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McCartney: I won't take blame for Elizabeth vote

Former Minister of State denies lack of support for FNM campaign

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
pturnquest@tribunemedia.net

FORMER Minister of State for Immigration Branville McCartney last night hit out at suggestions by senior FNM officials that he was to blame for the party's less than stellar performance in the Elizabeth by-election.

According to sources within the FNM, Mr McCartney was berated at an FNM council meeting last week where a number of meritorious council members (MCM) took the MP to task for the poor showing at the polls in Polling Division 11.

This division, which was headed by the FNM's Minister of

State for the Environment Phenon Neymour, was also worked by Mr McCartney who these sources claim, failed to show any "inspiration" in his designated duties."

This lack of "inspiration" they claimed was due to the suspicion that the MP was not in favour of the party's candidate Dr Duane Sands, who Mr McCartney could possibly see as another challenger for the leadership of the party if and when the opportunity arose.

"So it came as no surprise to me that he would have resigned," the source added. "Who knows, maybe he was trying to pre-empt what was already in the process of being done."

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"PUSHIN' DA ENVELOPE'S"
TAKE ON THE RESIGNATION
OF BRANVILLE MCCARTNEY
AND MORE NEWS

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FORMER MINISTER OF STATE for Immigration Branville McCartney who has resigned from the Cabinet.

'I want to run for FNM in Bamboo Town at next election'

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
Tribune Staff Reporter
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IN LIGHT of his resignation from the Cabinet, Former Minister of State for Immigration Branville McCartney said he hoped he would not be denied a nomination to run as an FNM in the Bamboo Town constituency whenever the next general election is called.

Speaking to *The Tribune* at his constituency office yesterday, the popular MP said he was hopeful Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham would not seek to "punish" him as he has not yet even made up his mind if he will in fact run again for the House of Assembly.

"I had five years to serve. Right now I have two more years. If I don't get a nomination from the party I doubt I will run as an Independent — or anything else for that matter. I would have done my time, and I would have done my time well. I guarantee you that. I would have done my time well and I will move on," he said.

As he is widely considered to be one of the few Members of Parliament who can claim to have a "sure seat" due to his representation and work in the area, it is often said that Mr McCartney does not need the FNM backing to win his seat in Bamboo Town.

SEE page 11

US voices concern over the Bahamas' extradition process

THE United States' government has expressed concern over the Bahamas' tedious extradition process that allows subjects of US extradition requests to continue illegal activities while on bail awaiting resolution in their case.

This country was also one of four Caribbean nations included on the US's newest list of "major illicit drug producing and/or drug-transit countries."

Officials estimate that between 12 to 15 major

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Resistance to large scale tuna fishing

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport
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FREEPORT — Bahamian brothers Paul and David Mellor — who are proposing to pursue a venture to harvest yellow fin tuna in Bahamian waters using purse seine nets — were confronted with overwhelming resistance.

SEE page six

Alarm at erosion of Saunders Beach

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

THE current level of beach erosion at Saunders Beach has alarmed some environmental activists, who are calling on Environment Minister Earl Deveaux to be held accountable.

The Committee to Protect and Preserve the Bahamas for Future Generations questioned the validity of findings in the environmental impact assess-

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Lack of information on prescription drug plan aggravates pharmacists

By NOELLE NICOLLS
Tribune Staff Reporter
nnicolls@tribunemedia.net

PHARMACISTS are growing more aggravated over the lack of information provided to them about the Chronic Disease Prescription Drug Plan.

Since the National Insurance Board (NIB) started marketing the plan to beneficiaries in January, phar-

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NASSAU AND BAHAMA ISLANDS' LEADING NEWSPAPER

Man stabbed, hit on head in robbery attempt

A 25-YEAR-OLD man of Stapledon Gardens was stabbed and hit in the head with a rock in a robbery attempt by four men yesterday morning.

The victim was walking in the Millennium Gardens area at around 11.15am when he was attacked by four men.

Police said it is reported that one of the men reportedly hit the victim in the head with a stone while another produced a knife, stabbing the victim once in his left leg and twice in his right leg.

The Stapledon Gardens man was taken to hospital where he is listed in serious but stable condition. Police are investigating the matter.



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The Tribune wants to hear from people who are making news in their neighbourhoods. Perhaps you are raising funds for a good cause, campaigning for improvements in the area or have won an award. If so, call us on 322-1986 and share your story.

LOCAL NEWS

US airline suspends flights to Governor's Harbour

American Eagle cites airport concerns

By ALISON LOWE
Tribune Staff Reporter
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A MAJOR US airline has announced that it will be immediately suspending its flights to Governor's Harbour, Eleuthera due to concerns over the airport there.

American Eagle sent an email to its relevant partners in the travel industry yesterday stating that due to "recent changes" at the Governor's Harbour International Airport it is suspending its four days-a-week Miami-Governors Harbour route effective immediately and indefinitely.

The 64-seater plane will now fly into North Eleuthera "until the problems at GHIA have been fixed", according to American Eagle's regional sales manager for the Bahamas and Florida, Tracie Hoo-Glinton, who apologised in the email for the inconvenience.

The airline has been flying the route since late last year.

In a statement issued yesterday afternoon, former tourism minister Obie Wilchcombe yesterday said the Minister of Tourism, Vincent Vanderpool-Wallace must provide a "full explanation as to why his ministry has failed to maintain the Governors Harbour International Airport to ensure compli-

ance with FAA Standards."

"The minister must inform the public the last time an audit was conducted on the GHIA and must also disclose when audits were undertaken at all other airports in the Bahamas. It begs the question as to who is asleep at the wheel," said Mr Wilchcombe.

"Although alternative arrangements have been made to accommodate inbound and outbound flights at the North Eleuthera Airport this will seriously inconvenience local and tourist travellers," he added.

Transportation

Ms Hoo-Glinton stated in her email, forwarded to the media by Mr Wilchcombe, that American Eagle is planning on providing bus transportation between the two airports.

"For GHIB departing passengers, our customers will be expected to arrive at the airport at least two hours before scheduled departure time to catch the chartered bus. If passengers arrive later than this, then they will be responsible for their own transportation to North Eleuthera to catch the flight. I appreciate any help you can give in advising our mutual customers of these changes,



OBIE WILCHCOMBE



VINCENT VANDERPOOL-WALLACE

especially given the short notice," she added.

The change to the route means that American Eagle will now be flying to North Eleuthera seven days a week.

"Once we receive an update from the government on the GHIB airport, we will resume our operations to this airport and advise accordingly," said the airline official.

Yesterday David Johnson, deputy director of tourism, said the Ministry of Tourism was alerted to American Eagle's plans on Monday night. He said the ministry was not aware of the airline's concerns about the airport as it "doesn't get directly involved in technicalities of

airports" but suggested that the Department of Civil Aviation, which has direct responsibility for the maintenance of airports, could have been.

Landing

"The access remains, except there is the inconvenience of landing in North Eleuthera. That's an interim measure while technical matters that need to be done get done," said Mr Johnson.

Asked if he was aware how soon necessary adjustments might be made to the airport, Mr Johnson said he expected to be updated on

this by yesterday evening or this morning.

As for whether the issues deterring American Eagle from landing in Governor's Harbour could affect other airlines which service the airport, Mr Johnson said this is unlikely.

American Eagle's plane is "by far the largest" that lands in Governor's Harbour and "brings requirements that may be more onerous compared to those of a 19-seater plane," he noted.

In a statement released to ZNS news late last night, Mr Vanderpool Wallace said the Governor's Harbour airport has not been downgraded but is undergoing systemic improvements and the changes at the airport referred to by American Eagle are "actually improvements regarding the removal of two airline towers that will make flying into the airport safer."

He said Mr Wilchcombe's call for a full explanation of the suspension of service by American Eagle "unfortunately reveals a profound lack of understanding of the airline business."

The minister added that it is as a result of combined initiatives by the Department of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Tourism that American Eagle "has more than doubled its services to the out islands over the course of the last year."

Plans to rebuild OPBAT hanger

THE United States' government plans to rebuild the Operation Bahamas Turks and Caicos' (OPBAT) hanger on Inagua sometime this year.

According to the newest US International Narcotics Report, released by the US State Department on Monday, pending successful conclusion of lease negotiations with the Bahamian government, OPBAT construction will start this year with a 2012 completion target date.

Helicopters

"The new hangers will allow (the US) to base helicopters flying in support of OPBAT on Great Inagua," said the report.

Since Hurricane Ike destroyed the original OPBAT hanger in 2008, US helicopters have operated out of Providenciales in nearby Turks and Caicos.

The report also noted that the Bahamian government further developed OPBAT's maritime interdiction abilities by basing four interceptor boats — which were acquired under Operation Enduring Friendship in 2008

— on New Providence, Grand Bahama and Inagua.

