

THURSDAY

all day  **BREAKFAST** i'm lovin' it!

HIGH 90°F
LOW 78°F



The Tribune

Established 1903

24/7 BREAKING NEWS ON [TRIBUNE242.COM](http://tribune242.com)

Biggest And Best!

BACK TO SCHOOL
FIVE STAR MEAL

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

\$19.99



VOLUME:114 No.214, SEPTEMBER 28TH, 2017

CRACK THE CODE 2.0

Congratulations TO OUR SECOND WINNER

KIZZIE RAHMING FROM ANDROS ON CRACKING THE CODE AT LEVEL 3!

ON WINNING **\$5,000**

THE CODE HAS BEEN RESET TO LEVEL 1 WORTH **\$250,000**



OBITS
OFFICIAL SOURCE
INSIDE

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

Tearful PM defies Dominica critics

CANADIAN FIRM EYES \$4.9BN GB PROJECT

By **NEIL HARTNELL**
Tribune Business Editor
nhartnell@tribunemedia.net

A CANADIAN-based developer with \$500m in assets has emerged as the potential buyer for the form Ginn Sur Mer project in Grand Bahama's West End, Tribune Business can reveal.

Multiple contacts confirmed that Skyline Investments, a Toronto-based real estate investor/developer, with a focus on hotel and resort development, has been negotiating with the \$4.9bn Ginn project's two owners for several months. Skyline and its senior executives are understood to have given a three-hour presentation to Cabinet on Tuesday.

FULL STORY - SEE BUSINESS

POLICE BEG: GIVE UP EUGENE'S KILLER

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

POLICE believe they have found the getaway vehicle used by the person responsible for the senseless daylight shooting that left two persons dead, including eight-year-old Eugene Woodside, according to Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police Stephen Dean.

The silver coloured Nissan minivan, Senior ACP Dean said, was found early Wednesday morning in bushes on Boyd Road, near a cemetery. However, police still have no motive for the shooting and no suspects in custody.

SEE PAGE THREE

NEW SPY BILL TABLED

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

THE Minnis administration tabled an Interception of Communication Bill and legislation to create legal framework for the disbanded National Intelligence Agency in the House of Assembly yesterday.

Both matters were controversial under the former Christie administration.

SEE PAGE NINE

By **KHRISNA RUSSELL**
Deputy Chief Reporter
krussell@tribunemedia.net

AMID criticism of government's intention to relax immigration restrictions for some citizens of Dominica, Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis was brought to tears as he shed light on how this process will work and outlined three categories by which Dominicans will be granted access to The Bahamas.

Giving an impassioned contribution at Parliament yesterday morning where he repeatedly wiped tears from his eyes, Dr Minnis, his voice at times trembling, spoke of the decimation in the island nation as he made a case regarding the government's reasoning to assist that country. Dominica suffered widespread destruction from both Hurricanes Irma and Maria.

He questioned the fate of The Bahamas and its citizens had this country had the full brunt of these natural disasters.

In view of this, the prime minister rebuked critics and defended his decision to assist the devastated island nation, reminding Bahamians this country has received aid and assistance from many overseas partners in its time of need.

He said if Bahamians' expressions of gratitude do not translate into generosity toward those in dire need because of these killer storms, our gratitude to God is superficial at best.

However, Official Opposition Leader Philip "Brave" Davis rejected this, saying he did not think Bahamians were ungrateful to God or that the criticism of the proposal was due to xenophobia. He said there appeared to have been uproar because there was uncertainty of the details regarding how the plan to accept Dominicans would work. He said had there been better communication on the issue, it may not have caused controversy.

SEE PAGE SIX



PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis gives an emotional presentation in the House of Assembly yesterday as he spoke about the devastation left by hurricanes Irma and Maria in Dominica.
Photo: **Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff**

...BUT FNM MP ASKS - WILL REFUGEES GO BACK HOME?

By **RASHAD ROLLE**
and **DENISE MAYCOCK**
Tribune Staff Reporters

PINERIDGE MP Rev Fredrick McAlpine criticised his own party's plan to accommodate Dominicans following the destruction Hurricane Maria wrought on Dominica, recommending that wealthy Cabinet ministers take money from their own pockets to contribute to the island's restoration efforts rather than give Dominican people safe haven here.

Also attacking his party's policy for Grand Bahama's development, his statement marked the first time this term the Free National Movement has received pointed criticism from one of its own in a public forum.

And in what appeared to be a swipe at Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis, who wiped tears from his eyes earlier in the day as he spoke of the destruction in Dominica and the harsh reactions some have had

SEE PAGE SEVEN

BANNISTER DARES FITZGERALD TO SUE

By **KHRISNA RUSSELL**
Deputy Chief Reporter
krussell@tribunemedia.net

WORKS Minister Desmond Bannister yesterday denied defaming Jerome Fitzgerald while insisting yesterday the former education minister launched an attack on the Carmichael MP's parliamentary privilege.

As he denied any wrongdoing, Mr Bannister told the House of Assembly a

person can only be defamed when they have a good reputation.

The matter stems from revelations Mr Bannister made last Wednesday in the House of Assembly regarding a forensic audit, which he said found glaring infractions in the Bahamas Power and Light tender process under the former Christie administration.

According to Mr Bannister, the Ernst & Young audit said a company - owned

by Mr Fitzgerald's father - was awarded a contract for brokerage work despite no participation in the tender process and a recommendation another entity should be given approval.

In one instance the audit said Bahamas Courier & Logistics (BCL) was awarded a contract over Pinder's Customs Brokerage, a company with the best bid.

SEE PAGE TEN



CASH IS KING

\$30,000
IN CASH TO GIVE AWAY!

10 WINNERS PER WEEK SEPT 18TH - OCT 29TH

Purchase ANY combo to enter. No upgrade required.

Visit [f /BURGERKINGNASSAU](https://www.facebook.com/BURGERKINGNASSAU) for details

NOW UP TO **4%** Say yes to even more cash back

Get the most cash back ever with Scotiabank Gold MasterCard.®

Apply today and get a bonus of up to \$50.*

Call 242 356 1560, visit your nearest branch or go to bs.scotiabank.com/sayyes

#SayYesToMore



*Conditions apply. Subject to change without notice. Subject to credit approval. ®Registered trademark of The Bank of Nova Scotia, used under licence. ®MasterCard is a registered trademark of MasterCard International Incorporated.

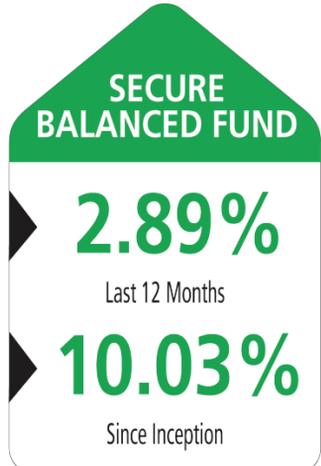
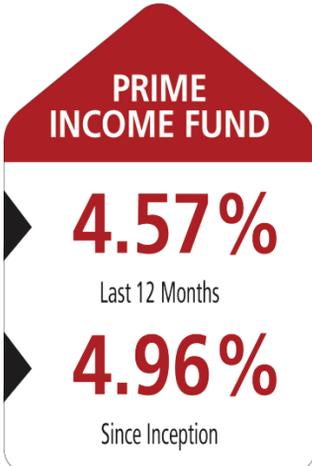


HONOURING A LEGEND AS HE NEARS HIS CENTURY



ROYAL FIDELITY
Money at Work

Are You Maximizing Your Investment Returns?



Past performance of a fund is not a predictor of future performance. The Securities Commission of the Bahamas has not expressed an opinion about the merits of the Funds or determined that the advertisement is accurate or complete.

April 2017

BAHAMAS
Nassau: 242.356.9801

BARBADOS
St. Michael: 246.435.1955

www.royalfidelity.com

ROYAL FIDELITY > MUTUAL FUNDS

VITAMALT PLUS+
takes care of you!

*More of everything that you love!
Grab yours today!*

- ALOE VERA FOR STRONGER IMMUNE SYSTEM
- ACAI FOR MENTAL SHARPNESS
- GUARANA FOR PHYSICAL ENERGY

Net 330 mL (11.2 fl. oz.)

To mark the approaching 100th birthday of Sir Durward Knowles, the oldest living Olympic champion in the world, members of the the One Bahamas Planning and Production Committee paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis yesterday.

Sir Durward reaches his 100th birthday on November 2. He won the first Olympic gold medal for The Bahamas.

Photos: Yontalay Bowe

Shrimp & Grits

Join Us for Brunch
EVERY SUNDAY
11:00am - 3:30pm

• Enjoy Our Daily 3 Course Dinner Specials Starting at \$40

RISTORANTE
LUCIANO'S
OF CHICAGO
NASSAU, BAHAMAS

For Reservations
Call: 323.7770
www.lucianosnassau.com

SHARE THE COFFEE LOVE

Celebrate
GLOBAL COFFEE DAY
SEPTEMBER 29

FREE MEDIUM HOT COFFEE
WHEN YOU BUY A MEDIUM OR LARGER HOT COFFEE

www.dunkinbahamas.com
@dunkinbahamas

DUNKIN' DONUTS

This killer is sleeping in someone's home tonight, someone knows something, we cannot forget this



EUGENE WOODSIDE

from page one

The third grader along with another man sources identified as Dennis Moss were shot in Chippingham on Monday.

The brazen daytime attack in the densely populated area came after the gunman chased Moss, running between houses in the Rosebud Street area as he fired several shots, one of which penetrated a wooden structure, striking the child with a stray bullet.

Both victims were rushed to the Princess Margaret Hospital in critical condition where they died shortly after 6pm.

Their deaths mean the country has recorded 105 murders so far this year.

Senior ACP Dean made an impassioned plea to persons who are "hiding or shielding" these "cold killers" to turn them into police immediately.

"We cannot let this just be another day for us as a community, we need to together and find these killers - an innocent eight-year-old is dead. This is a very egregious act one that should never have happened," Snr ACP Dean said.

"The thing is this little boy is an example of what we preach to our kids every day, he was doing his homework, studying, doing the right thing and he was killed, innocently shot. We are making a plea to these killers, have a conscience, turn yourself in, surrender. We are calling on all Bahamians, rather than being critical, come together,

put politics to the side and let's focus on our country because we are losing our young children. We cannot afford for this to keep happening. Do you know how much worse this could have been? There were children running about and these sick persons were indiscriminately shooting. We have to turn this killer in. This is a heavy appeal; the public has been very cooperative in the past. This killer is sleeping in someone's home tonight, someone knows something, we cannot forget this."

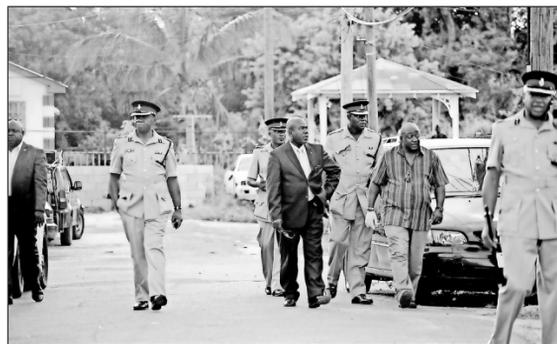
In an interview with *The Tribune* on Tuesday, Eugene's mother Kendera Woodside described how she crawled on the floor as bullets penetrated her home, in a failed effort to shield her boy.

Mrs Woodside, who is currently seven months pregnant with her third child, said the pain she feels losing her only son is "indescribable" and "unimaginable". She said her only peace comes from knowing she was able to tell him "I love you" one last time before he "closed his eyes for good".

Eugene was shot once in the chest while practising his spelling words with his sister Monday afternoon.

Mrs Woodside, a hair stylist, described her son as a "quiet" but "loving and friendly" child. She said she still can't believe that her son is gone and as she prepares to give birth to one child, she has to prepare to bury another.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police



POLICE at the scene in Rosebud Street after the double murder. at 911 or 919, the Central or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 328-TIPS.

