... I am mindful of the fact that if a new trial were ordered the appellant will be condemned to undergo in due course the ordeal of a third trial. However, given the nature of this particular case... it is in the appellant's interest to have the clash of credibility between himself and the complainant, finally determined, as the law demands, by a jury of his peers."

The decision was supported by Dame Anita and Justice Isaacs.

The case will now go to the Supreme Court for retrial.



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# BPL workers file affidavits over dismissal by company

By RASHAD ROLLE  
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TEVAUGHN Miller, one of the former Bahamas Power & Light (BPL) employees who was fired two weeks ago, said in an affidavit that BPL officials never gave him an "opportunity to be heard or (to) respond to (the) allegations made against him".

Consequently, the company contravened the Industrial Agreement signed between it and the Bahamas Electrical Workers Union, he said in the document filed in the Supreme Court yesterday.

His affidavit was filed along with ones for D'Yanndra Curry and Katoria Neely who were also fired.

He is represented by Wayne Munroe.

Mr Miller said he was a filing and records clerk.

At the time he was fired, his duties included "stamping in invoices, logging cheques, taking the cheques to the executive wing for signature and filing away paperwork," he said.

An exhibit in the affidavit included a letter from BPL to Mr Miller informing him of his firing.

"We advise that at the

conclusion of this investigation (regarding vendor fraud), the company has determined that you have committed major breaches including gross misconduct and dishonesty. Further, based on the findings of the investigation, the company has a reasonable and honest suspicion and belief that you were complicit in committing a fraud against the company resulting in substantial financial losses.

"We consider your actions to be repugnant to the fundamental interest of this company and therefore, in accordance with Clause 16.12.1(a) of the

BEC/BEWU Industrial Agreement, and Section 33 of the Employment Act you are hereby summarily dismissed effective immediately without notice of payment in lieu of notice."

Assistant Commissioner Paul Rolle, head of the Royal Bahamas Police Force (RBPf) Anti-Corruption Unit, has said that officers are investigating the fraud case.

It has been previously reported that BPL was defrauded of some \$2m due to the scheme that was uncovered earlier this year. Two managers have been placed on suspension as the investigation continues.



ATTORNEY WAYNE MUNROE, QC.

# BIMINI BUSINESSES ACCUSED IN EMPLOYMENT ROW

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
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A FREEPORT labour consultant is accusing two establishments in Bimini of wrongful termination and has already filed a labour dispute on behalf of one individual with the Department of Labour in Grand Bahama.

Lionel Morley is representing Teneil Culmer, a former cage supervisor at Resorts World Bimini who was fired after four years of employment.

He claims that the mother of two was wrongfully terminated following policy changes that she was not privy to or aware of at the time.

Mr Morley also intends to file a similar dispute against Bimini Big Game Fishing after the establishment allegedly terminated a three-year employee.

In the matter of Ms Culmer, a dispute was filed on Tuesday morning at the Labour Department in Freeport which was confirmed by a labour representative.

According to Mr Morley, Ms Culmer was a good employee and had been promoted from cashier to cage supervisor within her first month of employment at the casino, a position she held until her termination.

"She had a few days off in May when management decided it would change its policy and its rule," he claimed. "Ms Culmer returned to work and followed the usual protocol that was established over the past four years, and was terminated the following day for failing to follow procedure she was not made aware of or had been subjected to."

The labour activist and consultant claims that Ms Culmer was wrongly terminated as there was no communication with the employee as it relates to the change of policies.

He said that it was after Ms Culmer's termination, that letters were given out about the changes.

"This means they (management) were never convinced they executed changes formally and correctly. They could not if they needed to write further and more communication to say what the changes were and we feel they rushed the termination of Ms Culmer," Mr Morley claimed.

In a separate matter, Shadwick Steward, a waiter at Bimini Big Game Fishing, was also allegedly terminated without reason, Mr Morley claimed.

Mr Steward had been employed three years as a waiter/server. Mr Morley said he intends to file a dispute on his behalf soon.

"In this case, manage-

ment decided to part ways with him without any warning slips or anything to suggest he should be terminated. And this appears to be the norm in Bimini," said Mr Morley.

The Tribune contacted Resorts World Bimini for comment, but no one was available to take the call.

Mr Morley said that Ms Culmer wants to be reinstated and paid for the days she was off.

He claims: "They (management) did not follow the tenets of their policy regarding what should happen in these circumstances if there is a shortage or a policy breach on how to go about it. Management failed to follow their very policies."

Mr Morley said that more attention needs to be paid to labour issues on Family Islands such, as Bimini and Abaco.

"I believe it's time that

the Trade Union Congress and the National Congress of Trade Unions along with the government need to place specific and more focused attention on these areas because these islands are left to fend for them-

selves, and the only people who suffer are the workers," he said.

"It is one thing to boast of having investors, but if they do not care about our laws and our people it begs another question."

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# Social services offers help to family after baby's death

THE Ministry of Social Services and Urban Development revealed that it has started the process of providing assistance to the family of Shelton Delano Tinker, the eight-month-old who was shot dead in his home on Monday.

A statement from the ministry said officials are ensuring the needs of the

immediate family are met through counselling and emotional support.

The infant's mother and father were also injured during the shooting and were taken to hospital.

The ministry added that the "circumstances of this situation are being thoroughly assessed through the Department of Social

Services' Child Protection Unit."