Still, the US advised that "these capabilities could be developed further by stationing the two new boats received in 2009 on Grand Bahama and Great Inagua."

Successful

In 2007, US officials heralded OPBAT as one of the most successful international drug interdiction partnerships in the world.

It is a multi-agency international drug interdiction effort created in 1982 to stem the flow of illegal drugs through the Bahamas and into the US.

The report also added that throughout 2009, the US provided resident, mobile and on-the-job training in maritime law enforcement, engineering and professional development for the RBDF.

Also, at the end of 2009 the US Department of Defence was slated to deliver two additional 43-foot interceptor boats and communications equipment to the RBDF.



Man wanted for questioning in connection with murder

POLICE have issued an all-points bulletin asking the public to assist them in determining the whereabouts of Kevano Musgrove, 24, who is wanted for questioning in connection with murder and possession of an unlicensed firearm.

He is considered armed and extremely dangerous.

Musgrove's last known address was Halsmere Road in Highbury Park, Nassau.

He is described as being of light brown complexion and of medium build, 5'10" tall and weighing 140 lbs.

Persons with any information concerning Musgrove are asked to contact police at the following numbers:

Police Emergency at 919/911; CDU at 502-9991/9930; Police Control Room at 322-3333; Crime Stoppers at 328-8477, or contact the nearest police station.

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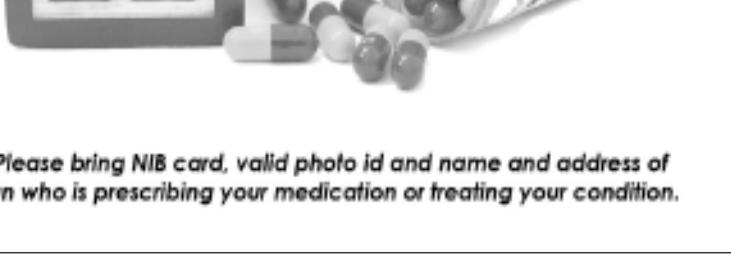
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LOCAL NEWS

RESIGNATION OF BRANVILLE MCCARTNEY



McCartney thanks PM and Symonette for chance to serve

By PAUL G TURNQUEST
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HAVING served under Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham and deputy Prime Minister Brent Symonette, former Minister of State for Immigration Branville McCartney said he was given immense latitude to perform his duties and thanked both men for the opportunity to serve the people of the Bahamas.

In relation to Mr Symonette, Mr McCartney said he learned a lot from the DPM and quite frankly liked his approach to the way he handled a plethora of issues.

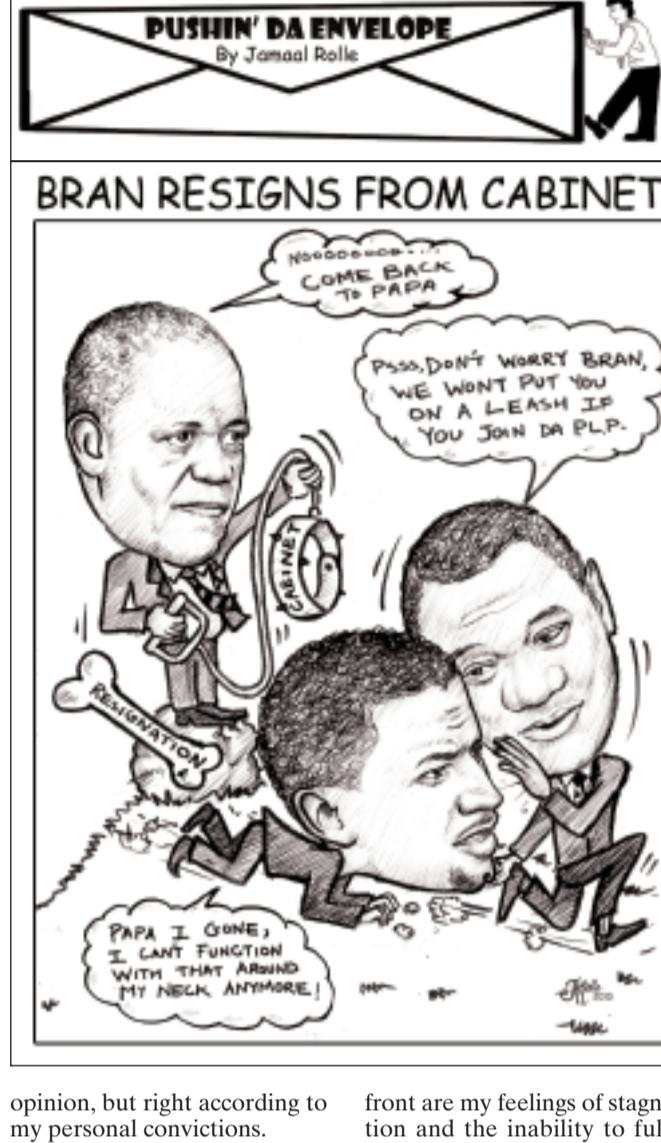
"He (Mr Symonette) is a very practical man, knowledgeable, and to the point," Mr McCartney said.

"The Prime Minister is also a person who I have learned a lot from as well. I think he has the best interest of the country at heart. He makes decisions and he is very direct."

Soberly

Mr McCartney has gone on the record to admit that his decision to resign from Cabinet was not an easy one, that it was well thought out and soberly contemplated.

"It was not an easy decision, but one that needed to be made, because of my determination and resolve that it was and continues to be the right thing to do, not in any way motivated by conventional wisdom, the prevailing consensus or the latest snapshot of public



opinion, but right according to my personal convictions.

"The factors that motivated this run the full gamut of issues and emotions, some more compelling than others. In the fore-

front are my feelings of stagnation and the inability to fully utilise my political potential at this time," he said.

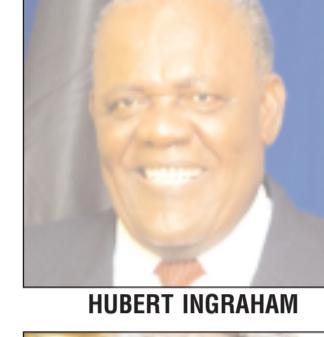
Prime Minister Ingraham said that while the resignation

of a Minister or Minister of State is always regrettable, he could not say he was completely surprised by Mr McCartney's decision.

"Each of us in politics are bound to follow what we believe to be the best course of action in the interest of the people we are privileged to represent and in accordance with our own convictions and perceptions at any given time. I have no doubt that Mr McCartney, as he indicates, has given serious consideration to the action he has taken."

"I regret that in the forefront of his considerations leading to this decision are, as he put it, 'my feelings of stagnation and the inability to fully utilise my political potential at this time'. I should only like to remind him of what he himself says in his press release, which is 'that in life nothing comes before its time'."

"I thank Mr McCartney for his service to the Bahamian people and to my government. My colleagues and I look forward to working closely with him in the best interest of the people of the Bamboo Town Constituency and the country as a whole," he said.

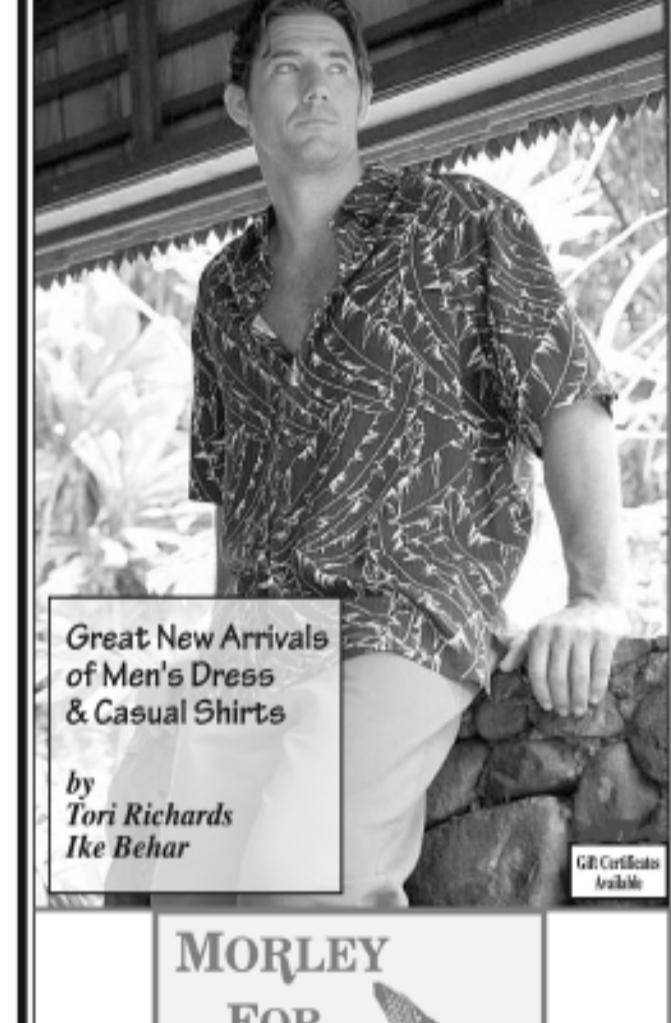


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PROGRESSIVE YOUNG LIBERALS CHAIRMAN SPEAKS OUT



'Do democracy and freedom of expression exist in FNM?'