\$1.5M SPENT AFTER IRMA

COSTS incurred by the government following the passage of Hurricane Irma has tipped \$1.5m, *The Tribune* has learned.

The sum covers air transport and shelters; however, *The Tribune* was told a final costing was not yet available as the figure was still rising.

The government has said restoration efforts following Hurricane Irma will cost the country "tens of millions".

Last Friday, National Emergency Management Agency head Captain Stephen Russell reported that half-a-million dollars had been spent on evacuation and repatriation exercises so far this hurricane season.

Capt Russell said the agency had conducted some 23 flight commissions, with about 1,400 people evacuated by the government.

He estimated that about 1,000 of them have been repatriated by the government to their island, with some using their own expenses to return

to their home.

On Friday, Captain Russell said restoration efforts that involve rebuilding people's homes is unsustainable, and it may be time to find a new formula.

"Over the past three consecutive years, we've had three major hurricanes (and) it's costly," he said at the time.

"Is it sustainable for the government after every hurricane to dish out funds for reconstruction? It's a very expensive operation. I think The Bahamas is one of the only countries in the Caribbean jurisdiction that really reconstructs houses for persons."

Capt Russell said: "It's not sustainable every year to rebuild homes for people whose homes were destroyed. We have to look at some other formula to provide assistance. A one bedroom house is \$71,000. A three-bedroom house can go up to almost \$115,000. If you have to rebuild over 100 homes in any island that's almost \$10m. It's a cycle."

ARMED ROBBER RAIDS DELI

POLICE are asking for the public's help in locating the person responsible for an armed robbery at a local eatery Wednesday afternoon.

The incident took place shortly after 2.30pm at Crave Deli on Dowdeswell Street.

Police say the lone masked suspect walked into the deli and pointed his gun at the cashier demanding

cash. He also robbed one of the patrons of the establishment before fleeing the area on foot.

No one was hurt during the robbery.

Anyone with information is asked to contact police at 911 or 919, the Central Detective Unit at 502-9991 or Crime Stoppers anonymously at 328-TIPS.

Investigations continue.

ALAMO MULTIPLIES YOUR HAPPINESS.

- Reserve a compact car and get a standard one, or book an intermediate car and get a full-size one.
- Promotion valid until December 14, 2017 on reservations 4-3 days in the USA.
- Be sure to include coupon code **AU4368BJZ** on the reservation.

Reserve on alamo.com or contact Going Places Travel at (242) 393-6900 or (786) 245-0520 or at 1-800-468-3334.

Double upgrade is subject to availability. Blackout dates may apply. Offer subject to change without notice.

FOR RENT

Spacious, upstairs Warehouse in the Palmdale area 4,500 sq. ft.

Sturdy shelving Motorized lift

\$3,300 per month

Phone for viewing by appointment

Mr. Albury - 424-9344

Cole's of Nassau

Full steam ahead

SALE away

Save up to **75% OFF** your favourite designer brands.

Sale ends October 15th, 2017

Parliament Street Location ONLY

We've stocked the store full of surprises from all THREE locations!

(242) 322-8393 | (242) 328-7157

4 (1 ACRE LOTS) SOUTH WESTRIDGE FOR SALE

Overlooking Lake Cunningham

Approximately 1 Acre each

\$299k

376-3399

FIND THE NINJA WITHIN YA

THE LEGO NINJAGO MOVIE

SEPTEMBER 27

TOM CRUISE

AMERICAN MADE

BASED ON A TRUE LIFE

IN IMAX 8 CINEMAS AUGUST 31

The Mall-at-Marathon

BOX OFFICE OPENS AT 10:00 AM DAILY

EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER, 22ND 2017

AMERICAN MADE	NEW	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
THE LEGO NINJAGO MOVIE	A	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:10	8:25	10:30
KINGSMAN: THE GOLDEN CIRCLE	C	1:00	3:55	N/A	6:50	N/A	10:00
AMERICAN ASSASSIN	C	1:00	3:25	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:45
IT	C	1:00	3:50	N/A	6:35	N/A	10:00
HOME AGAIN	T	1:10	3:35	N/A	6:15	8:40	10:45
THE HITMAN'S BODYGUARD	C	1:00	3:20	N/A	6:00	8:20	10:40
EMOJI MOVIE	A	1:15	3:35	N/A	6:15	N/A	N/A

380-FLIX

Use your e-card to reserve tickets at 380-3549 or visit us at www.bahamaslocal.com

"QUOTE OF THE DAY"

Distributed By

BAY STREET GARAGE

Dowdeswell Street

322-2434 • 322-2082

"Buy 3 Castrol Edge quarts, get the 4th one FREE!"

All full synthetic grades: 5W20, 5W30, 5W50, 10W30, 10W40.

The Tribune Limited

NULLIUS ADDICTUS JURARE IN VERBA MAGISTRI
 "Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master"

LEON E. H. DUPUCH,
SIR ETIENNE DUPUCH,
EILEEN DUPUCH CARRON,

Publisher/Editor 1903-1914
Kt., O.B.E., K.M., K.C.S.G.,
(Hon.) LL.D., D.Litt.
Publisher/Editor 1919-1972
Contributing Editor 1972-1991
C.M.G., M.S., B.A., LL.B.
Publisher/Editor 1972-

Published daily Monday to Friday
 Shirley & Deveaux Streets, Nassau, Bahamas N3207

TELEPHONES

News & General Information	(242) 322-1986
Advertising Manager	(242) 502-2394
Circulation Department	(242) 502-2386
Nassau fax	(242) 328-2398
Freeport, Grand Bahama	(242)-352-6608
Freeport fax	(242) 352-9348

WEBSITE, TWITTER & FACEBOOK

www.tribune242.com @tribune242 tribune news network

Society must co-operate in defeating crime

"YES, mommy, I love you too."
 If these simple words from the lips of a handsome little eight-year-old boy as he lay dying in his pregnant mother's arms did not bring tears to every eye that read *The Tribune's* front pages on May 26 and 27, then The Bahamas indeed has a major crime problem.

While politicians were busy criticising each other for not being able to solve this country's escalating crime, little Eugene Woodside, a student at Albury Sayles Primary School, became an innocent victim in the crossfire. Eugene left school on Monday with a friend and an ice cream cone in his hand. He was on his way to meet his grandmother at a nearby takeaway. The next we hear of Eugene he is at his home on Rose Bud Street in Chippingham being assisted by an older sister with his spelling homework. Suddenly, shots were fired into the home, little Eugene crumbled forward as his shocked mother rushed to protect him with her body. A quiet family scene inside the little house with a little boy — not hanging out on the blocks, but quietly inside his home concentrating on his schoolwork. Suddenly, an unintended bullet fired by a gun-toting criminal outside hit the family home and penetrated the wooden walls. A precious little boy, inside the safety of his home, killed by a stray bullet from outside. The criminal running wildly in the crowded street, chasing a young man, who was eventually killed by one of the many bullets. The search is now on for the criminal, a desperate man who probably has a troubled background, but, unlike Eugene, had no home to go to as a child and learned his trade by hanging out on the blocks.

About a week earlier, former PLP Cabinet Minister Glenys Hanna Martin was criticising the Minnis government — only six months in office — for not having reduced crime. She should have been ashamed to have even brought up the subject when her party had won the 2012 election by promising a country, tired of crime, that if elected her party had the solution to eliminate it. The PLP were elected, instead of solving anything, crime grew and spread like a forest fire. Urban Renewal was meant to have been the cure. It was tried. It failed. It was a good idea, but the crime problem, being an even more complex issue, needed more than Urban Renewal as the cure.

Last week, the Catholic Church's Men's Association came forward with another brilliant idea — an idea that will go a long way in helping to rehabilitate the criminal, but without other assistance, it will not be the complete cure to reduce crime. The Association launched its "Hope" campaign aimed at rehabilitating prison inmates by providing them with mentorship, legal aid and jobs during and after their release from prison.

All of these programmes are needed, but crime will not be beaten until society — all of society realises that it is their problem, and only when every member of society joins the battle will crime be controlled. Firstly, Bahamians can start with assisting the police with information so that they can get to these troubled persons before they commit the crime. Many Bahamians live with some of these troubled souls, hear their talk, know what they are thinking and planning. These are the members of society, who should quietly tip the police off so that the criminal's plans can be crushed before they can be implemented.

Society's problems started in the drug years, when the youth of that era were corrupted by the popular idea that success meant money — money no matter

how earned. All the old Christian principles that made a person have second thoughts when tempted to do wrong were abandoned. Each generation, with examples from some of their elders were being corrupted — and made to believe that ill-gotten wealth was smart. Drug peddling destroyed our society, and knocked our "old fashioned" Christian principles off their pedestal.

However, our problems begin in the home. Children coming home after school with no parent at home — and one knows the consequences of "idle hands". We shall never forget the comment several years ago by a very troubled young gynaecologist. "You know," he said, "I am daily working in a factory that is producing the future problems that are going to destroy this country."

He was, of course, referring to children giving birth to illegitimate children — none of the mothers old enough to take care of themselves, let alone their precious offspring. Many of these child mothers were regular visitors to the delivery room, all pregnant for different men, few of whom they would identify. The horror of it was that this was the time that AIDS was the dread disease. It was claimed at the time that young girls were being taken advantage of because it was believed that they were still too young to have contracted HIV to pass it on. The tragedy was that they were the prey of older men. It was a horrifying scandal being hidden behind sealed doors.

As some of these children grew, they joined gangs because without a caring home, they needed friends, they needed to be wanted and needed. The gang became their home — for many of them their prison.

We vividly recall one day, looking up from our desk at *The Tribune* and seeing a frightened young man looking down at us. He said he had come to surrender himself to us. The police were looking for him. He would only feel secure if we would take him to the station and turn him in. We telephoned the Commissioner of Police, told him the situation. He said we should wait and he would send an officer to us immediately. That was our first meeting with now Commissioner of Police Ellison Greenslade.

The three of us went to a small conference room, closed the door and sat down. The frightened youngster poured out his heart. All he saw in his waking hours was being stalked by a gun. He desperately wanted to get out of the gang, start his life over, but his gang members were stalking him. He couldn't leave because they would kill him. On the other side, he was wanted by the police. He was in hiding, not knowing which gun would take his life — the police or his gang. That was the day that he looked up at *The Tribune* and decided to put his life in our hands. He was indeed a tragic figure, and Mr Greenslade rose magnificently to the occasion. He talked to the young man like a father, and with his arm around his shoulders escorted him from our offices.

In our opinion, the police will have to concentrate on breaking up the gangs, and get the peddling of drugs and guns under control. We can all play our part by helping in various areas. However, crime will never be brought under control unless the whole society gets involved and quietly assists the police with information.

Those who have information can start today by delivering up the killer of dear, innocent little Eugene, whose last words were his love for his mother.

PUSHIN' DA ENVELOPE
 By Jamaal Rolle

jrolle@tribunemedia.net

BAHAMAS TO EXTEND HELP TO DOMINICA



No power to stop in the street

EDITOR, *The Tribune*.

RIGHTS Bahamas is appalled by reports that Immigration and Defence Force officers are continuing the unlawful practice of stopping civilians in the street and demanding proof of their right to be in the country.

Such oppressive tactics were closely associated with the dangerous immigration policy put in place by former minister Fred Mitchell. RB is deeply disappointed to learn that so far, they have been continued under this new FNM administration.

To be clear, there is nothing in the Immigration Act

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

which allows Immigration or Defence Force officers to stop people in the street, grill them concerning their status, or insist that they produce documentation.

In fact, this is a blatant violation of the right to freedom of movement enshrined in the Bahamas Constitution and is therefore illegal.

Further, the practice of accosting people and demanding papers is most closely associated with repressive regimes which use fear as a tactic to

control civilian populations and terrorize minorities in particular. Targeting people based on how they look or dress is discrimination.