It was noted that the department also provides intervention and assistance to families experiencing domestic violence and other personal crises, through its Domestic Violence and Counselling Unit, which is located upstairs of Galleria Cinemas in the RND Plaza.

"Although the Department of Social Services traditionally sets aside the month of April to focus on the nation's attention on matters related to child protection, we have begun a new initiative to assertively coordinate our efforts with our civil and social partners to eradicate the abuse and neglect of children year-round.

"We take this opportunity to appeal to the public to report any cases where they suspect that a child is being, or appears to be abused, neglected or abandoned," the statement said. "Please be assured that those who report can remain anonymous. They do not need proof of these matters, since it is the job of the police and

the Department of Social Services to prove cases.

"The National Hotline is a 24-hour service operated by the ministry to address matters of abuse for children and adults."

The National Hotline can be reached at 322-2763 or 422-276 while the Domestic Violence Unit can be reached at 323-0171.

## BAHAMIAN TEACHER CHOSEN FOR US STATE DEPARTMENT SCHEME

RAYETTE McDonald, an elementary school teacher and youth mentor, has been selected to participate in the International Visitor Leadership Programme (IVLP) entitled, "Advancing and Sustaining Civic Engagement" which will take place September 11-29 in the United States.

On August 18, Ms McDonald visited the US Embassy and met with Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and Public Affairs Officer Penny Rechkemmer to discuss her participation in the programme.

The IVLP is a prestigious worldwide programme, fully funded by the US Department of State and provides rising professionals in all fields the opportunity to travel to the United States to network with their professional counterparts, as well as learn more about the United States and its policies. This three-week project will examine US and international initiatives to promote civic engagement; explore the legislative framework and administrative organisa-

tion necessary to support civic engagement; observe organisations that monitor, influence, and advocate for civic engagement at the local, state, national, and international levels in the United States; and provide insight into how the US engages youth in civic participation.

The itinerary includes Washington, DC; Iowa City, Iowa; Salt Lake City, Utah; and New Orleans, Louisiana. Ms McDonald will be among a group of 22 professionals from around the world selected to participate in the programme that will explore the American experience of expanding equal opportunities through political and social engagement. It will survey key movements such as women's, civil and immigrant rights. Participants will also be introduced to a wide range of advocacy organisations and be able to explore the methods used to develop their missions through outreach, marketing, social media, technology, training and volunteer recruitment.



ACTING Deputy Chief of Mission Penny Rechkemmer with Rayette McDonald IVLP professional exchange participant.

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# Bishop condemns 'raging crime level'

from page one

He said the country can "ill afford to lose more of its citizens, especially young men, to death, criminality or prison."

"On behalf of the Bahamas Christian Council, I condemn these acts of violence and call on the perpetrators of such acts to cease and think before ruining their lives and the lives of others," the bishop's statement said.

"The government's mission to uproot corruption is a prerequisite for growth, peace and prosperity. The raging levels of crime, the increasing numbers of murders, our embattled economy, the weakness of our education system, social ills and the increasing and deepening levels of emotional pain must be reversed. We are a resilient people. We can successfully tackle the issue of crime and criminality. The barriers of denomination, political persuasion and the growth of selfishness that is undermining the strength of the otherwise generous business and professional communities can only be stamped out by love, unity, the restoration of our moral values, and a vision and comprehensive plan to economically empower the people of the Bahamas."

Bishop Fernander said as a nation, the country must recognise that crime is not



BISHOP DELTON FERNANDER, President of the Christian Council.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

solely the responsibility of the government.

"Over the years successive governments have instituted programmes yet somehow after decades we are still saddled with the issue of crime," the statement said.

"The government along with civil society, the church and the citizens of

this nation must resolve to ensure that those who would commit such acts and try to hold our nation hostage with fear understand that we have no tolerance for crime, period. We must develop short and long-term measures to bring crime to an irreducible level, fully restore law and order to our country

and allow citizens to live freely without the fear of violent crime.

"Our country can ill afford to lose more of its citizens, especially young men, to death, criminality or prison. We need all hands on deck to further the positive development of the Bahamas."

On Monday, eight-

month-old Shelton Delano Tinker died after he was shot in his home in what police believe was an act of retaliation toward the toddler's father.

The boy's mother and father were also shot during the incident. The mother has since been released from hospital. The Tribune understands, but the father

is still listed in serious condition.

On Tuesday, Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis met with the attorney general and Royal Bahamas Police Force officials to reinforce the government's "zero tolerance" approach to crime, stressing his commitment to provide the support police need to fight the problem.

# BANKS BATTLE ATM CHEATS

from page one

In a presentation at the Rotary Club of Southeast Nassau on Wednesday, Mr Rolle indicated that all the Clearing Banks' Association (CBA) members are "moving to introduce more secure EMV chip-based credit and debit cards for point of sale transactions," as means to guard against the potential for credit and debit card fraud.

He added that CBA members are also installing more automated banking machines (ABMs) with built-in protection against tampering.

Earlier this month, 86 persons became victims of fraud involving ATM skimming devices around New Providence.

Fraudsters stole \$72,000, an amount police said they expected to rise as more people checked their financial records.

It was also reported that fraudsters were using one of two types of devices to steal information: a fake overlay device or a deep insert skimming device. Both are used along with a hidden camera that captures pin numbers. Stolen information was then used to create duplicate cards with which money from a person's account can be drained.