PROGRESSIVE Young Liberals chairman Aarone Sargent said the departure of Branville McCartney from the Cabinet has made him wonder whether democracy and freedom of expression exist in the FNM.

In a statement issued to *The Tribune* yesterday, the PLP youth arm's boss noted that the FNM often prides itself on being the party that makes way for its younger members.

"How sad it is that this statement has the FNM eating its words due to the resignation from ministerial work of one of its future leaders: Branville McCartney. It would be understandable if the reason for the resignation was due to personal reasons, but to actually have it said that it was due to stagnation on behalf of the powers that be is atrocious," he said.

Mr Sargent said while the FNM claims to have "tested hands and proven leadership" it seems that Mr McCartney "slipped right through the fingers of these so-called tested hands like so many other issues such as crime and the economy."

"How sad it is that this statement has the FNM eating its words due to the resignation from ministerial work of one of its future leaders: Branville McCartney."

CORRECTION

IN yesterday's *Tribune*, the Sir Victor Sassoon (Bahamas) Heart Foundation was incorrectly referred to as the Bahamas Heart Foundation.

The Sir Victor Sassoon Foundation, chaired by RE Barnes, is one of two non-profit organisations supporting heart health in the Bahamas, the other being the Bahamas Heart Association.

The Tribune apologises for any confusion this error may have caused.

Share your news

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EDITORIAL/LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Tribune Limited

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Being Bound to Swear to The Dogmas of No Master*

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If a Haitian wasn't there, it didn't happen

ALTHOUGH Bamboo Town MP Branville McCartney went to great lengths to express his loyalty to Prime Minister Ingraham on resigning from the Cabinet, and to explain that the main reason for his returning to the back bench was a feeling of "stagnation and the inability to fully utilise his political potential at this time," Bahamians are not satisfied. They want a more complex explanation.

Mr McCartney said that the factors that motivated his decision to leave the Ingraham Cabinet — but not his Bamboo constituency — ran "the full gamut of issues and emotions, some more compelling than others."

However, the silence imposed on Cabinet ministers and the idea of collective responsibility for decisions taken were the straws that broke his camel's back.

This explanation was not good enough for many Bahamians — the story was not plausible unless there was a Haitian somewhere in the mix. It reminded us of a lifetime ago when studying American history and reading of a mini-skirmish in Boston square on March 5, 1770. The skirmish, involving a few British soldiers defending a sentry who was being harassed by some town folk, has gone down in history as the "Boston Massacre." Shots were fired killing three persons and wounding two others who later died. Crispin Attucks, an escaped slave, was one of the dead. He was recorded as the first black to fall in the American revolution. On reading this a fellow student chuckled: "Well you should've known — nothing ever happens unless Cuffy was there!"

And so it is with the Haitians in the Bahamas. Nothing bad seems to happen unless a Haitian is at the root of the evil.

Crime is escalating — blame the Haitian. The hospital is overcrowded — Haitian women have too many babies. The schools are full — too many Haitian children, studying harder than Bahamians and taking the top places in the classroom. The Bahamas is being creolised and soon Haitians will take over our country. And so the litany of complaints against the Haitians escalates.

In some quarters the hatred being stirred up against these people is starting to sound like Hitler's hate campaign in Nazi Germany, which resulted in the deaths of six million Jews. All of Hitler's personal miseries — and later the world's evils — were laid at the feet of the Jews. Hitler eventually saw it as his duty to cleanse the German race of their influence.

Nassau's talk-show chatter now is that

Prime Minister Ingraham and Mr McCartney are at loggerheads as to the final solution for the Haitian problem. It is claimed that Mr McCartney as Minister of State for Immigration was determined to cleanse the Bahamas of Haitians — we presume only the illegal ones. However, so it is claimed, he was crushed when Prime Minister Ingraham announced, without consulting or informing him, that he had ordered the temporary release of all Haitians from the Detention Centre after an earthquake had pulverised Port-au-Prince, making their repatriation impossible. In releasing them from detention, Mr Ingraham had made the same decision as had the Americans, and other world leaders. To have done otherwise would not only have been unchristian, but would have isolated the Bahamas as a pariah in our hemisphere. And so, once again the Haitian is to blame. This, say the chatter-box pundits, is what hastened Mr McCartney's Cabinet departure.

We all know — as do the Haitians who have lived here for many years and been assimilated in our society — that the Bahamas cannot accommodate anymore Haitian immigrants. We all know that there has to be a solution to the overcrowding in our inner cities, but to blame all of our problems, especially crime, on the Haitians is not only unfair, but untrue.

To confirm our beliefs we spoke yesterday with Prison Superintendent Dr Elliston Rahming who says that "crime is a Bahamian problem." He said that 94 per cent of the prison population are full-blooded Bahamians — no trace of a Haitian in their background.

Of late there has been a slight increase of persons born here, who have Bahamian passports, but because of their parentage describe themselves as Haitian-Bahamian. These come mainly from Abaco. For example, 10 persons were admitted to prison on Monday — eight of them were full Bahamians, two were Haitian-Bahamians, both from Abaco.

Generally Haitians are arrested for drugs, incest, causing grievous harm or carrying arms, usually a cutlass, not a gun.

They have not been brought in for armed robbery or murder — this is left to Bahamians, and usually those let lose by the courts on bail.

And, so, although Haitian immigration is a problem, it is not our main problem. It is about time Bahamians take responsibility for their behaviour and realise that they are their own worst enemy.

When we mere mortals are involved in litigation a potential defendant can ask the court to make an order for security for costs against the plaintiff. This is done in the case where there is a significant risk of defendants suffering injustice of having to defend proceedings with no real prospect of recovering their costs should they win. Given the PLP party's track record when it comes to paying bills, why do they feel this should not apply to them?

Their excuse for the party not paying the election court costs of 2007 was that the action was brought by Pleasant Bridgewater, not the party. I seem to remember the

Deeply disturbed by talk show host's passionate dislike for Ingraham

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I was in Nassau on Thursday, February 27, and I tuned into Love 97 FM to listen at the talk show hosted by Mr Allen and I found the entire show very amusing.

Mr Peet was the guest on the show. A part of their discussion was about monies that are reported to be owed. It was clear that they were trying to say that a party is not responsible for any debts it is only a candidate that can be held responsible. Well blow me down, I would like to know why a party goes all out to make sure that the voters know a candidate is running on a particular slate whether it is FNM, PLP, BDM or Workers Party. I firmly believe that if one is running on any party's slate then that party should be responsible to see that any debts incurred are paid.

I am deeply disturbed by the trend that is being set when Mr Allen is hosting these shows because over the past four to six months it has been very obvious to me and other listeners that the host has a passionate dislike for the Rt Hon Hubert Ingraham.

I have known Mr Allen for almost 30 years and I personally know how he felt about the PLP for a long time and it is disturbing to hear him cut off callers to the show if they are saying something good about the FNM and the Prime Minister. His excuse that he can't let one caller take up too much time is flimsy at best because I have heard some

Election Court bills and who should pay them

EDITOR, The Tribune.

When we mere mortals are involved in litigation a potential defendant can ask the court to make an order for security for costs against the plaintiff. This is done in the case where there is a significant risk of defendants suffering injustice of having to defend proceedings with no real prospect of recovering their costs should they win. Given the PLP party's track record when it comes to paying bills, why do they feel this should not apply to them?

Their excuse for the party not paying the election court costs of 2007 was that the action was brought by Pleasant Bridgewater, not the party. I seem to remember the

LETTERS

letters@tribunemedia.net

callers that I have timed for 8 to 10 minutes it doesn't matter as long as they are putting down the FNM or the PM.

There is one such caller known as "pauper" who he at times will allow to call several times a show and time doesn't seem to matter. Some people should be very grateful but then I guess I expect too much.

On Thursday's show there was discussion about the Chief Justice and his political alliance, well it appears that the political alliance of the former Chief Justice was okay. Well I wonder why and I did not hear either of these two men have anything to say about someone being appointed a few years ago under circumstances which left much to be desired, but again it appears to be okay as long as it is not the FNM that is doing the appointing.