Such behaviour has no place in a democracy based on equal rights and the rule of law.

Rights Bahamas calls on Minister of Immigration Brent Symonette to immediately bring an end to this deplorable practice and make it clear to his officers that they must at all times act within the confines of the law.

RIGHTS BAHAMAS
 Formerly the Grand Bahama Human Rights Association

The Christian thing

EDITOR, *The Tribune*.

THE prime minister's plan to offer Dominican students refuge in The Bahamas in the face of a humanitarian crisis is the right and decent thing to do.

For a so-called "Christian" nation, it is the Christian thing to do.

It will provide a wonderful opportunity to teach our children about another country, both in terms of culture and geography, and to instil in them a spirit of kindness and compassion (so needed in the battle against crime).

It is a way to stimulate an interest in learning, forge new friendships and make contacts.

It is also only right and just that children born in the Bahamas of Haitian parents attend school here, especially those children who have never lived anywhere else.

To deny this latter group of children access to learning is not only a violation of their human rights, it will deter them from growing into productive residents and contributing to the tax base of the country, thus robbing the country's potential for economic growth.

What is the alternative? To allow a large underclass of people to develop in a dark and sinister underworld, forced to resort to a life of crime to survive and perhaps risk future insurgency?

The outcry against schooling these unfortunate people is sad, but not surprising considering that even in their own country, women do not enjoy the full rights of Bahamian citizenship. That's half the population.

ATHENA DAMIANOS
 Nassau,
 September 27, 2017

Refugees

EDITOR, *The Tribune*.

I WAS quite surprised when the row broke out at the NPCC when the offered refugee week was up, and the people were expected to leave.

I thought at the time that we really must be quite unprepared in terms of sheltering people in times of misfortune. Now we have the Dominica people being offered sanctuary, but the hunt will soon be on for accommodation.

When we have so much video coverage of refugees

in Turkey, Jordan and other Middle Eastern countries and also The Muslim Hajj in Mecca where all of these millions of people exist comfortably in modern day tents. Some even with Air Conditioning. At the time of Irma I remember thinking that at least a thousand or more people could comfortably be sheltered on Fort Charlotte sports ground. Obviously one would need more than just tents, but how come NEMA doesn't have these to hand. Instead of Grenades being given to us, maybe it could

have been Chinese manufactured tents.

There would need to be proper sanitation, and showers for bathing, as well as some sort of communal cooking facility, but it seems to me that this is the sort of thing we need both in the Capitol, as well as the Islands. The United Nations have their own branded tents and maybe they give these out to Member Countries.

Just a thought.
BRUCE G RAINE
 Nassau,

Davis sees no wrong

EDITOR, *The Tribune*.

Re: What's all the fuss about? Davis defends PLP gifting contracts to PLP faithful.

The Tribune, September 22, 2017.

AND therein lies the problem. It seems some ethically deficient politicians just

instinctively choose to do the wrong thing. For them, anything other than a later justification would be an admission of misconduct — an admission that might require growing a pair!

KEN W KNOWLES, MD
 Nassau,
 September 23, 2017.

Hospital roof repairs hit by funding crisis

By RICARDO WELLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
rwells@tribunemedia.net

HEALTH Minister Dr Duane Sands has explained why the government was not able to carry out full roof repairs at Princess Margaret Hospital ahead of Hurricane Irma, saying the health sector has many high priority infrastructure issues that need to be addressed but has funding challenges due to previous “reckless” spending.

He also said due to the state of vulnerability brought on by a series of decisions by the previous administration, his current tenure as health minister has been rife with tough choices.

His comments were in response to questions on the government’s decision to carry out minor repairs to PMH’s roof, despite the need for a complete overhaul.

The Elizabeth MP contended that his ministry has at least \$20m in needed repairs that have to be addressed.

“Difficult choices were made to restore medical supplies and services, restart stalled ward

renovations, etcetera,” Dr Sands said. “Roof repairs followed in order of priority.”

The Public Hospitals Authority Managing Director Herbert Brown had written to former Financial Secretary Simon Wilson on May 26 warning that outstanding repairs at health facilities throughout the country needed financing. He reminded government of a previous letter, dated November 30, 2016, “regarding Hurricane Matthew claims totaling \$920,733.70 of which \$642,567.70” related to critical capital works including urgent “roof repairs for the Princess Margaret Hospital and the Rand Memorial Hospital”.

Mr Brown, in an email exchange with *The Tribune* this week, acknowledged that the cost of repairing PMH’s roof was \$556,100. A quote he identified as the “lowest of the bids received”.

He added that in the interim, in preparation for hurricane season and in the absence of funding, PHA’s Capital Development Unit was able to carry out some repairs “so as to avoid leaks in the event of any rains”.



SOME of the roof damage at Princess Margaret Hospital.

However, he wouldn’t disclose how much was spent on the project.

Presented with the claims yesterday, Dr Sands said: “The approach of Hurricane Irma mandated that the incomplete roof repairs be fast-tracked to ensure the integrity of PMH. Funding challenges identified in May 2017 included needs for major repairs after

Hurricane Matthew.”

He added: “It is unfortunate that the health care system was placed in such a state of vulnerability by a series of governmental decisions for spending that were intemperate and at times even reckless.”

Dr Sands said the systemic challenges facing the healthcare sector is something his ministry attempts

to address daily.

In the face of the perplexing issues, Dr Sands said he was weighing all options.

In July, Dr Sands said flooding from a broken pipe took the CAT scan and ultrasound machines out of commission causing significant delays to those needing diagnostics.

In addition, he said there were no available beds on

the female medical ward and unfortunately some patients had to sleep in cots in the hallways because “there was just no room”.

Dr Sands, at the time, said the “perfect storm” was caused by years of “dumb and inappropriate decisions” and he is “honestly not sure” when a solution to the “mess” will be found.

FORMER BANK GOVERNOR ‘HAD NO KNOWLEDGE’ OF WSC NO-DISCONNECT LIST

AFTER being named as one of several high-profile people who were on a “confidential list” at Water and Sewerage said to allow persons not to face disconnection, Julian Francis was adamant that he had no knowledge of such a list and did not benefit from special treatment from any public entity.

Mr Francis, a former Central Bank governor who

also previously served as executive chairman of BTC, took issue with the suggestion that because his name and account information appeared on the corporation’s list, he benefited from some payment deferment by WSC.

“As the details of any account maintained in my name at WSC are a private matter between that entity and myself, I do not intend

to comment on whether or not the information is factual and accurate,” he wrote in a letter sent to *The Tribune*.

“I, however, assure the public that any such account which remained unsettled after the normal period allowed for payment would, as far as the writer is concerned, have been the result of some bona fide unresolved

matter,” he wrote.

He also said: “For the record, I have never, to my knowledge benefitted from any special forbearance by a public entity. I have never been aware that my name is included on a special treatment list and would probably have declined to be so included if I had been consulted.”

On Monday, *The Tribune* exclusively reported

about high-profile persons and politicians who were on the “confidential list,” which was dated June of this year and obtained by this newspaper.

Many persons who appeared on the list have expressed surprise and said they did not know about the matter.

Last week, WSC Corporation Chairman Adrian Gibson confirmed the

existence of a special list populated by scores of elites at the government owned utility provider as he pledged to initiate a crackdown on delinquent accounts.

At the time, Mr Gibson told *The Tribune* the “confidential list” held 221 accounts, with a combined total of \$175,000 for the period ending June 2017.

END OF SUMMER

SALE

at
Roberts Furniture

MAKE ROOM for new stock!

Save
40%
OR MORE
ON ALL
**FLOOR
MODELS**

LIVING
BEDROOM
DINING
ACCESSORIES

Save
20%
ON ALL
APPLIANCES

Save
50% - 75%
LINEN
DEPARTMENT

STOREWIDE SALE • SEPT 25TH - 30TH

Roberts Furniture
5th Terrace & East Avenue
CENTREVILLE
Phone: 322-8862

Join us on Facebook

*VISIT
STORE FOR
COMPLETE
DETAILS

**BED
PILLOWS
FROM \$8**

Starts **Tomorrow**

SALE

Up to
75% Off

**FRIDAY 29TH &
SATURDAY 30TH**

**OPENING FRIDAY AT 9:00AM
OPENING SATURDAY AT 10:00AM**

Coin of the Realm
Ltd.

Charlotte Street • 322-4862
sales@coinrealm.net • www.coinrealm.net

Tearful PM defies Dominica critics

from page one

“My government proposes to temporarily relax the immigration rules for a number of school children from Dominica who wish to continue their education in The Bahamas,” Dr Minnis told Parliament yesterday.

“Permits to reside will be issued to students from Dominica, who, with the approval of parents, wish to study in The Bahamas.

“There are three categories of students who may apply: children who have relatives in The Bahamas, and who can find lodging and support from family members; college students who may wish to study at the University of The Bahamas, and who seek boarding at UB; children of parents employed in companies, banks, etc, which have offices in The Bahamas, temporary employment transfers can be arranged with these institutions.

“The government will continue to apprise the



PRIME Minister Dr Hubert Minnis wiping away a tear in the House of Assembly yesterday.

Photo: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff

general public on other details related to assisting children and young people from Dominica.

“I will lead a team to Dominica on Monday, October 2. The purpose of the visit is to survey the damage for myself, and for others to see the level of devastation,” Dr Minnis also said earlier in his address yesterday.

He said he has invited

Mr Davis, the head of the Bahamas Teachers Union, the leader of the Christian Council and others on the tour.

“Given what we already know, the government proposes to deploy HMBS Lawrence Major landing craft to Dominica,” he said. “The Lawrence Major is a 198 foot landing craft in length with 19

officers, and a carrying capacity of approximately 14 x 40 foot containers or 28 x 20 foot containers of equipment and supplies. The vessel can also transport 50,000 gallons of potable water and 22,000 gallons of fuel. We will provide a further briefing on the deployment of HMBS Lawrence Major.

“What further targeted assistance can we offer Dominica at this time? Children are among those who are most affected by natural disaster and hurricanes. Such psychological scars and mental scars often last a lifetime,” Dr Minnis said.

“The sooner children are allowed to return to a state of normalcy the better it is for their long-term development.

“As a physician, I know all too well the effects of trauma, such as from hurricanes on the minds of the young, especially when all is gone, and when parents are distraught, and have nowhere to turn.”

In clear disapproval of the negativity stemming

from the government’s offer of generosity, Dr Minnis said Bahamians should fill their hearts with gratitude and thanksgiving in hindsight.

He said: “Let us remember that Dominica was hit by both Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Maria went from a tropical storm to a category five hurricane within hours.

“I hope that most Bahamians now understand why the government quickly sounded the alarm about both Hurricanes Irma and Maria. Those who continue to complain about the preparations they had to make before Hurricane Irma should look to the devastation in the Caribbean and the United States.

“Those who are prone to complaining and whining should fill their hearts instead with gratitude and thanksgiving.”

He also said: “Imagine if 80 per cent of the buildings on New Providence were destroyed. Imagine if our electrical and telecommunications grids

were destroyed. Imagine if most of the roads in New Providence were uprooted and if PMH was without power.

“Imagine if every single government-operated school was destroyed, and most police stations, clinics and government offices were destroyed. Imagine if most people on Grand Bahama or New Providence became homeless overnight.

“So how should we respond to our Caribbean neighbour and CARICOM partner? We should respond the way we would want others to respond if we were in such dire need and desperation.

“As Caribbean neighbours, we share a similar history of overcoming colonialism and slavery. And we share a common destiny, now also shaped by the reality of climate change and global warming.

“How should we respond? The character of our nation and our values are riding on how we respond,” Dr Minnis said.

READERS RESPOND TO PLANS TO SUPPORT DOMINICA



NOTICE

Office Closure

Thursday, September 28th, 2017

The Water and Sewerage Corporation advises its customers and the general public that due to a general staff meeting **our main office will be closed on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 from 12 noon and will reopen on Friday, 29th, 2017, 9am.**

Customers are advised to make payments at any Cash N’Go location, Omni Flash location, local banks or via the Corporation’s website.