In response on Wednesday, Mr Rolle, a strong proponent for the advancement of a cashless society, implored commercial banks to pick up the pace with respect to its security advances.

He also urged customers to do their parts in protecting their finances. Of consumers, he stated: "We encourage banking consumers to regularly monitor their accounts for unusual activities.

"This is best done by: signing up for online banking services, limiting the number of accounts to which debit cards have automatic access, and the amount of funds kept in those accounts," he added.

Mr Rolle continued: "Understand that going digital, or using a debit or credit card, is still safer than cash. Banks will reimburse

customers for losses perpetrated through card fraud. Once lost, cash is much more difficult to recover."

The Central Bank is currently spearheading a national financial literacy campaign aimed at educating consumers in the areas of financial matters, financial inclusion, financial consumer protection, and how these concepts relate to national circumstances.

Mr Rolle said the literacy campaign is intended to better educate consumers about certain basic financial products, empowering them to query their financial institution when they have service level concerns.

He said the Central Bank also intends to develop and publish useful measures of fee comparison for the "typical" customer across all commercial banks.

The campaign also aims to establish a national credit bureau and a financial ombudsman.

Of the credit bureau Mr Rolle said: "It would provide transparency around credit history and current debt levels, allowing prospective lenders to know whether it is a good - or risky - decision to grant a loan."

He continued: "Those considered higher risk would be charged higher interest rates, and in more cases, they would be refused credit. Loan applicants that pose lesser risk would benefit from lower rates and easier access to credit."

"I cannot emphasise this enough: if financial institutions are able to avoid the adverse effects of high levels of bad debt, the pressure to make up lost income through fees or higher interest rates would subside. The government has indicated that passage of the credit bureau legislation is a high priority. Therefore, we look forward to this outcome in the very near term."

On the point of a potential financial ombudsman, Mr Rolle stated: "In keeping with the high-level principles for financial consumer protection promoted by OECD countries, the Central Bank is seeking to promote stronger independent support mechanisms for

consumer complaints handling and redress mechanisms."

Mr Rolle said the Central Bank will recommend, and directly support if necessary, the creation of the Office of the Financial Ombudsman (OFO).

He continued: "This office would be tasked with ensuring that consumers of financial products and services have adequate avenues to resolve disputes through an open and trans-

parent process."

"It would be independently operated, potentially with budgetary support by the regulators, the sector and government, but mandated to provide independent, impartial handling of disputes and complaints about domestic financial services."

Mr Rolle said to be most effective, such an office would require legislative terms of reference.

However, he added the

Central Bank anticipates that it can serve a strong advocacy role; even in advance of any changes to the current legal framework.

"The OFO would have an important role in identifying systemic issues and serious misconduct, and escalating these issues to the financial service providers and regulators for resolution.

"In the Bahamas, we foresee the need for such an office to address consumer

issues in sectors covered by the Central Bank, Insurance Commission of The Bahamas (ICB) and the Securities Commission of The Bahamas (SCB).

"As such, we will work closely with these other regulators to promote this initiative. In any event, we will provide recommendations to the government on a more elaborated legal framework for consumer financial protection in the near term."



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# Lloyd: No resting on laurels while nation has D average

By DENISE MAYCOCK  
Tribune Freeport Reporter  
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

**EDUCATION** Minister Jeff Lloyd toured schools on Grand Bahama and delivered a powerful and inspirational address to hundreds of teachers as they prepare to return to their classrooms next Monday.

At the Ministry of Education's annual Teachers' Enrichment Day at the Jack Hayward High School gymnasium on Wednesday morning, Mr Lloyd did not mince his words and told educators they can't afford to rest on their laurels while the national exam results remain at a D average.

"For the last ten years or more, the BGCSE results have shown not (any) improvement; we started out with a D, we are still at a D - something is wrong," said Mr Lloyd.

"There is no way to camouflage it; there is no way to excuse it; something is wrong, and we must fix it."

Mr Lloyd stressed that the only way to fix the problem is to go back to the beginning and start with the pre-schoolers.

"We will start over - we are going back to the infants," he said.

Referring to a study by the Inter-American Development Bank, the education minister noted that the report indicated that pre-schoolers in Latin American and the Caribbean regions know fewer words and have less cognitive ability than their peers in the developed nations.

The IDB released the flagship study in 2017 which stated that the average Latin American and Caribbean student is more than one year behind what is expected based on the region's level of economic de-



JEFF LLOYD, Minister of Education.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

velopment, even though the region spends on average about the same percentage of GDP on education and skills development as more developed nations.

Mr Lloyd said that it was further reported that the region invests far less on pre-school education (about \$500 per child), in comparison (to \$3,500 per child) in primary school education.

"We are failing our society," said the education minister, who added that this year "great emphasis" will be placed on two-and-a-half and three-year-olds.

Reporting that less than half of the nation's pre-schoolers are in an appropriate programme, the minister said: "We are setting up ourselves for catastrophic failure if we do not address that."

He assured them that when resources permit, the Ministry of Education is going to mandate that all two-and-a-half and three-year-olds must be in a ministry approved school.

In the area of curriculum development, Minister Lloyd stressed the importance of playtime, and ac-

tivities such as art, music, and drama.