I also heard a bunch of foolishness about the UBP. Apparently it is all right if you and your family were UBP for many years just as long as you switch and say that you are now PLP, but it is not okay if you were PLP and switch to become FNM, not UBP because they are no more.

I could not believe it when I heard Mr Peet say that all of the violence in politics was caused by FNM and Mr

Allen sat there and did not open his mouth to correct him because there are thousands of Bahamians who have heard from many platforms what Mr Allen had to say and who he thought was responsible for the violence in politics over the past 25 to 30 years.

Private radio talk shows as far as I know were allowed by the FNM for the first time in Bahamian history and you are allowed to get on and say what ever you feel like as long as it is decent and not libel but I am sure that it was never intended to be dictatorial. It was meant to be democratic where everyone got the same chance to voice opinions.

Mr Allen, I can tell you from personal experience that hatred will consume any human being, I personally had to ask God to help me overcome this serious illness because it was eating me up inside and taking the joy out of my life and I thank God that he helped me to overcome.

If this type of thing continues I will have no choice but to ask all of my friends to stop supporting programmes of this nature and then maybe there will be an awakening in the radio media.

ABNER PINDER

Spanish Wells,

February 27, 2010.

P.S. Politics: A strife of interests masquerading as a contest of principles. The conduct of public affairs for private advantage. — Ambrose Bierce.

party having a distinct interest in the outcome of that matter. As in the current election court spectacle, they have said it is not the party but the candidate who must fund the litigation.

Yet again the PLP as a party were not silent during the campaigning. Mr Pinder wasn't standing as an individual running for the Elizabeth seat. Mr Pinder ran as the candidate put forward by the PLP and in the name of the party. Was he not wearing a PLP shirt, shouting to a PLP crowd, being cheered by PLP pom-pom waving voters and endorsed by Mr Christie and the party? Had he been the clear victor the PLP, as a party, would have ensured we all knew it.

The example they set is a disgrace when struggling Bahamians can't find the money to pay their water, electricity, phone and other bills. Yet find it and pay them they do.

The position taken by the PLP as a party begs the question, how united is the party if it doesn't support its candidates through the whole campaign process; even if that process takes them to court?

ACID PEN

Nassau,

February, 2010.

Waiting for Mr Christie to condemn the hitting of DPM

EDITOR, The Tribune.

I have waited to hear whether Mr Christie or someone in the party would condemn the hitting of the Deputy Prime Minister by a PLP supporter.

Mr Christie can yell and shout when he wants to, yet he has not condemned this action. What kind of a person or leader cannot see that it is wrong to condone such behaviour? Would he have been silent if someone had slapped his former DPM, Mrs Pratt? No wonder children are misbehaving in public schools, and think it is all right.

VOTER

Nassau,

February 23, 2010.

Appalled to learn of police officer driving unlicensed car

EDITOR, The Tribune.

On my last visit to Mangrove Cay, Andros, I was appalled to learn that a certain police officer has been driving his car unlicensed since April 2009.

There appears to be little or no regard paid to this matter as the officer can be seen jetting around the island in his vehicle without a care in the world, while the jobless sacrifice the little that they have to ensure that they operate within the law.

How then can this officer enforce the law which he himself does not follow? What a sad state of affairs considering the already shocking home invasion and robbery that disrupted the peace and tranquility of that quaint island community.

C. ANDRE FOX

Nassau,

March 1, 2009

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LEGAL NOTICE**NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN as follows:

- (a) ALANNAH LTD. is in dissolution under the provisions of the International Business Companies Act 2000.
- (b) The Dissolution of said Company commenced on March 1, 2010 when its Articles of Dissolution were submitted and registered by the Registrar General.
- (c) The Liquidator of the said company is Zakrit Services Ltd. of 2nd Terrace West, Centreville, Nassau, Bahamas.
- (d) All persons having Claims against the above-named Company are required on or before the 15th day of April, 2010 to send their names and addresses and particulars of their debts or claims to the Liquidator of the company or, in default thereof, they may be excluded from the benefit of any distribution made before such debts are proved.

March 3, 2010

ZAKRIT SERVICES LTD.
LIQUIDATOR OF THE ABOVE-NAMED COMPANY

LOCAL NEWS

In brief**Former bank manager charged in shares scheme**

By NATARIO MCKENZIE
Tribune Staff Reporter
nmckenzie@tribunemedia.net

A FORMER bank manager and a stock broker charged in a scheme involving the purchase and sale of Commonwealth Bank shares were arraigned in a Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Wayde Bethel, 50, of South Ocean, appeared before Magistrate Carolita Bethel in Court 8, Bank Lane, along with Hiram Cox, 42, of Coral Heights, formerly a senior stock broker with Colina Financial Advisors Limited (now CFAL).

The two men were arraigned on charges relative to an alleged scheme over the sale of stock options owned by Commonwealth Bank Limited; in breach of the Securities Industry Act.

Bethel, a former manager of Commonwealth Bank, East Bay Street, has been charged alone with dealing in securities.

It is alleged that between November 2005 and February 2006, Bethel, not being a registered stockbroker, disposed of securities belonging to Commonwealth Bank Ltd.

Securities

Bethel and Cox also have been charged together with employing a scheme in connection with the purchase of securities.

Court dockets allege that the two men employed a scheme in connection with the purchase of sureties with intent to defraud another and knowingly used the power of attorney which purported to convey an authority that it did not possess, for the purchase of securities belonging to Commonwealth Bank Ltd.

The two men are also charged with directly engaging in an act in connection with the sale of securities. It is alleged that they sold securities owned by Commonwealth Bank Ltd while purporting that they belonged to another.

The men have been charged with employing a scheme in connection with the sale of securities and omitting a material fact in order to mislead another.

It is alleged that they failed to tell the purchasers of the shares that the person selling the shares was not the owner of said shares.

Both men pleaded not guilty to all charges at the arraignment.

Attorney Rawson McDonald, who represents Bethel, told the court that his client had no matters pending before the courts and is a banker by profession although he now works in the time share business.

Last November, Bethel lost his appeal against his 2006 dismissal from Commonwealth Bank.

Attorney Charles McKay, who represents Cox, told the court that his client is an investment banker by profession.

Attorney Gavin Gaskin of the Attorney General's Office did not object to them being granted bail.

Bethel and Cox were granted bail in the sum of \$50,000 each, with two sureties. The case has been set for trial on September 27.

The Attorney General's Office is expected to prosecute the case.

Prosecutors yesterday declined to comment on how much money was involved in the alleged stock dealing scheme, but noted that it was a significant amount.

Teen charged with possessing weapons and ammunition

A 18-year-old man charged with weapons and ammunition possession was granted bail in the sum of \$10,000 yesterday by a Magistrate's Court.

Trevorse Robinson is charged with being found in possession of a black and silver .25mm Beretta handgun and three .25 mm bullets on February 28.

The accused, who was arraigned on the charges before Magistrate Carolita Bethell, pleaded not guilty. The case has been adjourned to September 23.

Miracle Landscaping and General Maintenance owner takes Frank Smith to task

Contractor fires broadside at MP in 'cronyism' controversy

By TANEKA THOMPSON
Tribune Staff Reporter
tthompson@tribunemedia.net



FRANK SMITH

LOCAL contractor Clement Chea yesterday blasted St Thomas More MP Frank Smith for suggesting that his company was chosen for a government contract because he is an "FNM crony."

The married father-of-four said he fears his home will now attract thieves who will assume he is the beneficiary of lucrative government contracts instead of an entrepreneur trying to make ends meet.

He is also worried that the reputation of his nearly two-year-old business will be negatively affected by any perceived alliance with the FNM.

Mr Chea, owner of Miracle Landscaping and General Maintenance, said: "I am not a political operative or politically motivated. Mr Smith is making claims about me making this \$377,000 like I got this kind of money laying up in my house."

"That kind of money might have been in my account at one point but was paid

out to various companies and more than 20 employees over two years."

Mr Chea denies he ever had a contract with the Department of Environmental Health, saying he was simply one of many contractors hired to clean up Bain and

Grants Town from Hutchinson Street to Hospital Lane, where he was responsible for land clearing, the removal of derelict cars and the demolition of abandoned homes from November 2008 to January 2010.

The contractor also said that far from being courted as a "crony", he was actually "turned around" for nearly two months before he got the job and never met or spoke to Environment Minister Earl Deveaux or any other ministry big-wigs before he was employed.

This comes after Mr Smith claimed in the House of Assembly that the Free

National Movement was awarding public contracts to party "cronies" without public tender. He also accused the Ministry of the Environment of paying millions to local companies for clean-up programmes "with no clearly stated guidelines, no consistent practice of newspaper ads inviting tenders or bids."

Mr Smith claimed that more than a million was paid out to "FNM operatives."