The Corporation apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause you and appreciates your cooperation.

Tel: (242)302-5599 or Toll Free (242)300-0150

Find out more on [facebook](#) or our website www.wsc.com.bs

HAVE YOUR SAY!

AN emotional Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis yesterday defended his decision to allow students from hurricane-hit Dominica to attend school in the Bahamas. Readers gave their reaction on tribune242.com.

Well_mudda_take_sic wasn’t impressed: “There are many Bahamians suffering a horrible existence in our country today, Mr Minnis . . . make sure you keep some of your tears for the plight of our own people as they struggle on a daily basis to get food, water and shelter, much less an education!”

Nor was Reality_Check: “Is this crying wimp for real? We thought we had elected a new leader with the strength and vision to effect much needed change for the thousands of Bahamians who can no longer make ends meet and who daily go without food, water, shelter and medicines that they so desperately need. Why has Minnis never openly shed any tears for his own people?! Spare us the tearful theatrics, Minnis

Do you support the Prime Minister’s offer for students from hurricane-hit Dominica to attend school in the Bahamas?

Yes, I support the offer. 86%

No, I do not support the offer. 14%

- we want and need a strong leader! We have thousands of struggling Bahamian families and street people who feel as if they are living daily in the aftermath of a major hurricane. We have innocent children being killed on a regular basis by unchecked crime. Wake up Minnis! We don’t need your tears . . . we need your good judgment and leadership. For Pete’s sake, please just resign if you’re now not up to the task of the office you ran for!!!”

Proudloudandfnm asked: “He ever cried for Freeport???? I like what’s being done for Dominica but damn man! When y’all ga do something about Freeport?!?! We’ve been suffering longer than Dominica . . . DO SOMETHING!!!!”

But there was this from Dawes: “Well at least we can see that this is no longer a Christian nation. Yes there are people who are in need in this country, but there are also people in desperate need in our neighbouring countries. One hopes that other people feel the same when we next get hit by a storm. Going by the logic displayed here, Why should people in the US help the Bahamas, when there are Americans who are in need? Or maybe even why should people in Nassau help the southern islands when there are people in Nassau who are in need? Of course should the shoe be on the other foot these same people will be the first crying and damning others for not helping them.”

In *The Tribune’s* latest online poll, we asked readers if they agreed with the Prime Minister’s decision. At the time of going to press, 86 per cent of those voting backed Dr Minnis on the issue.

PROSPECTUS

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE BAHAMAS
BAHAMAS REGISTERED STOCK 2020, 2022, 2024, 2027, 2037 ISSUE OF BS62,000,000 ISSUED UNDER THE BAHAMAS REGISTERED STOCK ACT

Prospectus Date: September 26, 2017

Issuer:	Bahamas Government	Open Date:	October 6, 2017 (9:30 a.m.)
Registrar:	Central Bank of The Bahamas	Close Date:	October 11, 2017 (3:00 p.m.)
Organizer:	Central Bank of The Bahamas	Settlement:	October 13, 2017
		First Int. Payment:	April 13, 2018

The Central Bank of The Bahamas will not accept applications after 3:00 p.m. each day.

Security ID	Issue Size (BS)	Unit Share (BS)	Tenor (Years)	Interest (Fixed)	Calendar	Maturity	Interest Payment
BGRS 118020	5,000,000	100	3	3.01%	Actual/365	October 13, 2020	Semi-annual
BGRS 118022	5,000,000	100	5	3.51%	Actual/365	October 13, 2022	Semi-annual
BGRS 118024	5,000,000	100	7	4.12%	Actual/365	October 13, 2024	Semi-annual
BGRS 118027	15,000,000	100	10	4.82%	Actual/365	October 13, 2027	Semi-annual
BGRS 118037	32,000,000	100	20	5.22%	Actual/365	October 13, 2037	Semi-annual
	62,000,000						

Payments: Subscription amounts should be made electronically or via bank draft payable to the Central Bank of The Bahamas only. **CASH PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Requirements: Applicants must present a NIB card and one additional form of identification: either a Driver’s License or Passport. New Business customers must present a list of its authorized signatories along with a Memorandum / Articles of Association.

Refunds: Refunds will be made within three (3) business days following the closing date. No interest will be paid on amounts refunded.

Application forms may be obtained from The Central Bank of The Bahamas’ offices in Nassau and Freeport or from the Central Bank’s website at www.centralbankbahamas.com. Additional details are also available on the website.

2017 FUSO (Mitsubishi) ROSA



34 seater Jitney bus

More seats to earn you more \$\$\$

*30 seaters also available

Test drive yours today!



Available exclusively at:

Bahamas Bus & Truck Co. Ltd.
Montrose Ave. & Tenwich St
(242)-322-1722 - 5 & 322-3865



www.bahamasbus.com



HOMES lay scattered after the passing of Hurricane Maria in Roseau, the capital Dominica, on Saturday.

Photo: Carlisle Jno Baptiste/AP

FNM MP ASKS - WILL REFUGEES GO BACK HOME?

from page one

to his plans to help citizens there, Mr McAlpine said he is crying for his own people.

Pinewood MP Reuben Rahming, the speaker who followed Mr McAlpine during the afternoon sitting of the House of Assembly, rebuked his colleague's comments. Other FNM parliamentarians beat their desk in support of Mr Rahming's remarks at times while Mr McAlpine sat silently.

"Before you question my (Christianity), let me remind everyone and those watching by television, nobody in this country got a heaven to put me in or a hell to keep me out of," Mr McAlpine said appearing agitated.

"I don't want you to think that I don't think we should assist the people of Dominica, but the route we are taking may cost us more



FREDRICK MCALPINE MP

in the long run. I understand emphatically well that during our dilemma, during Hurricane Matthew, (Dominica) contributed \$100,000 to assist us.

"We're grateful. Well, my view is, the time has come that we should assist them. But my view, how? They gave us \$100,000 maybe we should give them \$200,000. Now I hear the story bout ain' no money, but I know the Cabinet and since we talking about (Christianity) there's something called seed time and (sow time),

and there's enough folks in the Cabinet who could underwrite that and not miss it. So, if we can't afford it, do it on our behalf."

Mr McAlpine suggested that once Dominicans experience a "better standard of living" in The Bahamas once they get here, they may not be inclined to return to their country.

"And let me also bring to your attention another reality; we could have our problem but here is the harsh reality, when we have our problem Bahamians don't run to the south, they run to the north because of our standard of living.

"So when you bring folks from south up here to another standard of living, let's see if they will be in a hurry to go back from whence they came," the MP said.

"Children are coming, are they all immunised?" he asked. "Do we know their conditions? They

may be coming from (the) south but which one of you in this House would send your minor child to another country not accompanied by you? Who is coming with these children? How long are they are going to be here? Assist, but don't put us in a deeper quandary. It may cost us more going the route we're going."

During his blistering attack on his party's plans, he also said progress for Grand Bahama has been moving "painfully slow." And although he is chairman of the Hotel Corporation of The Bahamas, he said he has "no dealings in the negotiations of what takes place on the Lucayan strip" - referring to negotiations over the sale of the Grand Lucayan resort - because he has not been involved in the process despite wanting to be.

"There seems to be a lack of cohesiveness as to what

direction the island is going in or the harsh reality that it's just not going," he said, adding that economic conditions had left some Grand Bahamians homeless and sleeping in cars.

Mr Rahming responded to Mr McAlpine by re-reading parts of Prime Minister Dr Hubert Minnis' speech from earlier yesterday in which he explained how Dominicans will be helped.

"Pinewood sees no way this interferes with the government's ability to love, care, support, defend, return this country back on its good foot in any way - character matters," he said of the administration's plan. "One of the hallmarks of leadership is listening. I am grateful that we can still stand here and fight the issues of Bahamian culture and still extend the hand abroad and help somebody else.

"Whatever it takes, I have a duty to leave my ego

at the door and when my opinion conflicts with the national good I check that at the door," Mr Rahming added.

"If you have a question as it relates to those who down south as being our family members, just go back a few hundred years. The same way the mail boat dropped off cargo along the way to our southern islands, the same way our family, brothers and sisters were dropped off down the same Caribbean chain and I challenge any Bahamian person who's kicking up and getting beside themselves, go check your DNA and I guarantee you four out of five Bahamian people have blood linkages all throughout the Caribbean chain so we must check ourselves before we wreck ourselves. "We're not high because we're better, we're high because of the grace of God and our location," Mr Rahming said.

Extended Sale

PVC Windows

September 25th thru September 30th

\$ 132 ⁸¹ 26" x 26.5"	\$ 191 ²⁵ 37" x 38"	\$ 283 ⁶⁰ 53" x 38"	\$ 185 ⁹⁴ 38" x 26"
\$ 235 ⁸⁸ 37" x 50"	\$ 185 ⁹⁴ 26" x 38"	\$ 396 ³¹ 53" x 50"	PVC sliding window *Prices listed before VAT

- ✓ Long lasting and weather-ready
- ✓ Reinforced with stainless steel and 5 point locking mechanism
- ✓ Sun light resistant grey tint

Store Location:
107 Lagoon Ct, Sandy Port Plaza
Nassau, New Providence
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M-S
(242) 394-5865/ (242) 727-4910

Follow us:
Like us on FB @ConetBHS

www.conetbahamas.com

Store Location:
B&V Plaza, Don Mackey Blvd.
Marsh Harbour, Abaco
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. M-F
(242) 699 -1429/ (242) 577-4628

Job Opportunity

Guest Services Ambassador

Are you an Excellent communicator with a Passion to help others and work with the very Best? If we've piqued your interest, Let's Talk!

We are seeking a courteous, results-oriented Guest Services Ambassador.

Primary responsibilities include meeting and exceeding customer expectations as well as successfully communicating with our team.

The Plus Group of Companies is an established Bahamian-owned group that is growing and continuing to build its team of professionals in various areas.

We offer a competitive salary and benefits package as well as ongoing professional training and development.

Requirements:

- Excellent communication skills.
- Able to respond promptly and professionally when problem solving.
- A strong team player able to interact with many departments.
- A solid work ethic with regard to being on time and completion of work.
- Highly skilled in computer data entry, including working knowledge of Microsoft® Office software.
- Open to learning new skills with a desire for improvement.
- An ability to complete and keep current records of all communications.

Please fill out and submit an application online at www.furnitureplus.com

or email: jobs@theplusgrp.com

or mail to: Director of Human Resources
The Plus Group
P. O. Box N713,
Nassau, Bahamas

Nassau • Grand Bahama • Abaco
www.furnitureplus.com

PG207A

CELEBRATING

20

The Shoe Village
YEARS

Handbag SALE

Starting at \$20.00

Madeira Shopping Plaza • Marathon Mall
Southwest Plaza • RND Plaza, Freeport

www.TheShoeVillage.com

Rolle aims to become PLP chairman

By RASHAD ROLLE
Tribune Staff Reporter
rrolle@tribunemedia.net

GLENDON Rolle, an attorney who ran as the Progressive Liberal Party's candidate in Long Island in the general election, announced yesterday he will run for chairman of the party at its October convention.

While most high profile PLP members have refused to criticise the

party in public despite its humbling May 10 loss, Mr Rolle yesterday said to recover from that defeat, PLP supporters must admit "that we have lost trust in our people".

He also said party officials should acknowledge "that many have been overlooked and neglected" and "that many have been taken for granted".

He said many of the PLP's "very own were neglected", including

stalwart councillors, adding "that our youth have not been valued sufficiently and effectively utilised".

However, he said despite the PLP's "shortcomings" the party is focused on making things right.

"As we look around and see what's happening in our country every Bahamian can now admit that the Progressive Liberal Party is the best party in the Commonwealth of The Bahamas. We have been knocked down, but not knocked out.