"Our curriculum does not speak to life. We've taken art, music, and drama out of our curriculum. They are supposed to be essential subjects in the curriculum."

The minister told educators: "When it comes to two-and-a-half-year-olds, we are going to emphasise numeracy, literacy, oration, but more importantly cognitive skills, and social skills, and emotional skills."

He also stressed the im-

portance of technology in education delivery.

During his visit to a primary school in Grand Bahama, Mr Lloyd was surprised to learn that there was no Wi-Fi available at the campus.

"I just came from Maurice Moore (Primary), and I asked the principal if there was Wi-Fi. She told me 'no.' No Wi-Fi? It will be addressed; there will be technology in our education delivery throughout our country," he said.

There were also new appointments at the Ministry

of Education. Mary Russell has been appointed

district superintendent; former principal of Jack Hayward High School Yvonne Ward was appointed district superintendent of schools in the east, and former Eight Mile Rock High School principal Ivan Butler was appointed district superintendent of schools in the west. Ms Mary Cooper, who has served as district superintendent at Ministry of Education in Freeport for many years, is retiring and was recognised.

## DAVIS 'CONCERNED' OVER GRAND BAHAMA STRATEGY



OPPOSITION leader Philip 'Brave' Davis.

By RASHAD ROLLE  
Tribune Staff Reporter  
rrolle@tribunemedia.net

PLP Leader Philip "Brave" Davis said he is concerned about the "lack of transparency, clarity and consistency" in the Minnis administration's strategy for rejuvenating Grand Bahama's economy.

"The current administration is becoming accustomed to having its Cabinet ministers make public statements that send mixed signals and provokes scepticism around their policies," he said in a press statement.

"The minister of state for Grand Bahama indicated that a deal was imminent, running a narrative which was contrary to the position of the Wynn Investment Group who revealed the group has pulled out of the purchase for the Grand Lucayan complex."

"Prior to the general elections, the Christie administration acted post-haste in a trilateral effort to bring all parties together to reach a meaningful resolution in the best interest of Grand Bahamians."

The plausibility of the government unraveling

the deal left on the table that materialised in good faith between all parties is unwise. The government's decision to act unilaterally and discontinue its communication with the Wynn Investment Group creates an escalatory dynamic which can delay any economic relief to Grand Bahama.

"We hope the government can offer an optimistic note that can hold water."

"The prime minister's ad-hoc approach to resolving the negotiations has raised some issues that can lead to an adversarial situation with an investor who is committed to improving a dire situation in the nation's second city."

"The prime minister is in no position for foot-dragging on a matter that can arrest the economic malaise in Grand Bahama."

"The government's actions in light of Mr Wynn's comments may prolong economic hardship in Grand Bahama by derailing a favourable agreement."

"The uncertainty of the Grand Lucayan properties remains cause for grave concern. There must be a sustained level of disclosure on the negotiations - not lip service on openness and transparency."

"The recovery of Grand Bahama's economy is not a partisan issue; there must be a collaborative approach that fosters an environment for economic growth."

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# From behind the scenes and into the spotlight

LACREASHA Thompson, a lab technologist at the Rand Memorial Hospital in Grand Bahama, became the July winner of the Public Hospitals Authority's (PHA) Unsung Heroes Award yesterday.

Ms Thompson has enjoyed a ten-year career with the PHA and has developed a strong reputation with her supervisors, colleagues and the public for humility, teamwork and excellence, health officials said.

Her co-workers describe her as hardworking and efficient, honest and precise, and reliable and encouraging.

"I'm honoured to be given this opportunity and to receive this award, especially being a lab personnel, we tend to be behind the scenes, so it's good to be recognised and I will continue to excel and offer good services to the public," Ms Thompson said at a brief ceremony at the PHA yesterday.

The awards programme was launched earlier this year to recognise and reward excellence, care and compassion in The Bahamas' healthcare system as part of a ground-breaking public-private partnership between the PHA, the Tribune Media Group and the Aiden Roger Carron Foundation.

The Unsung Heroes Awards identifies and publicly honours those PHA employees who have gone "beyond the call of duty" in providing levels of care and compassion throughout the islands, in the authority's two hospitals (Princess Margaret and Rand Memorial), Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre and its 108 clinics and agencies.

Yesterday, PHA managing director Herbert Brown



**THE PRESENTATION** to the July winner of the PHA/Unsung Heroes Award, Lacreasha Thompson. She is pictured accepting her award with Kevin Darville, Tribune Media Group projects co-ordinator; and Dr Herbert Brown, PHA managing director.

Photos: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff



expressed profound gratitude to the Aiden Roger Carron Foundation for its help.

"It is through this foundation that we have been able to provide the resources required to make this one of

perhaps the most prestigious award that we have in our public healthcare system," Mr Brown said. "It is a very important award because at the end of the day, this is not about the Public Hospitals Authority, this is not about the managing director or the foundation, this is about those persons who will go to our institution and when they leave our institutions they would be able to say I was provid-

ed with quality healthcare." He said the millions the government invests in public healthcare would go to waste if patients cannot say they have received quality care from these institutions. Kevin Darville, Tribune Media Group's special projects co-ordinator, said Ms Thompson was deserving of yesterday's recognition. "She has clearly gone above and beyond the call of duty and is very de-

serving of this prestigious award. Keep up the good work," Mr Darville said. "I would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate all of the other nominees for the month of July and I hope they continue to do a great job." Ms Thompson joins previous award winners Veronica Ferguson, Patricia Laing, Una Bain and Glynis Armbrister and Zhivago McPhee.