Also mentioning two other businesses, Mr Smith said contractor Clement Chea was paid more than \$377,000 for "removal of debris."

When asked yesterday if he fears these statements will negatively impact his business, Mr Chea said: "I don't know if it affects my reputation because my company is relatively new but if I am looking to compete with any major company, it makes people wonder."

"I understand there are all kinds of weapons you can use to fight political wars but make sure your information is geared towards the truth and not a statement that makes people raise their eyebrows."

CITY DUMP FIRE

'Preserve our health and safety'

Homeowners call for dump to be closed

By MEGAN REYNOLDS
Tribune Staff Reporter
mreynolds@tribunemedia.net

NEIGHBOURS of the smouldering city dump are calling for it to be closed to save their health and safety.

Homeowners in the government subdivision of Jubilee Gardens hoped the Department of Environmental Health's sanitary landfill off Tonique Darling-Williams Highway would have been closed and relocated when they moved into the affordable housing off Fire Trail Road.

Fires are not unusual at the 100-acre dump site and many residents remember the March 2008 fire that ripped through the pine forest barrier between their homes and the dump and spread into their backyards.

Although Minister of the Environment Earl Deveaux has apologised for the discomfort and frustration caused by the fire, mobilised \$480,000 worth of resources to extinguish it and made plans to better manage the dump in future, residents want the site to be closed for good. They see the landfill site as a constant health and safety hazard as well as a fire risk.

Others described how flies swarm in the subdivisions during the hot summers, and rats scurry into the streets while the stench of garbage hangs in the air.

Dread

Keturie Williams, 31, who lives with his wife and mother in Jubilee Gardens, said: "We dread the summer; the flies come in swarms and there will be so many on the windowsill you can hardly see the window.

"It would be best to move that dump. I hope they can find a solution."

His mother Pleasant Gould, 78, agreed: "They should move it if there is somewhere else to put it. I am sure the government can find somewhere."

The relocation of the sanitary landfill site is also desired by Jeremiah Jones whose home backs onto the now sparse pine forest and the dump.

"When you don't have the smoke, you have the smell," he



FIREFIGHTERS try to control the fire in this file photo.

30-year-old barber said.

"People want to know how long we are going to have to wait for them to really address the problem. Are they going to wait until people get sick? They need to address the problem long term."

Mr Jones wants to see the FNM government carry out more efficient waste management, recycling and convert

waste to energy. Concerned residents of the area are encouraged to come out today at 4pm for a meeting on Jubilee Gardens Park to make government aware of the concerns regarding the dump site. Details of a long-term plan for the sanitary landfill have been requested by The Tribune, however, Minister Deveaux did not respond before press time yesterday.

Politicians and lawyers urged to lead crime fight



SIMEON HALL

A CALL for politicians and lawyers to lead a fight to eradicate lawlessness has been issued by New Covenant Baptist Church pastor Bishop Simeon Hall.

As murder suspects are freed on bail and lawlessness escalates, Bishop Hall said he predicts Bahamians gripped by fear and despair will turn to vigilantism.

"We make a clarion and urgent call on all leaders throughout the country to move quickly to seek a greater response to the nightmare of crime which engulfs our land," Bishop Hall said.

"The dark night of lawlessness must be met with laws which are Draconian and enforceable.

"While all sectors must participate in this crusade, parliamentarians and lawyers must lead this fight."

Bishop Hall argues that law must remain at the forefront of the crusade against crime in the country.

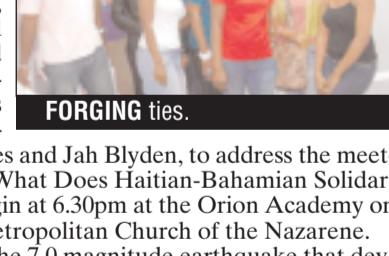
"The courts, lawyers, magistrates and judges must do more to protect the innocent in our society by ridding us of persons who are intent on destroying the civility we once enjoyed," he said.

"There is a powerful group of persons who are benefiting from crime and the change we so badly need cannot be expected to be initiated by them," Bishop Hall said.

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Haitian/Bahamian solidarity forum



FORGING ties.

A NEW association is set to hold a Haitian/Bahamian solidarity forum in Nassau tomorrow.

The Lambi Coalition, established by several human rights groups and political activists, has invited a number of speakers including Erin Greene, Betty Godet, Mark Desmangles and Jah Blyden, to address the meeting. The forum, entitled "What Does Haitian-Bahamian Solidarity Mean to You?" will begin at 6.30pm at the Orion Academy on East Street, next to the Metropolitan Church of the Nazarene.

Formed in the wake of the 7.0 magnitude earthquake that devastated Haiti on January 12, the Lambi Coalition was created to be an African-led effort to build and nurture Haitian-Bahamian solidarity. "Lambi" is the Creole word for "Conch" and has been chosen given the conch shells' long-standing association with the idea of resistance for Africans.

A statement issued by the group explained that in 1791, when a group of enslaved Africans in what is now Haiti launched their struggle for freedom, they blew into the conch shell to rally other Africans to the movement. In other parts of the world, the conch shell has been used similarly by enslaved Africans.

In the short-term, the organisation seeks to play a role in providing relief for the earthquake victims. Toward this end, Lambi is working along with other organisations to hold a benefit concert. Canned goods, which will be collected at the gate instead of money, will be delivered to reputable grass-roots organisations in Haiti, the statement said.

Lambi's long-term projects include working to bridge the gap between the Creole and Anglophone communities in the Bahamas by facilitating dialogue between these two groups. In addition, it wants to work within the Creole community to raise awareness of Bahamian immigration regulations and human rights norms; combat anti-Haitian prejudices in the community, and push for enhanced customer service and policy reform at the Department of Immigration – including automatic Bahamian citizenship for children born in the Bahamas. "Lambi will also work to educate the wider community about the current political situation in Haiti and will establish ties with grass-roots organisations in Haiti who are working to restore democracy there," the statement said.

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Teen charged with possessing weapons and ammunition

A 18-year-old man charged with weapons and ammunition possession was granted bail in the sum of \$10,000 yesterday by a Magistrate's Court.

Trevorse Robinson is charged with being found in possession of a black and silver .25mm Beretta handgun and three .25 mm bullets on February 28.

The accused, who was arraigned on the charges before Magistrate Carolita Bethell, pleaded not guilty.

The case has been adjourned to September 23.

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FROM page one**Concern over extradition process**

Bahamian drug trafficking organisations are operating in the Bahamas. The Dominican Republic, Haiti and Jamaica were also on the list, which was included in a US international narcotics control strategy report, released by the US State Department on Monday.

On the extradition front, that report said this country's "overburdened" legal system is to blame for delays in trials which provide an opportunity for those accused of serious crimes to be released on bail.

"Despite the Bahamian government's strong commitment to joint counter-narcotics efforts and to extradite drug traffickers to the US, the slow movement of extradition

requests through the overburdened Bahamian judicial system is a source of concern," said the report.

"There have been credible reports of subjects of US extradition requests continuing to participate in illegal drug smuggling activities while on bail awaiting resolution of their cases."

The report added that despite Bahamian prosecutors' vigorous pursuit of US extradition requests defendants are able to appeal a magistrate's decision locally and at our ultimate court of appeal, the United Kingdom's Privy Council.

"This process often adds years to an extradition proce-

dure," said the report, which noted that there are currently 51 US extradition requests pending in the Bahamas and encouraged the government to increase the resources and manpower available to prosecutors, judges and magistrates.

The report also noted that marijuana grows on family islands and uninhabited cays continues to plague local authorities.

"There are no official estimates of hectares of marijuana under cultivation in the Bahamas. (US) and host country enforcement agencies believe Jamaican nationals are involved in the cultivation of marijuana on the Bahamas'

LOCAL NEWS

remote islands and cays, however only a fraction of the marijuana seizures in 2009 were in plant form. Most marijuana loads were found concealed aboard smuggling vessels or stashed on sparsely populated islands."

In terms of drug trafficking, the report said that cocaine enters the Bahamas through go-fast boats, small commercial freighters or small planes from Jamaica, Hispaniola and Venezuela.

US law enforcement say sport fishing boats and pleasure craft then transport this cocaine from the Bahamas to Florida, "blending into the legitimate vessel traffic that moves daily between these locations."

US officials estimates that this accounts for five per cent of

the cocaine flow into America.

Larger boats transport marijuana from Jamaica into the Bahamas and then into the US, in a similar manner as cocaine, the report said.

The report noted that the Bahamian authorities seized 1,823 metric tons of cocaine and almost 11 metric tons of marijuana from January to October, 2009. The Drug Enforcement

Unit (DEU) arrested over 1,000 persons on related offences and seized more than \$4 million in cash.