"We must not stick to the status quo," he also said at his campaign launch at the Cancer Society last night. "We must break the strong barriers that have held this party stagnated for many years."

He added: "We all want to see the Progressive Liberal Party returned as the government of this great country; and that can only



GLENDON ROLLE, former PLP candidate for Long Island, launched his campaign yesterday evening for the PLP chairmanship in the conference room at The Cancer Society.

Photo: Shawn Hanna/Tribune Staff

be done, if we work hard to rebuilding, reshaping and reconnecting with all.

"A change is needed. I am part of that change. A

revolutionary change that will bridge a noticeable gap, with our Family Islands, members and supporters, who are discouraged after a

crushing defeat at the polls on May 10, 2017. It is my strong belief and conviction that when one Bahamian hurts, we all hurt. When one suffers, we all suffer.

"My goal is to ensure that every Bahamian understands who we are as an organisation. As your next national chairman, I will assure that there is no division across the board; that every island is counted, listened to and not ignored for we all are vital and equally important."

Thus far, only former West Grand Bahama and Bimini MP Obie Wilchcombe has announced he will run for chairman of the party. Attorneys Wayne Munroe, QC, and Damian Gomez, QC, have said they are considering running for the post.

Congratulations



George P. Darville
Saturn Telecom
Tech Start-up

364-8152 - Mr. Darville

Women, Protect Your Family!
Early Detection Is The Best Prevention
For The Month Of October

Only \$50
(Cash)

Call **502-9650** For Your **Digital Mammogram Appointment**

Get Your Free Tote

THE BREAST CENTRE
72-74 Collins Ave.

- Private
- Prompt
- Professional
- Personal Service

LENO INDIVIDUAL RETIREMENT PLAN



Ensuring that you have a comfortable retirement is ultimately your responsibility. Empower yourself to improve your financial future. **Saving for retirement is crucial.** Choose a comfortable retirement! It's never too late to save for those golden years.

Let Leno help make it possible, begin planning for retirement today.

Contact us at

Telephone: (242) 396-3225 or
email: info@lenocorporate.com



Visit us at www.lenocorporate.com



Like us on Facebook at LENO Corporate Services

Follow us on Twitter @LENOCorp

Our products and services:

Company Retirement Plans • Investment Management Services
Brokerage and Trading • Mutual Funds
Corporate Services • Individual Retirement Plans
Accounting and Payroll Services



"bridging possibilities"

NOW HIRING

STRUCKUM COMMERCIAL PEST SERVICES

is presently considering applications for

JOB TITLE: SERVICE TECHNICIAN

- * No prior experience needed
- * Graduated from high school

REQUIREMENTS

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Mature young male | Must possess leadership qualities |
| Between the age of 20 and 36 | Ability to plan |
| Must be clean cut and well groomed | Organize and coordinate |



www.struckum.com

E: jobs@struckum.com or
P.O. Box CB 11447
Nassau, The Bahamas

NO WALK INS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Gibson warns over web shops

AS he outlined the economic despair of Long Island, area MP Adrian Gibson lamented the "cancer" gambling houses had become in the small community, saying gaming addictions had deepened the island's socio-economic challenges.

Speaking in the House of Assembly on Wednesday afternoon, the Water and Sewerage Corporation chairman told his colleagues how residents' gaming addictions robbed students of lunch money and left some households without funds to buy groceries.

In the face of this, he said, the island is in an "economic decline" and still has not recovered from Hurricane Joaquin in 2015.

"Mr Speaker, the proliferation of numbers houses has become a cancer in our communities," Mr Gibson said. "The economy is already hardly existent; not many people can be considered to have disposable income, but the number houses are always full.

"There are persons who

are addicted to gambling. This has deepened the socio-economic challenges we face. Of late, persons have been referred to Sandilands Rehabilitation Centre for treatment of their addictions, but, where is the addiction and rehab programme that number houses were supposed to launch?

"There are children who are attending school without lunch; there are households that are without food and basic amenities due to gambling addictions. Some people gamble their entire pay cheque at a numbers house. Many gamble with hope of being lucky and bettering their faith."

He said it is estimated locally that about \$200,000 leaves the island each month, repatriated by gambling houses to headquarters in Nassau.

"There are between 15 to 20 numbers houses in Long Island — an island that has some 3,000 inhabitants. How can that possibly be explained? The number houses are killing businesses. The number houses

are killing the island's economy. We must address their impact in small island communities."

He said some speculate that the Royal Bank of Canada may pull out of Long Island, leaving residents more vulnerable to gambling as they use the facilities as banks.

"As it stands, many islanders avoid bank transaction fees by sending/receiving money via number houses. As one Long Islander told me, if you send \$20, the person on the receiving end receives \$20. The number houses are engaged in banking.....but where is the Central Bank in all of this?"

He also implored the government not to forget Long Island, an island plagued by unemployment and a brain drain.

"Year over year, our students graduate and leave to pursue a better life elsewhere. Many to never return.

"... We are hurting and, in terms of development, feel as though we are the forgotten outsider in this island chain."

He called on the government to give the island a proper international airport to boost tourist arrivals, saying the current Deadman's Cay terminal is smaller than some chicken coops.

He urged the government to consider a public-private partnership or a public offering like the Arawak Port Development to fund a new airport.

"The desperation of Long Islanders for the long promised international airport has led persons who love Long Island, such as contractor Wade Knowles, to speak about building a terminal free of charge if given labour," Mr Gibson said.

"In addition to the airport, direct marketing of our island would help us to reach our full potential."

Mr Gibson also told his constituents he would seek support of the prime minister to expand water mains construction on the island, where most residents do not have access to running city water and instead have to construct their own water holding tanks.



ADRIAN Gibson MP pictured in Long Island during the election campaign. He spoke in the House of Assembly yesterday on a number of matters - including the need to develop an international airport in Long Island.

NEW SPY BILL TABLED

from page one

The Progressive Liberal Party's version of the interception bill was criticised as unconstitutional, and it was withdrawn by the former administration from the House of Assembly for further consultation before the general election.

The previous legislation was abandoned amid outcry from activists as well as the Free National Movement, in opposition to the PLP would use the so-called "Spy Bill" against opponents.

Compared to the original Bill, the Minnis administration's version has not been significantly altered.

Proponents of the legislation say it is a modern crime fighting tool, one that gives the Supreme Court some oversight of interception activities, a power the court doesn't have under the Listening Devices Act which it would repeal.

The legislation broadens the communication services and networks from which law enforcement officers could intercept data, and it allows officers

to obtain entry warrants from the Supreme Court so they could secretly enter institutions to set up interception devices. It forces people who work for postal or communications services, be they public or private networks, to assist in the execution of an interception or entry warrant.

Unlike the original bill, the new bill gives the minister responsible for national security the power to authorise certain people to use listening devices for no more than 30 days so long as the minister is "satisfied that the interests of the defence or the internal security of The Bahamas so require" that it be done.

The Interception of Communication Bill also gives the commissioner of police, after consultation with the attorney general, similar powers to authorise a police officer to use a listening device for no longer than 14 days.

Meanwhile, the NIA Bill comes after the former Christie administration spent years promising, but ultimately failing, to bring the version of the Bill it

said was prepared. Despite no legal framework being in place, the NIA operated under the Christie administration until it was disbanded by the Free National Movement shortly after the May general election.

The Bill, which aims to "coordinate intelligence gathering among law enforcement agencies and government departments," is striking for its emphasis on secrecy.

Although the director of the agency is expected to maintain a public profile, the agents of the NIA are expected to have their

identities kept secret.

The agents will not be "public officers," the Bill said, and it would be an offence to disclose their identity unless authorised by the prime minister or director.

A review committee of parliamentarians and senators will have oversight over the NIA.

This committee will consist of three parliamentarians and two senators selected by the prime minister, and one parliamentarian and senator selected by the leader of the Official Opposition.

Although the review committee can consider "any particular operational matter" of the NIA, this power can be limited by the prime minister, according to the Bill.

The review committee's access to information can also be limited.

The relevant minister could decide that any information the review committee seeks should not be disclosed to it.

The committee would be required to make annual reports to Parliament on the discharge of its functions, but only if the prime minister believes its

reported material wouldn't be prejudicial to the functions of the agency.

The review committee would be responsible for investigating complaints against the NIA and could summon and enforce the appearance of anyone to give evidence under oath during an investigation.

State Minister for Legal Affairs Elsworth Johnson, who tabled both bills, said the administration will allow a period of public consultations to take place before debate on the tabled bills takes place in Parliament.



Hunter
CEILING FANS

LARGE SELECTION
STARTING AT
\$99⁹⁵



NASSAU GLASS CO
MACKEY STREET 393-8165



DOCTORS HOSPITAL
Isn't Your Health Worth It?

“ **LOOKING FOR A GREAT PLACE TO WORK IN HEALTHCARE?** ”

Then join the **Doctors Hospital** team!

TRAINING OFFICER

POSITION SUMMARY

- Facilitates and coordinates various clinical programs, courses, and in-services
- Ensures that the curriculum for various training programs meet the required objectives
- Liaises with facilitators when coordinating and scheduling workshops
- Observes and conducts education in clinical areas as appropriate
- Prepares monthly and annual reports

PERSONAL ATTRIBUTES

- Ability to design and instruct clinical training programs (such as BLS and the PCT course)
- Ability to pay keen attention to details
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Ability to work independently and under pressure
- Strong clinical skills

QUALIFICATIONS/EDUCATION

- Bachelor's Degree in Nursing and registration with the Nursing Council of the Bahamas
- Two plus years experience
- BLS, ACLS, and PALS provider and instructor
- Training certification preferred

APPLICATION DEADLINE: FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6TH, 2017
PLEASE SUBMIT RESUME TO: hr@doctorshosp.com
with subject line: **Training Officer**

Doctors Hospital | P.O. Box N-3018 | Nassau, Bahamas
Fax us at: (242) 302-4738 | Email: hr@doctorshosp.com
Website: www.doctorshosp.com



The vehicle shown features optional equipment.

The C-Class.
The best knows no alternative.

Mercedes-Benz
The best or nothing.



Tyreflex Star Motors, Wulff Road, P.O. BOX N-9123, T: (242) 325-4961, F: (242) 323-4667
sales@TyreflexStarMotors.com, www.tyreflexstarmotors.com

'Fired because I am Muslim'

By **NICO SCAVELLA**
Tribune Staff Reporter
nscavella@tribunemedia.net

A FORMER police officer has applied for leave to apply for judicial review of the commissioner of police's decision to discharge him from the Royal Bahamas Police Force allegedly because of his unwillingness to compromise a key component of his Muslim faith.

Former Constable Bertram Bain, in court documents seen by *The Tribune*, submitted the application on the basis that Commissioner Ellison Greenslade's decision to dismiss him from the RBPF without giving him the opportunity to respond was "unconstitutional,

unreasonable, unlawful, null and of no legal effect".

Mr Bain further submits in his application that Commissioner Greenslade "irrationally exercised his powers" when he "failed to promptly allow the applicant the opportunity to appeal his decision before he was dismissed".

Mr Bain is also challenging the legality of his dismissal, alleging in his application that Commissioner Greenslade "illegally exercised his powers" when he "either by deliberate and/or by neglect failed to ensure that the applicant's benefits payment be suspended, withheld or denied before the applicant had the opportunity to exhaust the appeal process".

To that end, Mr Bain is

also seeking an order of certiorari to quash the decision of the commissioner "and/or his servants" to dismiss him without giving him an opportunity to respond, as well as to quash the commissioner's decision to recommend that Mr Bain's "benefits payment be suspended, withheld or denied before the applicant had the opportunity to exhaust the appeal process".

He is also seeking an order of mandamus to direct the commissioner to "update, adjust and correct" the applicant's benefits, and to restore and pay to Mr Bain "all benefits awards due and payable to him, as at the date of his discharge until the completion of the appeal process."