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MARATHON MP Romauld Ferreira presenting Britney Dolce, Xavier Cooper, Regan Williams and Aaliyah Cooper with backpack gift packs as Marathon residents look on.



A CHILD getting a haircut at an event put on by Marathon MP Romauld Ferreira.

# Getting set for back to school

MARATHON constituents gathered for the grand opening of area MP Romauld Ferreira's new headquarters in the Edmira's Plaza on Soldier Road north.

During the brief ceremony, held Saturday, the minister of environment and housing expressed heartfelt thanks to Marathon residents for their support, outlined plans for the future of the area and revealed details about a nationwide clean-up campaign to be launched under his ministry.

Mr Ferreira made the move to a new constituency office space to create a more conducive environment for community activities and after school programmes. The new headquarters will be open Mon - Sat, 9am - 5pm. Plans are in place to create a computer lab at the new space, which is expected to be open to community kids Mon - Fri, during after school hours, 4pm - 6pm. Patricia Mortimer, Marathon resident, will be working along with Mr Ferreira to co-ordinate after school activities

and noted that a second location is being explored to accommodate more Marathon kids.

Mr Ferreira announced that the Ministry of Environment and Housing is planning to launch a country-wide clean-up campaign late September, which will include community clean-ups and derelict vehicle removal. This initiative will directly benefit communities and neighbourhoods all across Marathon.

Immediately following the ceremony, a party was held with food, a bouncing castle, free haircuts and distribution of hundreds of backpack gift packs for community kids heading back to school.

Mr Ferreira invited Marathon residents to attend the next town hall meeting, to be held Tuesday Sept 19, at C I Gibson High School. Constituents who wish to volunteer in the community or address immediate concerns can call the community hotline at 601-3009.



MARATHON residents at a community event put on by area MP Romauld Ferreira.



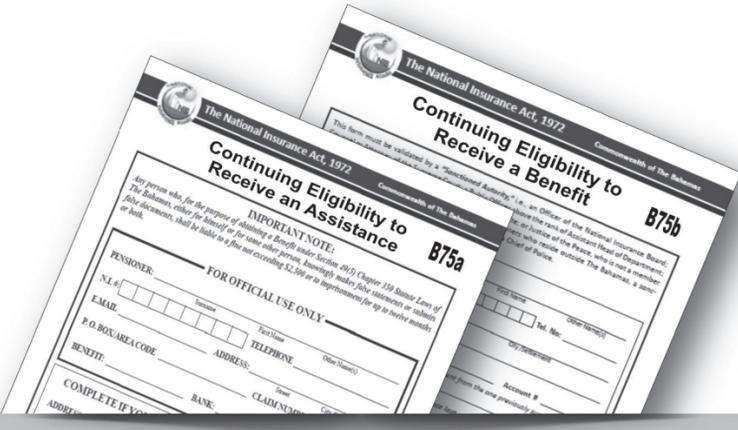
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## READERS REACT TO STUDENT LOAN PROSECUTIONS

AFTER Education Minister Jeffery Lloyd told *The Tribune* more than 300 people with delinquent Educational Loan Authority accounts will face "prosecution" and may have assets seized, readers had their say on [tribune242.com](http://tribune242.com).

BahamaDude had this to say: "It is very sad that people will take out loans totaling over \$156 million, then default at the hefty rate of 75%. Whether they are employed in the Bahamas, or abroad, has nothing to do with the repayment of the loan . . . The payments are supposed to be made, regardless of WHERE IN THE WORLD THEY LIVE AND WORK . . . and for almost 15 years of owing these loans, I will be willing to bet that the maturity date on most of those loans has already passed. From 2001 to now, a span of 16 years is a very long time, and many of those loans should have now been fully repaid. Some persons may not be working/ employed now, but what about the prior years when they may have worked, but just were



"dishonest" and did not repay? There should be no excuse, and they should be dealt with strictly under the law."

Gbgal said: "Problem relates to the attitude that the people have: government 'owes' them the money so if they get anything, they don't have to pay it back. The people have become used to handouts . . . look at the social services system!"

DillyTree had this suggestion: "When student loans are handed out, they should include a contract that states that if the loans aren't paid back on the stated date, that their wages and/or assets will be garnished/seized. Tying up the court system with more cases and expense makes no sense. When will people stop looking for handouts and take responsibility? So

much a Bahamian mentality these days by so many - it has to stop!"

To which TigerB responded with: "Agreed Dilly, it's a bad habit Bahamians have. Borrowing and not paying back. Then others now crying out for them, but if you can't pay back don't borrow, it's not political, its criminal!"

This week also saw Englerston MP Glenys Hanna Martin launch her bid to become leader of the Progressive Liberal Party. TalRussell posted this comment: "Based on the two publicly announced MPs contesting for the PLP's leadership - if their track records encompassing the years 2012-2017 are all they have to run on - they both needs find another line of work."