From January to October 2009, the Barack Obama administration and Bahamian law enforcement assets interdicted seven vessels and disrupted many attempts to smuggle illicit drugs into the Bahamas, said the report.

McCartney: I won't take blame for Elizabeth vote**FROM page one**

However, according to Mr McCartney, he has always supported the FNM's candidate in Elizabeth and any suggestion otherwise is completely ridiculous. Further to that, he added that if he did not support Dr Sands he would not have campaigned for him, and the suggestion that he was not "working hard enough" is nothing more than a vicious lie.

"I said publicly on radio my support for Dr Sands. I said that Dr Sands is the best man for the job. My record will speak for itself. You can ask people who campaigned with me," he said.

To Mr McCartney's credit, the MP did note in his resignation letter that he had withheld making this announcement until after the by-election so that it would not hurt the party's chances in Elizabeth.

Reiterating this point, the Bamboo Town MP said he could not possibly be blamed for what happened in Elizabeth as all indicators were revealing that the election was going to be a "close race."

In fact, other sources within the party have suggested that it was the Prime Minister's change in Immigration policy following the earthquake in Haiti that caused the party a number of voters who decided not to show up at the polls.

However, Mr McCartney would not respond to this aspect and maintained that he will be focusing his attention on the affairs of his constituency at this time.

He did say, however, that he remains of the view that if he were to make a push for the leadership of the FNM at some later date, his resignation from the Cabinet of the Bahamas would not be held against him.

"I acted on my personal convictions. And when you act on that you are doing what is right. And when you are doing what is right, how can that hurt you?"

"I have not resigned from the party or from my constituency. I intend now to even speak more on other national issues without Cabinet collective responsibility," he said.

As such, the MP said that he will continue to champion the cause of the Bahamian people at large on national issues which will range from Immigration to crime, to land security and border protection.

FROM page one

tance at a town meeting on Grand Bahama.

A large crowd turned out at the Rand Nature Centre, where the Mellors tried to convince people that their plans to establish a tuna farm would be a "fantastic" venture for the Bahamas.

However, environmentalist and conservation experts and some local fishermen disagree, warning that purse seining, if permitted, would wipe out tuna as well as other fish species caught as by-catch in purse seine nets.

Pericles Maillis, Bahamas National Trust (BNT) executive member, Dr David Philip of the Fisheries Conservation Foundation, and Craig Riker, President of the Grand Bahama Scuba Dive Association, attended the meeting.

A commercial fishing vessel has already been acquired by the Mellors, who are actively seeking investors for their venture, known as the Bahamas Pelagic Aquaculture Tuna Programme, which will also include the establishment of a tuna farm.

Although the Mellors claim to have received written support from the Ministry of Agriculture and Marine Resources, Mr Mailis said it must be a "bad mistake."

He noted that the Government has already given its assurance to the Trust that it will not happen.

"This purse seine offends the very soul of the Bahamian people and the conservation

Large scale tuna fishing

ethic that we have been working to achieve, with the support of the Government all these years," Mr Maillis said.

"Whoever they have spoken with has made a bad mistake in not coming to the Trust, and bringing this out in the open."

Mr Maillis said the Trust is opposed to mass fishing methods such as purse seine nets.

He noted that the sports fishing and second home tourism sector, which pumps millions into the Bahamian economy every year, would be severely impacted.

"Yes, they take some fish, but that is a drop in the bucket compared to purse seine which is going to take 40,000 pounds at a time."

"That is more than all the recreational tuna caught in the Bahamas in one haul, we don't want that," he said.

David Mellor said their venture will create many jobs, attract university researchers and scientists, and provide all Bahamians access to fresh tuna, which has never been done.

"Tuna is a natural resource that is right offshore that we have not exploited. If we do it correctly, Tuna Aquaculture is a win, win for the Bahamas.

Tuna Aquaculture is a means to increase tuna industry efficiency while reducing tuna species exploitation.

Mr Mellor claims the yellow fin tuna can-

not be over-fished. "They are multiple spawners, spawning 46 times a year," he explained.

He said they will take their vessels some five to 25 miles off shore and drop purse seine in 300ft of water. The cages that will be used in the operation are able to withstand Category 5 hurricane conditions.

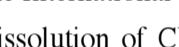
Mr Mellor said they want to educate all Bahamians about their Pelagic Aquaculture Tuna Programme.

"We came into what we knew was going to be a hostile crowd and looking around it is mainly the 'Conch Joes,' the white Bahamians, but we want to educate all Bahamians and once we educate all Bahamians we believe they will be on our side," he said.

"We honestly believe this is going to be fantastic for the Bahamas. We should not shut this down. We have spoken with the government but it has not been passed, it is being proposed and the government was misinformed about what is going on, and now they are being informed and they are looking at the whole subject of Aquaculture in a new light. It will be a wait and see."

"As Bahamians we truly believe in this dream. Yes, it is ambitious, but it will happen here in the Bahamas and we are hoping it will happen in the near future," he said.

Although there were a few supporters, the overwhelming majority of persons were opposed to the venture. Several Bahamian fishermen were opposed to it.

Legal Notice**NOTICE****CHERRY & CINNAMON INC.**

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of CHERRY & CINNAMON INC. has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

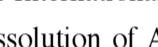
ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of SECUNDA GIEDA INC. has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of AIGLE CORPORATION has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice**NOTICE****ABEERAKAN COMPANY LIMITED**

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of ABEERAKAN COMPANY LIMITED has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of CAREGG POINTE LTD. has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of BARLETTA HILLS LTD. has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Legal Notice**NOTICE****MAXIMUS BUSINESS CORP.**

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of MAXIMUS BUSINESS CORP. has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of BUNNELL VITRO CORP. has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

Notice is hereby given that in accordance with Section 138 (8) of the International Business Companies Act 2000, the dissolution of NUFENEN INC. has been completed; a Certificate of Dissolution has been issued and the Company has therefore been struck off the Register.

ARGOSA CORP. INC.
(Liquidator)

LOCAL NEWS

Freeport man charged with assault, causing damage and harm sentenced to three years

By DENISE MAYCOCK
Tribune Freeport Reporter
dmaycock@tribunemedia.net

A FREEPORT man was sentenced to three years in prison after being convicted of various offences in the Magistrate's Court.

Odrick Bartlett, 23, appeared in Court One before Magistrate Debby Ferguson on Monday on charges of assault with a dangerous instrument, causing damage and causing harm in relation to a complaint made on January 26, 2010.

Bartlett is accused of causing harm

to the complainant and causing damage to the person's vehicle.

He pleaded guilty to the charges and was convicted and sentenced to one year on each count to run consecutively.

In his second arraignment, Bartlett appeared in Court 2 before Magis-

trate Andrew Forbes, where he pleaded guilty to the charges of causing harm, assault with a deadly instrument, and threats of death.

It was alleged that he caused harm to a 29-year-old man of Beaconsfield on February 26, 2010. He was sentenced to six months in prison.

It is further alleged that he assaulted and made threats of death to a 59-year-old woman of Sierra Leon Drive on January 29, 2010. He was sentenced to two years in prison for the offence.

All of the sentences are to run concurrently.

IDB opens business competition to Bahamas and wider Caribbean

THE Ministry of Tourism and Aviation has encouraged Bahamians to advance their business ideas through an Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) initiative designed to empower lower-income communities throughout the Caribbean.

The initiative is a business plan competition that specifically looks to directly benefit lower income communities through linkages with the tourism sector.

Individuals in the Bahamas and other Caribbean countries are being asked to send executive summaries for businesses to the Opportunities for the Majority Office of the IDB.

The best entries will be selected for development into business plans, which

will be evaluated to find the competition's winner. "The objective of the competition is to create mutually beneficial links between the local economy and the tourism sector through innovative business models that include the majority (low income communities) as suppliers and distributors in the value chains of companies engaged in tourism so that a larger part of the wealth generated directly benefits the community," said the competition invitation from the IDB.

The invitation also set out the competition deadlines:

April 9, 2010 – Deadline for submitting a three-page executive summary of entrant's project and a one-page company outline.

April 12 – 24 – A panel of judges selects the 10 most promising projects for further development. May 3 – June 25 – Chosen applicants continue to develop their executive summaries into business plans. Prior to this, they will attend a workshop that will give additional instructions.

July 23 – Finalists present their business plans to a panel of independent judges and up to three companies awarded consultancy services.

The competition is open to the Bahamas, Barbados, Guyana, Jamaica, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. Entries should be sent in PDF format to om-idb@iadb.org. Further information may be obtained at <http://www.majoritymarkets.org>.

FREE HANDLING CLASSES FOR DOGS AND OWNERS

INTELLIGENT AND EAGER TO PLEASE: Golden Retrievers will be a star attraction at the dog show.