In addition, Mr Bain is

seeking six declarations, which include, but are not limited to, that Commissioner Greenslade's decision to terminate Mr Bain "was so manifestly unreasonable that no reasonable authority or tribunal, entrusted with its powers, could reasonably have come to that decision in all circumstances of this case", and that Commissioner Greenslade "has acted unfairly, unlawfully, unreasonably, arbitrarily, capriciously and abusively towards the applicant".

As such, Mr Bain is seeking damages, interest, costs, and other compensation as the court deems just.

The Tribune also received a copy of the summons for Commissioner Greenslade to appear before Justice

Indra Charles for a hearing into the matter on Tuesday. However, *The Tribune* understands the matter was ultimately adjourned to December.

In August, Mr Bain's attorney Maria Daxon told *The Tribune* of her intent to file an injunction in the Supreme Court to stay the August 2 decision to dismiss Mr Bain, which she alleged hinged on Mr Bain's unwillingness to shave his beard in accordance with the RBPF's grooming policies.

Mr Bain first joined the RBPF in 2000, and converted to Islam sometime in 2011.

A copy of Mr Bain's discharge certificate obtained by *The Tribune* showed that on August 2, the officer of

17 years was discharged from the RBPF "in accordance with Section 7(c) of the Police Disciplinary Regulations No 1965 and Section 21 (1)(c) of the Police Force Act 2009".

The discharge certificate noted that during his tenure with the RBPF, Mr Bain's "conduct and general character has been unsatisfactory."

However, Mr Bain, according to court documents obtained by *The Tribune*, claimed that his dismissal was the end result of his multiple attempts at having Commissioner Greenslade acquiesce to his pleas to adhere to the Muslim practice of not shaving one's beard while serving as a member of the RBPF.

BANNISTER DARES FITZGERALD TO SUE

from page one

In response, Mr Fitzgerald accused Mr Bannister of "defamatory" statements and insisted he did not benefit from a BPL brokerage contract awarded to BCL.

He said the minister's reference to him in Parliament last week was "gratuitous" and not protected by the privileges of the House of Assembly.

Mr Fitzgerald further threatened to bring legal action for "defamation" in reference to newspaper headlines and "skillfully

misleading information" in the publications regarding the matter.

"Mr Speaker, I wish to announce publicly that if Mr Fitzgerald files a lawsuit against me based on a claim that I defamed him when I spoke in this place on September 20, 2017, I will waive my parliamentary privilege in relation to that occasion. I shall do so, sir, on the condition that Mr Fitzgerald provides two simple undertakings," Mr Bannister said on a point of privilege in Parliament yesterday during the morning session.

"The first is that he will proceed quickly with the action, and will not withdraw it until the court issues its judgment. Sir, this first condition is in Mr Fitzgerald's best interest since he would not wish to withdraw an action that he files in order to vindicate himself.

"The second undertaking is that Mr Fitzgerald will agree to pay me any damages or costs that the court determines ought

to be paid to me within 30 days of the judgment. I find this condition necessary, sir, because I am reliably informed that in the year and a half since the Supreme Court issued its ruling against him, Mr Fitzgerald has not paid the \$150,000 fine, and indeed may be relying on the government to pay it for him as well as his legal costs which may amount to hundreds of thousands of dollars."

He was referring to a Supreme Court decision and resulting fine after it was ruled last year Mr Fitzgerald was not legally justified when he tabled the private emails of environmental action group Save The Bays in Parliament, and therefore could not be protected by parliamentary privilege.

"Finally, Mr Speaker, again in contrast to Mr Fitzgerald, I publicly undertake that should he file his lawsuit, I will retain at my own expense attorneys from the private Bar to represent me. I am different

from him, and will not rely on the government to defend me in court at the expense of the Bahamian people," Mr Bannister said.

"The one good thing that has emerged from Mr Fitzgerald's recent rants is the indication of his newfound confidence that the courts that he vilified are indeed independent and impartial, and will fairly adjudicate his case against me.

"I do not wish to hinder or prejudice Mr Fitzgerald's quest to litigate this matter, and accordingly I shall not be asking for a ruling on this attack on my privilege in his honourable House."

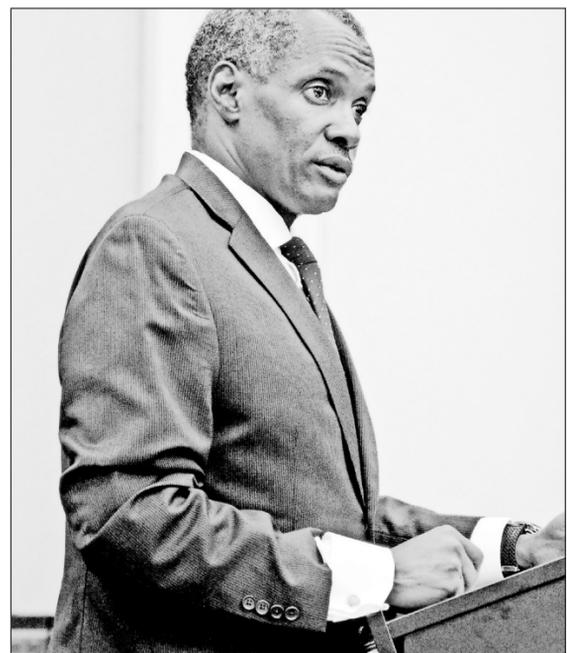
Earlier in his address to colleagues, Mr Bannister had said: "Respect is something that I carry with me every time I enter this historic building, and often I pause to reflect upon the tradition of integrity that so many past members brought to this place.

"That is why I so carefully check, double check and triple check every word that I utter in this place. I want the people of Carmichael who elected me and the people of the Bahamas to appreciate that we are here to do their business, and we will do it in a manner that respects the honour, dignity and traditions of Parliament."

He also said: "He (Mr Fitzgerald) abused the privilege of this honourable House and ought to have been condemned for blatantly misusing this forum that the Bahamian people have entrusted to us. His mean-spirited and churlish conduct was offensive to right thinking people. History will not remember him kindly.

"I deny defaming Mr Fitzgerald. In any event, I am advised that one may only defame someone who has a good reputation."

Responding to this, Mr Fitzgerald in a statement yesterday said when it comes to his reputation, his



DESMOND BANNISTER, MP for Carmichael.

accomplishments under the former government will be recorded on the right side of history.

He also said it is ironic Mr Bannister seemed not to know the difference between a caution and a threat to file suit, while maintaining he never gave himself a government contract while he was in Cabinet.

For his part on the court's ruling on Save The Bays, Mr Fitzgerald said: "Save the Bays cleverly sued me in my capacity as a minister of the government and not my personal capacity and as such they effectively sued the government. Had they sued me in my personal capacity obviously I would have had to bear the cost but I would have also been obligated to reveal everything I had in my possession and knew to the courts and Save the Bays on discovery would have done the same.

"I want to make it absolutely clear that when the government withdrew the appeal in the Save the Bays matter they did not consult me nor did they have to as I was not a party to the matter in my personal capacity. In fact, the Court of Appeal made it clear at the hearing that I was

personally liable for any cost or the \$150,000 fine. That was the cost to the government for withdrawing the appeal."

Mr Bannister's remarks in the House sparked a back and forth argument between him and Englerston MP Glenys Hanna Martin. She argued he further attacked Mr Fitzgerald, suggesting he was a private citizen.

Her constant attempts to make arguments in this regard led House Speaker Halson Moultrie to threaten she would be named and suspended in the House if these attempts did not cease. He viewed the attempts as disrespect to the chair.

Later when the House returned from its afternoon break, PLP Leader Philip "Brave" Davis chimed in on the matter.

He said the former MP is a private citizen and it is "not proper or appropriate for us to speak to him or to his character in any demeaning way."

In response, Mr Bannister said he was very deliberate in what he said in Parliament. He said he stood by every word he said and would not hide behind privilege.

**AMBROSIL
CATERING**

"Exceptional pleasing
to the taste"
ALL SPECIAL
OCCASIONS
Starting at \$8.00
(per person eighty or more)
Call: 817-4631

JOHN'S

25% OFF

STOREWIDE SALE!!

RED TAG ITEMS UP TO 75% OFF

SHOES - CLOTHING - SCRUBS -
HANDBAGS-ACCESSORIES

20 SEPT. - 30 SEPT.

*ALL SALES FINAL.
CASH AND CREDIT CARD SALES ONLY.

JOHN'S

ROSETTA ST. 325-4944 CARMICHAEL RD. 361-6876



FINCO

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS

RBC Royal Bank Holdings (Bahamas) Limited ("RBHL") is the owner of 75% of the issued shares of Finance Corporation of Bahamas Limited ("FINCO"). RBHL is a wholly owned subsidiary of RBC Financial (Caribbean) Limited ("RBCFCL"). RBCFCL advised FINCO of its intention to transfer its holdings in FINCO outside of the RBCFCL group to another entity within the RBC group. The specific entity within the RBC group has not yet been identified. The transfer is being made to comply with a directive of the Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago ("CBTT").

As a result of this transfer, FINCO will no longer be a part of the consolidated supervision of the Central Bank of Trinidad & Tobago. FINCO will continue to be subject to supervision by the Central Bank of The Bahamas, The Securities Commission of The Bahamas and the Office of the Supervisor of Financial Institutions (OSFI) of Canada. The transfer, which is not expected to impact FINCO's operations, is anticipated to be completed by April 2019.

CORPORATE SECRETARY
September 27, 2017

Opponents join forces to work for a better Pinewood

By RICARDO WELLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
rwells@tribunemedia.net

POLITICAL foes in the Pinewood constituency launched a collaborative effort on Wednesday to establish the Pinewood Foundation and that community's first festival event.

Reuben Rahming, who secured more than half the votes cast in Pinewood during the May 10 general election, called the foundation's strategy "a sustainable one," adding that it will engage the community in its own self-development as it looks to bring awareness to the plight of residents.

"We do this for the good of Pinewood," the Free National Movement MP said during a press conference in the House of Assembly's Majority Room. "Together we can do all things, but divided we cannot live a sustainable life."

The foundation is the brainchild of former independent candidate Alecia Hart; former Democratic National Alliance candidate Lincoln Bain and former People's Movement candidate Glen Rolle. It has received the backing and support of Mr Rahming and former area MP Khaalis Rolle.

Mr Rahming said he viewed the establishment of a foundation as an opportunity to tap into the greatness of every candidate that vied for the constituency of Pinewood.

He suggested that those who are playing integral roles in the constituency, through the foundation, would become examples to youth in the area, who he said were becoming victims of violence at an alarming rate.

Mr Rahming added that unity among the one-time political foes, could "bring together" the striving community.

"We have more in common than what we have apart. And if we can accentuate positive, we can definitely eliminate the negative; from crime, poverty, vice, divisiveness, and we can find the things that make us our brother's keepers and make the difference here today," he said.

"So, I am glad and I am pleased that we are wholeheartedly linked and focused, not only as an example in Pinewood, but as an example to our nation that we can come together."

"We will come together and through the formation of this foundation and through the establishment of a perpetual festival where we celebrate ourselves, you will begin to see the marked difference which we seek in our society today," Mr Rahming added.

Meanwhile, Mr Bain called yesterday's launch evidence of political maturity in the Bahamas, adding that each candidate has shown a great level of love and respect for the area.

"Now you can see the genuineness of all our political campaigns," he said. "They were not to be just members of Parliament. It was not to be in politics. It was for Pinewood. All of us said that in our campaigns and now you see that we are showing that by our actions. By their fruits, you will know them."

Mr Bain is one of three former candidates who reside in the Pinewood constituency.

He said the unity now on display in the area can go a long way to "turning things around" for residents.

"Because Pinewood is united, nothing will be impossible for us. They say it is impossible to fix a flooding problem, now that Pinewood is united, nothing will be impossible for us. The flooding problem can be fixed now that Pinewood is united," Mr Bain said.

"They say there is a crime problem in Pinewood, now nothing is impossible for us. There are no political enemies in Pinewood.