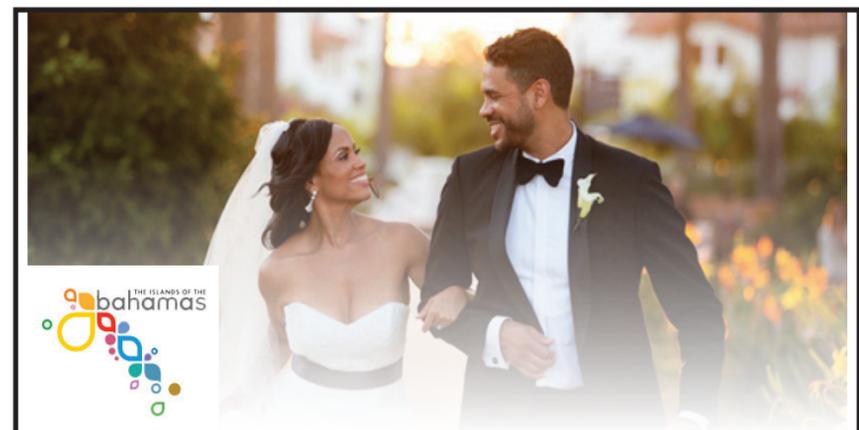
But CatIslandBoy offers this: "While Mrs Hanna Martin does owe the Bahamian electorate some explaining, I do consider her almost a breath of fresh air for the PLP."

• Don't miss your chance to join the debate on [tribune242.com](http://tribune242.com).

# FULL SPEED AHEAD TO NEW TERM



A BACK to school jamboree held by Nas-sau Flight Services on Stapledon Park.  
Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff



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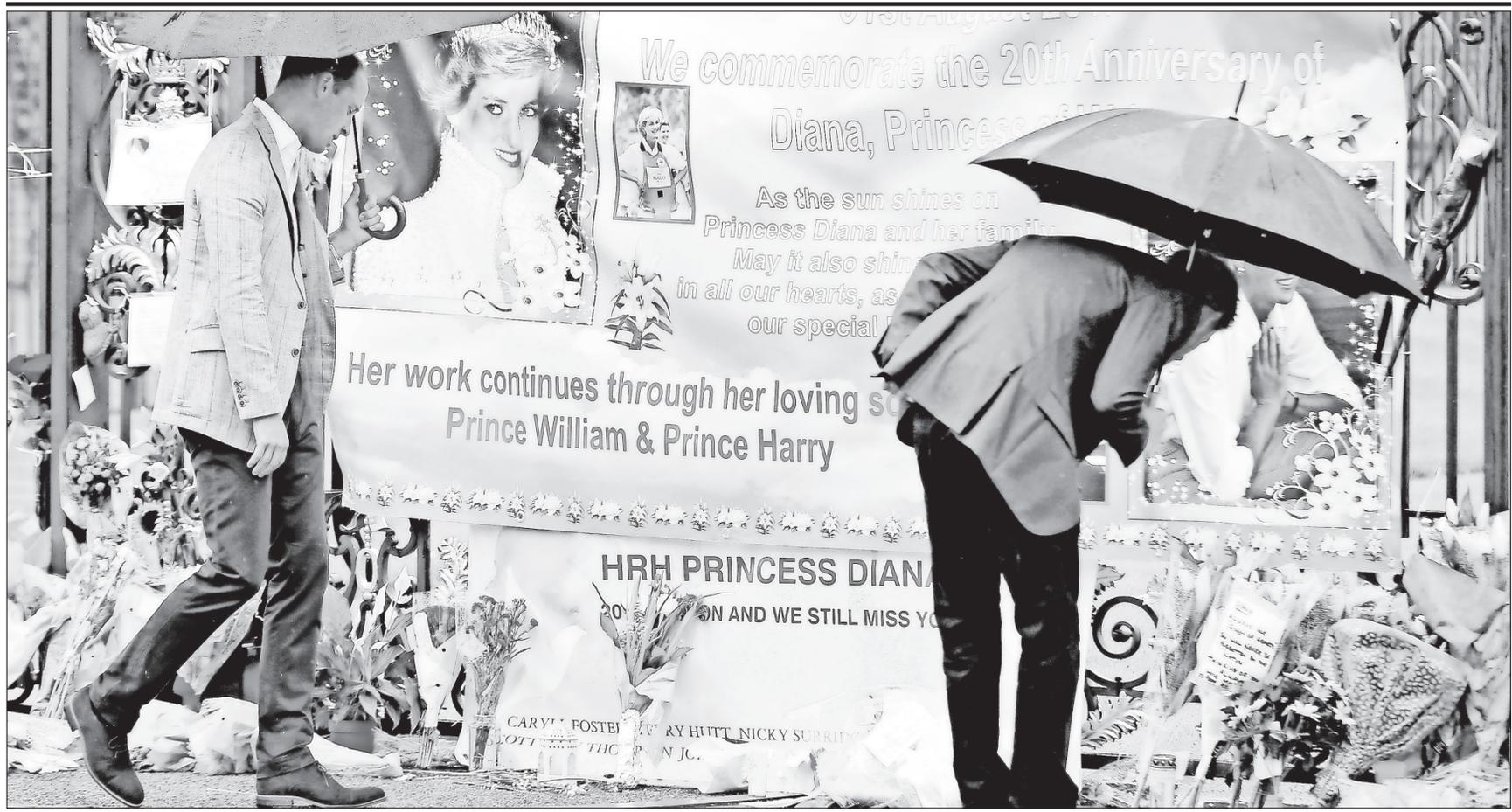
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BRITAIN'S PRINCE WILLIAM, left, and Prince Harry look at floral and pictorial tributes to their late mother Princess Diana placed on the gates of Kensington Palace, in London, yesterday.