■ Annual All Breed and Obedience Show set for March 20 weekend at Botanical Gardens

ing ability that has made the Golden Retriever such a useful hunting companion also makes him an ideal guide, assistance and search and rescue dog.

He crossed his original "Yellow Retriever" with the Tweed Water Spaniel (now extinct) found on his estate. Later integrations of Irish Setter, Bloodhound, and more Tweed Water Spaniel produced the retriever we know today.

The golden-coloured coat is the hallmark of this versatile breed, and can range from light to dark gold.

The Golden Retriever originated in the Scottish Highlands in the late 1800s and was used predominantly for hunting.

This active and energetic sporting breed can adapt to many different living situations but requires daily exercise. His water-repellent double-coat sheds seasonally and needs regular brushing.

With his friendly temperament and striking golden colour, this breed is both beautiful to look at and a joy to own.

The Golden Retriever, with its intelligence and eager to please attitude, is one of the most popular breeds in the United States according to American Kennel Club (AKC) registration statistics. The work-

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"EXCLUSIVITY HAS ITS REWARDS"

In brief

Dr Sparkman Ferguson donates 17-piece band to St John's College

ST John's College school band was the beneficiary of the proceeds from the annual Epiphany Organ Recital given by Dr Sparkman Ferguson at Christ Church Cathedral. The 60-minute organ recital brought out an audience of 300.

The presentation of the 17 new instruments took place on last Thursday following the school's morning mass. The school's principal Valencia Saunders and music teacher Cathy Jirahlke thanked Dr Ferguson for the new instruments and vowed to create a solid school band.

WANTED

Marketing Manager

A leading wholesaler seeks to hire a creative, experienced and highly motivated individual for the position of Marketing Manager. This person will be responsible for expanding the organization's revenue base; initiating market research studies and analyzing their findings; developing, implementing and evaluating marketing strategies; and building relationships with customers and external business partners.

Interested persons should possess:

- At least a Bachelor's degree in marketing or business management
- Excellent leadership and coaching skills
- At least five years' experience in marketing diverse product lines
- Good track record supporting sales expansion
- The ability to think strategically
- Excellent communication and presentation skills
- Proficiency in various computer applications

Candidates should possess a reliable motor vehicle and be willing to travel overseas.

Please send application letter and résumé by **March 19, 2010** to:

Marketing Manager
P.O. Box N-7504
Nassau, Bahamas
Or Fax 393.0440

We thank all applicants for their interest, however; only short-listed candidates will be contacted.

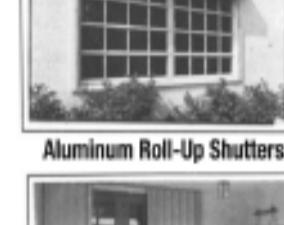
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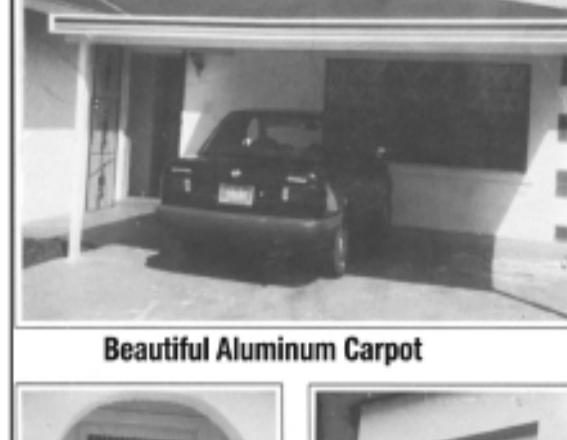
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Rising sea levels and their threat to our coastline



TOUGH CALL LARRY SMITH

ARGUABLY, our most valuable national asset is the shoreline — the transition zone between land and sea that surrounds our islands. So we should all be acutely aware of what is happening to the coast that could affect our investments and quality of life.

Over the millennia, shorelines have advanced and retreated as sea levels rose or fell over a range of some 500 feet. The difference today is that there are now millions of people living on densely developed shorelines around the world, so even a relatively small change in sea level can have a big impact.

Sea levels have been rising since the end of the last ice age, about 10,000 years ago. Measurements from around the world show a rise of almost 20 centimeters since 1880 — about eight inches — and if this gradual pace continues, we can expect a rise of another foot above current sea level by the end of this century.

That's right in the middle of the range projected by the UN's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 2007. But unfortunately, the rise won't be constant. In fact, scientists say the rate of increase is accelerating as the world gets warmer, and they are not sure how long the ice sheets on land will survive.

In 2007 the IPCC did not factor melting ice sheets into their projections. Their report provided a conservative forecast for sea level rise from thermal expansion of the oceans

and from the melting of mountain glaciers, but didn't assign numbers to the contribution from melting ice sheets because of the uncertainties involved.

In the last century, sea level rise was mostly due to thermal expansion (if you heat 50 gallons of water to 100 degrees Fahrenheit you will have roughly 51 gallons). But in recent years, scientists have determined that the Greenland ice sheet and the Arctic Ocean pack ice are rapidly falling apart. And the latest studies show that the West Antarctica ice sheet is also melting.

In fact, planners in Rhode Island and Miami-Dade County have concluded that a minimum of a three- to five-foot sea level rise should be anticipated by 2100. A California report assumes a possible 4.6-foot rise by 2100, while the Dutch assume a 2.5-foot rise by 2050 in the design of their tidal gates.

In the Bahamas, a three-foot rise would affect 11 per cent of our land area, without taking account of storm surges. And the World Bank says this would lead to a 5 per cent loss in GDP.

According to Dr Orrin Pilkey, professor emeritus at Duke University in North Carolina, "A number of studies

examining recent ice sheet dynamics have suggested that an increase of seven feet or more is not only possible, but likely. Certainly, no one should be expecting less than a three-foot rise in sea level this century."

Pilkey is one of the world's leading coastal geologists, famous for his battles with the US Army Corps of Engineers. His recently published book, *The Rising Sea*, co-written with Rob Young, director of the Programme for the Study of Developed Shorelines, argues that without thoughtful planning, the economic and human consequences of sea level rise will be disastrous.

"Governments and coastal managers should assume the inevitability of a seven-foot rise in sea level," Pilkey says. "This number is not a prediction. But we believe that seven feet is the most prudent, conservative long-term planning guideline for coastal cities and communities, especially for the siting of major infrastructure."

He is convinced that the continued development of many low-lying coastal areas — including much of the US east coast — is foolhardy and irresponsible. In our region, Miami and New Orleans will be heavily

impacted by sea level rise, and it is clear that we face hard and controversial choices, including abandoning storm-damaged property, changing where and how we build, and setting coastal management policies that make sense.

This theme was taken up recently by local coastal expert Neil Sealey during a public meeting at the Bahamas National Trust. Sealey is a former lecturer at the College of the Bahamas who has written several textbooks on regional geography. His talk focused on climate change and beach erosion in the Bahamas.

"Sea level rise by itself won't destroy our beaches," he said. "They simply retreat and build up in a new position. The problem arises when something is done to the beach to stop it adjusting. And our low-lying land already floods during storms, so we don't have to wait for sea level rise to make the right decisions."

Apart from their commercial value (to tourism and fisheries), beaches and mangroves protect the coast from flooding and storm damage, so we should do everything possible to preserve them. But casuarinas, seawalls, roads and other structures along the shore promote erosion and should be removed wherever possible, Sealey said.

"Seawalls scour beaches and eventually get undermined, so they have to be rebuilt at more cost," he said. "Beach replenishment is similarly costly and temporary. If we study the con-

sequences of shoreline infrastructure, the clear lesson is — don't build along the shore. This is a critical problem for the Bahamas. We need to restore dunes and wetlands, create buffer zones along the coast, remove invasives and monitor developments as they proceed."

He called for the Bahamas to set up a regime to govern shoreline conservation and development throughout the islands as Barbados did some 15 years ago. And the new Planning and Subdivision Bill that is expected to become law this summer does contain some protections along these lines.

Specifically, it prohibits construction within "significant wildlife habitat, wetland, woodland or area of natural or scientific interest; significant corridor, coastline or shoreline of the ocean or a lake; or significant natural corridor, feature or area." It also designates areas that should not be developed, for reasons of "flooding, erosion, subsidence, instability, conservation or other environmental considerations."

But in the Bahamas, the consequences of sea level rise extend far beyond the shore and are a complex problem, especially where infrastructure is concerned.

For example, the Lynden Pindling airport now being redeveloped at great expense will flood as the water table rises in response to higher sea level. The College of the Bahamas in Oakes Field is barely a foot above sea level and already floods when it rains, so this will only get worse. In fact, experts say that inland inundation and salinisation will become huge issues because our groundwater is tidal and directly linked to sea level.