MEMBER of Parliament for Pinewood Reuben Rahming.

Pinewood is united. Politics is over, it is time for us to assist our community and that is the purpose we are here today.

"This is true leadership. This is historic leadership. And we call on all communities, all communities; all constituencies in The Bahamas to follow this model, to follow this leadership and do the same.

"We have a country to save. Stop sitting back and criticising and throwing jeers at your political enemies. Roll up your sleeves and get to work. Let's get to work together and let's save our communities. We will do it one community at a time. We are going to start

in Pinewood Gardens and we ask you to follow us," Mr Bain added.

For her part, Ms Hart called it a joy to partner with the former candidates to ensure the best for the community.

Ms Hart, dubbed the soul of the project, said there was an urgent need for funding in Pinewood. However, she said current community models were not effectively working to aid in the progression and development of the area.

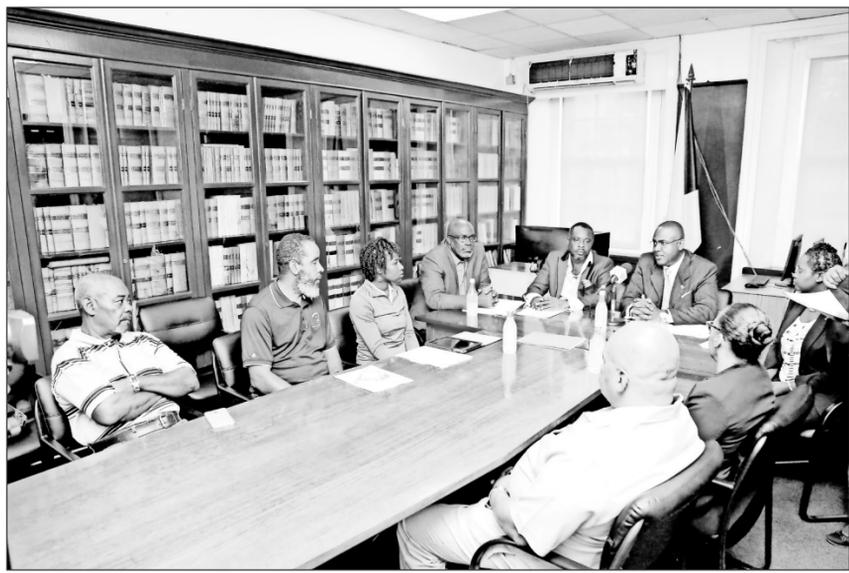
"The establishment of the foundation ensures that we have structure in place. It ensures that there is a government or body that handles funding, called a development board."

Ms Hart added: "We, all five of us, will not have access and decision-making powers. The board will basically be in charge.

"So as it pertains to the foundation, it is our desire to encourage not only local persons or local businesses to contribute, or individuals; but we encourage international foundations around the globe to give us grants, to give us funding because in Pinewood we need it."

In addition to its first community meeting scheduled for November 18 on the community park, the Pinewood Foundation aims to increase community involvement through volunteerism, networking and participation.

The foundation has already announced a partnership with Fourteenth Clubs Golf Academy, which is headed by Bahamian golf standout Georgette Rolle.



THE PRESS conference held by Pinewood MP Reuben Rahming to announce plans for the Pinewood Foundation. Photos: Terrel W. Carey/Tribune Staff



NOTICE!

The offices of the Public Workers' Co-operative Credit Union Limited will be closed on Friday, September 29th, 2017, to allow for the ANNUAL STAFF FUN DAY!

We apologize for any inconvenience caused!



UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS

www.ub.edu.bs

CAVES VILLAGE
Premium Office Space for Lease

1,409 sq.ft. 5 offices, conference room, reception, kitchen, bathroom with shower, IT/filing room.

\$5,459.88 pm inc. CAM + VAT

572 sq.ft. open plan with conference room, kitchenette, bathroom, IT closet.

\$2,216.50 pm inc. CAM + VAT

Contact Mr. Simon Chappell on 327 1575 or 477-7610
Email: simon@cavesvillage.com

Vespa
End of Summer Sale

Liberty 50

Primavera 150

"Classic" Vespa PK125

Vespa Sprint 50

Come visit us for exclusive pricing!!

Available exclusively at:

Bahamas Bus & Truck Co. Ltd.
Montrose Ave. & Tenwich St
(242) 322-1722 - 5 & 322-3865

www.bahamasbus.com

DIRECTED BY JULIETTE STORR

EDITED BY DANTE MASSEY

"SO, YOU THINK YOU IS WOMAN HEY?"

A BUTTERFLY HOUSE FILMS PRODUCTION
A JULIETTE STORR FILM "SO, YOU THINK YOU IS WOMAN HEY?"
MUSIC BY CHRISTIAN JUSTILIEN COLOURS MUIIN242 C-FORCE
FOUNDER PENN STATE BEAVER OPERATOR JULIETTE STORR ROSCOE GIBSON

Friday, 29th September
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
University of The Bahamas
Performing Arts Centre, Oakes Field Campus

Conch fest back after hurricane

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

THE 45th annual Conch Cracking Festival in McLean's Town is expected to attract hundreds to East Grand Bahama on Monday, October 9.

The Ministry of Tourism and the McLean's Town Conch Cracking Association have announced plans to hold the first National Conch Cracking Championship, which is being sponsored by BTC.

The cultural festival will be held at the McLean's Town School grounds from 11am to 8pm and will feature lots of conch themed dishes, and other native food and drinks.

Last year's festival was canceled due to Hurricane Matthew.

manager of cultural festivals, said such events are an integral part of the island's tourism product.

"We recognise the importance of these celebrations that tell the story of our past and highlight the rich value of our Bahamian history," she said.

Ms Smith said visitors and residents could participate in the plaiting of the maypole, kayak racing, and the unique conch fritters and spoon race. She said there would be lots of fresh seafood available by local fishermen, as well as live entertainment and performances by Deep South Island Boys, Royal Bahamas Police Pop Band, and the East End School.

The ministry will facilitate the transportation of guests from hotels in the Freeport area.

and public relations officer at BTC, said the company has committed up to \$10,000 in cash to ensure a successful festival.

"We are pleased that the committee has asked us to once again partner with them," she said.

Ms Lord said BTC would be providing free wi-fi for patrons. The company will also have a booth at the festival grounds.

Belinda Russell, assistant chairman of the McLean's Town Conch Cracking Association, thanked BTC and fellow sponsor Burn's House.

Ms Russell said that the national Conch Cracking Championship is an open event and persons are invited to represent their island to determine which island of The Bahamas has the fastest conch cracker in the country.

She said there are cash prizes of \$700, \$500, and \$300 for first, second, and third place finishers, respectively. She said the winner would also receive a high end cellular phone from BTC, and be the first listed winner of the BTC floating trophy.

There will also be conch cracking competitions for visitors, businesses, and juniors. Businesses on the island are encouraged to have one or more persons from their company to enter. Applications are available, or individuals can call chairman Kendal Leathen at 443-9678.

Ms Russell said the registration fee this year has been waived.

"The public can be assured of a fun-filled day for the whole family with the hospitality of the people of McLean's Town and East Grand Bahama," she said.



FROM left: Rudy Sawyer, committee member of the McLean's Town Conch Cracking Committee; Belinda Russell, assistant chairman of MTCCK; Elaine Smith, senior manager of festivals at Ministry of Tourism; Latesha Lord, marketing and public relations at BTC; Jeffrey Pinder, senior manager of sustainable tourism at Ministry of Tourism.

The McLean's Town Conch Cracking Festival first started in 1972 under the inspiration of English teacher Jeffery Morgan.

"Even though Hurricane Matthew caused the cancellation of the festival last year, it has inspired

the committee to work to make up for last year. We are looking greater participation to make this year's event a success, which will help us contribute to the improvement of the community of McLean's Town," he said.

A leading insurance broker invites applications for the position of:

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

The position will manage personal and commercial portfolios, liaise with insurers, provide administrative oversight and training of junior staff, assist with serving walk-in and telephone customers for all lines of business, input data into systems, promote the company and its products to achieve profitable growth, and execute daily tasks with a strong attention to detail.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- Quote and underwrite personal and commercial lines of business
- Manage commercial renewals
- Manage Professional Indemnity policies
- Process related policies in the company's systems
- Ensure that proper underwriting procedures are conducted
- Ensure that company policies and procedures are adhered to
- Produce monthly reports

Previous knowledge and experience in general insurance is essential.

- Professional qualification namely ACII from the Chartered Insurance Institute
- Knowledge of all lines of insurance products and quoting
- Ability to manage, train and motivate staff
- Knowledge of relevant software applications
- Knowledge of customer service principles and practices
- Verbal and written communication skills
- Professional personal presentation
- Customer service orientation
- Organized with attention to detail
- Reliable

Interested and qualified persons should submit their resume via email to the following address no later than October 6, 2017:

newprovidenceopportunity@gmail.com

All applicants will be held in strict confidence. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted for an interview and provided with the full details of the company.

BLOOD DONOR REGISTER FOR GRAND BAHAMA

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

THE newly formed Blood Donors Society of Grand Bahama plans to create an island-wide donors register to enlist more voluntary blood donations and to increase blood supply on the island.

The organisation was launched on Tuesday in the foyer of the Rand Memorial Hospital, and its president, Lledra Marche, said representatives want to raise public awareness of the need for voluntary blood donors.

She said the blood supply is always at a "chronically low level," and that the current pool of donors is sometimes strained.

"Blood donors are the key players as they donate life-saving gifts to persons in need," she said.

"While we have champion donors who voluntarily and regularly donate blood, to whom we are genuinely grateful, there is still the need to enlist more, as that pool is sometimes strained.

"Our blood supply has been dependent on replacement or direct blood donors, which, according to our health consultants, is always at a chronically low level."

The organisation is made up of health professionals, civic communities and members of the public. The

creation of a donor's list and registry is a top priority.

"We have all heard the calls at some point in time for members of the public to come forward and give blood. We all know someone who has needed blood, and some of us may even have been on the receiving end of that call," Mrs Marche said.

"We are grateful for the partnerships that have been forged with the Grand Bahama Health Services, The Red Cross, and other civic organisations and will be coming to your church, organisation, agency, school and business houses to join us in the fight to save lives," she said.

Other executive members are Dr Catherine Adderley, vice-president; Claudia Ginton, treasurer; Meritta Strachan, outreach co-ordinator; Maria McIntosh, event co-ordinator; Davina Rutherford, PR assistant; Valeria Burrows, PR assistant; Patricia Burton, procurement; Dr Mandi Pedican, medical advisor to the group; Heidi McPhee, Dixie Jones, and Lydia Henfield.

Physician and internist Dr Pamela Etuk and Rand Memorial Hospital Administrator Sharon Williams also spoke to the group.

Ms Williams was pleased to see that another important health initiative was launched in Grand Bahama through the collaborative efforts of members of the community

and corporate citizens.

"Our dedicated laboratory staff has felt the challenge of providing health services 24/7 for the entire community, leaving little time for aggressive planning and maintenance of a blood donor programme that supports the needs of all emergencies and health incidences in a timely manner," she said.

"The members of this society launched today have committed to the organisation and management of a robust programme of awareness and procurement under the guidance of qualified clinical advisors and laboratory professionals from the health services.

"These concerned private citizens thought it best to collaborate rather than criticise, to cooperate rather than tear down and to unite rather than breakdown or destroy, with tongues of a national blood bank programme; we express our thanks for your interim solution to our local concerns," administrator Williams said.

She stressed that Grand Bahama Health Services is cognizant of the importance of building relationships with people, the community, public and private organisations, and corporations. She pledged their professional support and assistance to the Blood Donors Society of Grand Bahama.

Home Sale

4 days only!