Photo: Alastair Grant/AP

# Princess Diana's influence endures 20 years after death

LONDON  
Associated Press

THE shock came late on a summer evening: After an idyllic Mediterranean holiday, Princess Diana had been in a car crash in Paris. Her boyfriend was dead; she was hospitalized, condition unclear.

She died a few hours later on August 31, 1997, plunging Britain into grief that lingers to this day. Twenty years later, the memory of Diana — a youthful mother cut down, leaving two children behind — remains vital, her influence still felt.

Time has blurred the memories, but people around the world still remember Diana as a young bride, so taken with Prince Charles, and as a glamorous trendsetter dancing at the White House with John Travolta. She was the fun-loving mom taking her two boys on amusement park rides, and the tireless charity worker who reached out to AIDS patients when they were shunned by much of society.

The sons Diana left behind — Prince William, now 35, and Prince Harry, 32 — are playing increasingly important roles in Britain's national life as the public focuses on the next generation of royals, some-



PRINCESS DIANA, Princess of Wales, pictured in 1987.

Photo: Herman Knippertz/AP

times at the expense of William and Harry's father, Prince Charles.

"Her essential legacy is her children and the fact is that they have become known more as her children than as his, in the sense that the charity work they are doing resonates with what she was doing — difficult issues like mental health, just like she took on AIDS," Diana biographer Andrew Morton said. "So she has a living legacy."

Morton's 1992 book about Diana revealed the depth of her despair: her struggle with a serious eating disorder, attempts at self-harm, and what he calls the "deep unhappiness" of her union with Charles,

which ended in a bitter divorce in 1996.

It was supposed to be so different. Charles was heir to the throne, and Diana's entry into the royal family meant she was likely to become queen one day.

Theirs was perhaps a common story of infidelity and broken vows, but played out on an uncommonly public stage. Each used TV interviews and books by favored authors as megaphones in their bids for public sympathy.

Charles, with his somewhat stiff demeanor and unapproachable public persona, could never compete with Diana's doe-eyed appeal, especially when she famously complained there

had always been "three people in this marriage" — an arch reference to Camilla Parker Bowles, who would marry Charles eight years after Diana's sudden death.

Many saw Diana as a young mother wronged by a privileged older husband's refusal to give up his lifelong mistress — even though the princess admitted to affairs of her own.

Refusing to fit the Windsor mold, she sought new ways to cope with fabulous wealth, worldwide fame, and sky-high expectations. She reached out and actually touched AIDS patients — a taboo at the time — and travelled to former combat zones to highlight the dangers land mines posed to civilians.

Many felt they could relate to her when she recounted her own battles with bulimia and talked openly of her disappointment and loneliness.

Some remember her for bringing a refreshing informality to the royal family — for example, taking young William and Harry in 1993 to Thorpe Park, a popular amusement center near London where they squealed and screamed along with everyone else on the water rides.

Carol Meredith, a nurse who recently visited the

Princess Diana Memorial Fountain in Hyde Park with her husband, said that in the past senior royals would have had the amusement park cleared so they could enjoy it without mingling with the public.

Today, she said, the royals aren't like that.

"Diana changed that," she said. "When she used to take her kids to Thorpe Park, she enjoyed being with everybody else and doing the same as everybody else. She changed what you think of the royal family."

Meredith's husband, Andrew, said Diana was different from other royals.

They were a little bit staid," he said. "They were a little bit, you know, 'We are the royalty, here to be seen but not to be spoken to or touched.' At least with Diana, you felt as if she was touchable. She was within reach."

The difference between the two approaches — and the depth of the public's affection for Diana — crystallized in the days after her death, when tens of thousands of mourners paid tribute to Diana by placing flowers outside London's Kensington Palace, where she had lived.

Queen Elizabeth II was on vacation in Scotland at the time of the accident,

and she remained there for several days. She declined to lower the flag atop Buckingham Palace to half-staff, citing protocol, as rare public anger mounted against the monarch.

Elizabeth seemed, publicly at least, unmoved by Diana's death, even as the prime minister — media-savvy Tony Blair — coined a memorable phrase in describing Diana as "the people's princess."

The queen eventually relented and came to London to pay her respects. The royal family then took steps to regain public favor, in part by adopting the more people-friendly approach Diana had used.

Chloe Dyson, a secondary school teacher also visiting Hyde Park, said Diana remains an "inspirational figure" two decades after her death.

"She still obviously has a strong image in the British psyche," Dyson said, adding that Diana's accessible approach brought her closer to the British people than other royals.

"People felt they could identify with her," Dyson said, remembering the impact of Diana's charitable endeavors, including visits to hospitals and homeless shelters. "She was doing good work."

## PRINCES PAY TRIBUTE TO MOTHER'S CHARITY WORK

LONDON  
Associated Press

PRINCES William and Harry on Wednesday visited a memorial garden dedicated to Princess Diana to pay tribute to their mother's charity work on the eve of the 20th anniversary of her death.

The royals, accompanied by William's wife, the Duchess of Cambridge, huddled under umbrellas in the pouring rain as they strolled through the Sunken Garden, which is planted with white flowers and dedicated to the princess at her former home, where she once would stroll by and ask the gardeners about their ever-changing displays.

William and Harry, who have both promised to carry on their mother's charity work, chatted animatedly with representatives from groups that Diana supported.

The princes then left the palace grounds to meet with members of the public, who braved the rain for hours for a chance to share memories of Diana with her sons.

The weeks before the anniversary of Diana's death have been met with reflection in Britain as the public remembers "the

people's princess" and considers her contributions to the country and the monarchy.

Many brought flowers, which the princes gathered and laid in front of the black and gold gates of Kensington Palace.

The flowers added to a fast-growing collection of items, including flags, burning candles and photographs, hanging on the gates to remember Diana.

"I still get upset, I can't even watch the funeral, it just brings it all back. It really upsets us and no, the feelings haven't diminished and she's too much of an important person to forget about," said Maria Scott, 46, who was among those waiting for the princes at the palace gates.

Fans from as far as Australia have posted homemade signs with messages — one read "Her work carries on through her loving sons," while another said "20 years on and we still miss you."

William and Harry stopped to admire the public's makeshift memorial, smiling while pointing at photos of their mother and reading fans' messages from around the world.

The 36-year-old princess died in the early hours of August 31, 1997.

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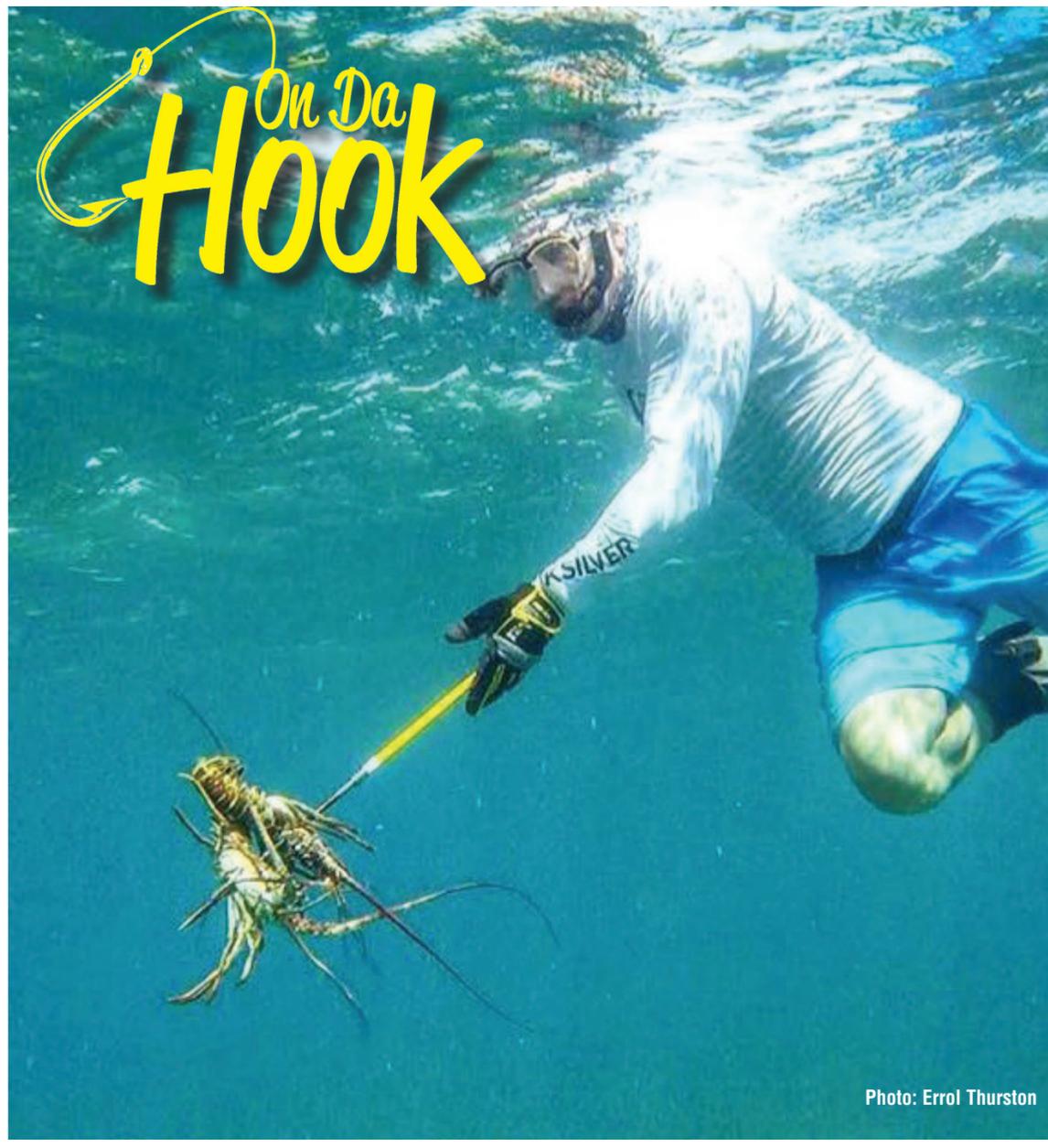


Photo: Errol Thurston



BSFN junior expert Luke Rowland and family recently took a trip to Panama and landed this 70lb Rooster Photo: Luke Rowland



Picture: Chub Cay and Resort

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