Fri., Sept. 29th - Tues., Oct. 3rd, 2017

* 20% off

*except on net items

- Housewares
- Baby Items
- Linens
- Toys

Kelly's Home & Home

Tel: (242) 393-4002
Fax: (242) 393-4096

Find us on Facebook

HOLY FAMILY CHURCH

Grand Bazaar & Raffle

Saturday, September 30th, 2017
12 noon - 10 pm

Church Grounds Robinson & Claridge Roads
Lots of Food & Games for All Ages!

Stalls

- HOME COOKERY
- JERK (CHICKEN & PORK)
- CONCH FRITTERS
- CONCH & FRIES
- HOT DOGS & HAMBURGERS
- SNOW CONES & DAIQUIRIS
- DRINKS & ICE CREAM
- CAKES & SWEETS
- CHICKEN WINGS & FRIES
- TEA ROOM
- SOUP
- INTERNATIONAL CUISINE
- FASHION SHOW

Games

- PUNCH BOARD
- TIC-TAC-TOE
- BALLOON DARTS
- WHEEL OF FORTUNE
- HOOPLA
- CLOWN FACE
- DRESS FOR LESS
- BINGO
- SPLAT BALL
- COTTON CANDY
- BODY ART
- BOOKS & PLANTS
- FISH POND

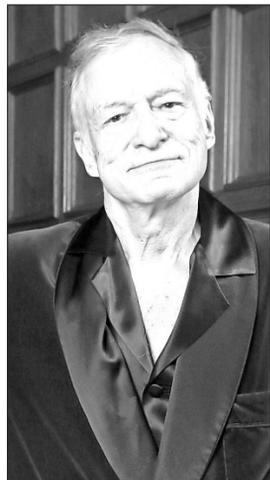
KIDDIE CORNER

GRAND PRIZE

2018 Nissan Kicks

1 ticket \$10

11 tickets \$100



HUGH HEFNER, pictured in 2006. The Playboy founder has died, aged 91.

PLAYBOY FOUNDER DIES, AGED 91

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Playboy magazine founder and sexual revolution symbol Hugh Hefner has died. He was 91.

The magazine released a statement saying Hefner died at his home of natural causes on Wednesday night surrounded by family.

Founding the magazine in 1953, Hefner built a brand that defined the sexual culture of the second half of the 20th century.

Playboy's buxom models were the objects of millions of men's fantasies as Hefner challenged what he derided as America's "Puritanical" attitudes toward sex.

For decades, he was the pipe-smoking, silk-pajama-wearing center of a constant fantasy party at Playboy mansions in Chicago and then in Los Angeles.

EARLY VOTE IN JAPAN

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe dissolved the lower house of parliament Thursday, paving the way for a snap election that is expected to be held October 22.

The speaker of the house, Tadamori Oshima, read the statement of dissolution.

Abe is widely seen as trying to reconsolidate his grip on power within the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party, so he can extend the term of his premiership next year. The dissolution of the more powerful of Japan's two-chamber parliament comes more than a year before required by law.

The ruling party, though, faces a growing challenge from a new party launched by Tokyo Gov. Yuriko Koike this week. The Party of Hope has energized some voters, and is gaining renegade lawmakers from the main opposition party.



RUBY RODRIGUEZ, eight, looks back at her mother as she wades across the San Lorenzo Morovis river with her family, since the bridge was swept away by Hurricane Maria, in Morovis, Puerto Rico, yesterday. They were returning to their home after visiting family on the other side. Photo: Gerald Herbert/AP

'Nothing, nothing' - residents left without aid in Puerto Rico

MONTEBELLO, PUERTO RICO
Associated Press

RELATIVES helped Maribel Valentin Espino find shelter when Hurricane Maria roared through her community in northern Puerto Rico. Neighbors formed volunteer brigades to cut fallen trees and clear twisty mountain roads after the storm had passed. Now, friends and a local cattle ranch provide the water they need to survive in the tropical heat.

Valentin and her husband say they have not seen anyone from the Puerto Rican government, much less the Federal Emergency Management Agency, since the storm tore up the island Sept. 20, killing at least 16 people and leaving nearly all 3.4 million people in Puerto Rico without power and most without water.

"People say FEMA is going to help us," Valentin said Tuesday as she showed Associated Press journalists around the sodden wreckage of her home. "We're waiting."

Many others are also waiting for help from anyone from the federal or Puerto Rican government. But the scope of the

devastation is so broad, and the relief effort so concentrated in San Juan, that many people from outside the capital say they have received little to no help.

Valentin, her husband and teenage son live in one such area, Montebello, a 20-minute drive into what used to be lushly forested mountains near the northern coastal municipality of Manati. Hurricane Maria's Category 4 winds stripped the trees bare and scattered them like matchsticks. "It seemed like a monster," she recalled.

The roads are passable now but the community is still isolated. "Nobody has visited, not from the government, not from the city, no one," said Antonio Velez, a 64-year-old who has lived there his entire life.

In the central town of Morovis, Manolo Gonzalez built a makeshift raft out of a plastic pallet buoyed by soda bottles to help neighbors ferry food, gasoline and other basic supplies across a river where the bridge was destroyed.

Someone had already strung a cable over the 100-yard stretch of river so people could hold on as they crossed in search of supplies.

"There's no food over there," Gonzalez said. "We have to help each other because that's all we have."

The same complaint echoed throughout the southeast coastal town of Yabucoa, the first town Maria hit as it barreled across the island with 155 mph winds.

"Nothing, nothing, nothing," said 58-year-old retiree Angel Luis Rodriguez. "I've lost everything, and no one has shown up to see if anyone lives here."

At a nearby river, dozens of people gathered to bathe and wash clothes as they grumbled about the lack of aid.

"There's been no help from the mayor or from the federal government," said 64-year-old retiree Maria Rodriguez as she held a coconut in her right hand and took sips from it. "After Georges hit us (in 1998), they responded quickly. But now? Nothing. We need water and food."

Nearby, one girl engaged in a thumb war with a friend as she filled an empty water bottle with her other hand. Downstream, a woman sat cross-legged in the water behind a friend and helped wash her hair.

The recovery in the first week since the storm has largely been a do-it-yourself affair. People collect water from wells and streams, clear roads and repair their own homes when they are not waiting in daylong lines for gasoline and diesel. For most, the only visible sign of authority are police officers directing traffic, a critical service because traffic lights are out across the island.

"I have seen a lot of helicopters go by. I assume those are people from FEMA," said Jesus Argilagos, who lives in Manati and works at a grocery store that is only open part of the day because of the power crisis. "People get pissed off because they see them going back and forth and not doing anything."

There are several thousand US federal employees in Puerto Rico helping with the recovery effort. They are most visible in San Juan, where officials with FEMA, Homeland Security, Customs and Border Protection have a presence at hotels that before the storm served tourists in the Condado neighborhood or at the convention center that has become a staging ground for relief efforts.

Federal workers supplied diesel to generators at hospitals and delivered desperately needed food and water to hard-hit communities across the island. They have repaired the air traffic control systems and power at the airport, which is far from normal operations with only about a dozen commercial flights per day. US agents have also provided security across the island and the Coast Guard has worked with local authorities to restore the sea ports, a vital

link because Puerto Rico is almost completely dependent on imports.

In addition, teams from the Army Corps of Engineers are helping to repair the electricity grid and to inspect and look for ways to avert the collapse of a dam near the western town of Quebradillas that has developed a crack and that officials have said could potentially fail. And personnel from Health and Human Services, the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs have provided care and helped evacuate people from Puerto Rico with chronic medical conditions.

A US Navy hospital ship, the USNS Comfort, whose staff can perform surgeries, also is scheduled to arrive in the coming days, said Resident Commissioner Jennifer Gonzalez, the island's representative in Congress.

Federal teams also were scheduled to visit the central mountain town of Aibonito, which was cut off from the rest of the island for five days. Many people began rationing their food and water supplies as they dwindled, unclear of when they would have contact with the outside world.

"We thought somebody was going to stop by," said Ana Lidia Mendoza, a 48-year-old cook at a barbecue restaurant who lost part of her roof. "They told us that we had to stay calm."

Gov. Ricardo Rossello and Gonzalez have said they intend to seek more than a billion dollars in federal assistance and they have praised the response to the disaster by President Donald Trump, who plans to visit Puerto Rico next week, as well as FEMA Administrator Brock Long.

Super Savings!



Fine China

* 20% off

*except on NET items

Find us on Facebook

- Herend
- Wedgwood
- Lenox
- Fortessa
- Certified International
- Villeroy & Boch
- Raynaud Limoges
- Portmeirion
- Noritake
- Dansk
- Corona

Selected China up to 75% off

Friday, Sept. 22nd thru Saturday, Sept. 30th, 2017

Kelly's House & Home

Tel: (242) 393-4002 Fax: (242) 393-4096

Mall at Marathon Monday-Friday 7:00am-8:00pm Saturday 7:00am-9:00pm Sunday closed www.kellysbahamas.com



Ductless A/Cs

- High Efficiency - 208/230 Volts - R410A Refrigerant - All Pipework Included In Box - Very Quiet When In Use -

9,000 BTU	12,000 BTU	18,000 BTU	24,000 BTU	36,000 BTU
\$385	\$445	\$615	\$851	\$1,200



Installation Cost Not Included

Air Conditioning, Refrigeration & Mechanical Contractors

Brackets \$33

Office (242) 394-1341 | Cell (242) 477-1341

P.O. Box FH-14159 | Email: info@albreezeacrmc.com Website: www.albreezeacrmc.com

BTC INVESTS \$1,000 IN THE FUTURE

BTC has made an investment in the lives of the future leaders of the country.

The company gave a \$1,000 donation to the library of Centreville Primary School recently.

Indira Collie, manager for public relations, said: "BTC lives by its mission statement, which is to always believe in better, and that includes better communities, relationships, and better futures for our families."

"Centreville Primary reached out to us for



INDIRA Collie and Ajna Darling from BTC's public relations team along with Janet Hutcheson, chief guidance counsellor, Jacqueline Sands, principal, and Nathanria Williams, vice principal and students from Centreville Primary.

assistance and without any reservation. BTC jumped on board. We were happy to make this investment in tomorrow's future." BTC has more than 30 adopted schools throughout the country.

Fresh Prepared, In-store, Daily.

Family DEAL

\$20 (INCL. VAT)

- 8 PIECES OF CHICKEN
- LARGE FAMILY FRIES
- 4 BISCUITS

#WICKEDGENIUS

KFC It's finger lickin' good

Celebrating 50 YEARS IN NASSAU

UNIVERSITY OF THE BAHAMAS

LEADERS FOR LIFE

This is MY UB!!!

CANDILARIA THOMPSON
BIOLOGY WITH CHEMISTRY '00
CALLIGRAPHER, ENTREPRENEUR

"UB is where I cultivated my work ethic. You have to be very disciplined and organized. I also learnt that there are different paths to success and different types of success. This is my UB!"

ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS NOW
WWW.UB.EDU.BS

f v i+ You Tube

#UBLEADERFORLIFE #THISISMYUB #UB242PROUD #UBINSPIRED

BOWL - BROWSE - BUY - BON APPETIT' - BOWL - BROWSE - BUY - BON APPETIT' - BOWL - BROWSE - BUY - BO APPETIT'

ENTRANCE FEE \$1

PAINT THE LANES PINK
CELEBRATING 6 YEARS

2 DAY EXPO

SAT. SEPTEMBER 30TH: 3PM-7PM
SUN. OCTOBER 1ST: 4PM-7PM

OVER 40 VENDORS

- ULTIMATE PINK MAKEOVER
- HAPPY HOUR FRIDAYS
- CORPORATE BOWLING FOR A CAUSE
- PINK BREAST CANCER: TREE OF LIFE
- WIN LOTS OF PINK PRIZES

@MARIO'S BOWLING

MARIO'S Bowling & Entertainment Palace

BOWL - BROWSE - BUY - BON APPETIT' - BOWL - BROWSE - BUY - BON APPETIT' - BOWL - BROWSE - BUY - BO APPETIT'