And of course, these forecasts do not take account of storm surges or other coastal effects. So they give only a partial picture of vulnerability. The message for decision makers is that sea level rise is real and will only get worse.

The more pessimistic forecasts point out that melting of the West Antarctica ice sheet will raise sea level by 16 feet, while melting of the Greenland ice sheet will add another 20 feet.

The question is, how long will it take for this to happen? If global warming continues unabated, scientists fear we could reach a tipping point that would lead to a rapid loss of ice.

The ramifications of a major sea level rise are massive. Agri-

culture will be disrupted, water supplies will turn salty, storms and flood waters will reach further inland, governments will be disrupted and millions of environmental refugees will be created. For example, 15 million people live at or below three feet elevation in Bangladesh alone.

But even if we ignore such catastrophic predictions, Bahamians will undoubtedly feel the effects of sea level rise in the next decades. According to Pilkey, (writing for an American audience) we should prohibit the construction of high-rises and major infrastructure in vulnerable areas. And we should seek to relocate damaged buildings and infrastructure away from these shorelines rather than rebuilding in the same place.

You may not know it, but the Bahamas does have a national climate change policy which acknowledges our vulnerabilities (it was formulated in 2005 and is available on the BEST Commission website). But it seems that this recognition is only just beginning to percolate through the labyrinth of government — otherwise, why would we keep investing millions to rebuild seawalls around the country, among other contradictory practices.

Implementation of this policy rests heavily on the development of a national land use plan, something which is prescribed by the new Planning and Subdivision Bill.

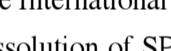
The policy calls for a coastal zone management authority, adaptation strategies for agriculture, promotion of energy efficiency, alternative fuels and green vehicles, updating building codes and planning guidelines, working with insurers on risk management, protecting freshwater resources, forests and other vital ecosystems, and educating the public.

Interestingly, the policy makes some of the same recommendations that Professor Pilkey makes — we should assess the feasibility of relocating vulnerable settlements and infrastructure and prevent such development in the future. Meanwhile, Philip Wheet, of the BEST Commission, and Arthur Rolle, of the Met Office, are developing computer models to better define the impacts we can expect from sea level rise and climate change.

What do you think?
Send comments to
larry@tribunemedia.net
Or visit www.bahamapundit.com

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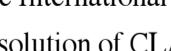


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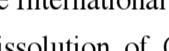


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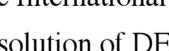


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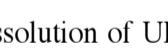


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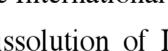


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(Liquidator)

FROM page one

ment conducted to assess the impact of the harbour dredging and Arawak Cay extension.

The environmental review concluded Saunders Beach would not be negatively impacted by the development work, although there would be slight alterations to tidal flows and wave directions and direct loss of seagrasses, sponges and small corals.

"Even though we warned that the beach would slowly disappear, even we are surprised at the deterioration in six short months. The beach has eroded three to four feet in certain areas and rocks are now exposed where there was sand a few months ago," said Jerome Fitzgerald, committee chairman, at a press conference yesterday.

Mr Fitzgerald called for the resignation of the Minister, who he said has lost credibility over his handling of the harbour dredging and container port relocation. He said Saunders Beach has been the best quality beach for "regular Bahamians" for generations, based on the quality of sand and water.

Minister Deveaux said the coverage of Mr Fitzgerald's public relations

Beach erosion

effort equates to an exercise in pandering to the Progressive Liberal Party senator's ego. He claims Mr Fitzgerald has a political agenda, as he has publicly declared his ambition to contest the member of parliament seat for Marathon, currently occupied by Mr Deveaux, in the next general election.

"Mr Fitzgerald will have to find me on the field of battle in Marathon to win. I am going to concede the weather has had an impact on the contour of the beach and if you wait a few weeks the same weather wave action will bring the sand back," said Mr Deveaux, who visited the beach yesterday.

The weather this year has been the worst since the sixties, and the weather this last couple of weeks has been particularly bad. It has had a significant impact on the entire northern shore of the Bahamas. It has nothing to do with Arawak Cay. It has to do with long sustained wave action and the relentless pounding of the sea," said Mr Deveaux, who pointed out Cabbage Beach, Jaws Beach, Caves Beach, and several other beaches have suf-

fered similar effects.

Saunders Beach has eroded at the most western end almost to the point of fully exposing the break wall, at some points. Withering roots from the casuarina trees, which formerly lined the beach, can be seen intertwined with the last mounds of sand. Rusted metal, formerly buried beneath up to three

feet of sand are now exposed on the shore line.

"Our purpose today is not to talk about the port being moved to Arawak Cay or that it should be at Southwest New Providence. This is not political as there is sufficient blame to be cast in both directions. This is a plea, a cry for help to save and preserve these

beaches. It is also, to make the public aware and to demand that the government call the experts to attend to both beaches to limit or abate this erosion," said Paul Moss, who is also a committee member.

The Minister indicated the relentless wave activity that impacted Saunders Beach, also resulted in the destruction of the break wall on the shore of the Western Esplanade. He said a company was hired to repair the wall, but was unable to pour concrete up to three weeks into the contract, because of poor weather conditions.

"The only permanent solution to that kind of natural occurrence is to put whale tales in the water and have constant human interaction. Coastal engineers generally design impediments to shape the waves as they come to the shore and direct the sand and coastal activity to form the beach in a particular direction. This can be complemented with dune stabilisation and the proper planting of vegetation like sea grapes, button wood, sea purslane, sea oats and railroad vine," said the Minister.

Once the inland construction is completed, the sand dune stabilisation activity will commence with the planting of supportive vegetation, according to the Minister.

FROM page one

Drug plan

councils say they have been waiting on the necessary information to determine whether the plan makes sound business sense.

The number of actual contracts the NIB will secure with private pharmacies is still up in the air, but there may be hope in sight. The draft contract, freshly vetted by the attorney general's office, was circulated to the BPA yesterday.

Although the file format in which it was received was not conducive to proper editing, according to the BPA, it was a step forward in the process. They requested a more user friendly version to distribute to members.

Health Minister Dr Hubert Minnis had a meeting scheduled with the BPA yesterday, but he had to cancel due to an infirmity. However, it was rescheduled for today. The BPA is waiting for a meeting to be called with the NIB. They plan to meet next week with members and open an invitation to the NIB.

"The NIB is producing a business plan. It is a new way of doing business for the pharmacies. Every individual business person in the association will make a business decision about whether the plan works for them and whether they want to sign on. At the end of the day it is the individual business's money. It is a legal arrangement with the NIB," said Dr Marvin Smith, president of the Bahamas Pharmacy Association (BPA).

According to Mr Smith, the first time the BPA was approached as a body to review the NIB's plan was January 14. This was over one week after a public relations firm, The

they were hiding the information or not being forthcoming; the information simply was not ready up until this point.

"I think we should also recognise the information we have now developed has required countless hours to prepare. Now that we have put this effort in, we feel now we can have a productive meeting," he said.

The NIB maintains public relations has focused on phase one of the process, which is beneficiary registration. Over 35,000 subscribers are being registered, while there are less than 100 pharmacies to be registered.

"Beneficiary registration will take several weeks and months of work. It makes good business sense to start beneficiary registration as soon as possible. That is called scheduling," said Mr Cargill.

Information disclosed about the plan details the process for beneficiaries. The plan will allow NIB pensioners, invalids, and Bahamians pursuing full-time education under 25 years old, to access free or discounted medication for up to 11 different chronic diseases by using a NIB issued swipe card for use in public and private pharmacies.

"To me, it is impossible to have the customers enrolled if

you have nowhere for them to go," said Mr Smith speaking about the fact that no pharmacies have signed on to the plan as yet, although several have indicated to the NIB their intention to be involved.

He said there may be more beneficiaries to pharmacists, but the process involved in getting pharmacies up to speed is much more extensive. He said pharmacies have to deal with issues related to an intake of new stock, policies relating to reimbursement of expired

stock, information technology infrastructure to operate the new swipe cards, space availability, maintaining separate paper work for government and NIB plan holders and non plan holders, additional security for staff to accommodate the increase in customers.

"There is nothing in the new regulations that will mandate the private pharmacies to sign on. It is entirely voluntary. We will certainly encourage them to join the plan because the benefits they will accrue are

great from the increased number of patrons who would normally patronise the clinics or public hospital pharmacy system," said Mr Cargill.

"The plan will go through with or without the support of the majority of private pharmacies. We would want the majority to participate but not everyone will sign on. It will be a lot more successful if we have the majority of pharmacies to be involved," he said.

'I want to run for FNM'

FROM page one

However, despite this, the MP maintains that he came into Bamboo Town as and FNM and he will leave Bamboo Town as an FNM.

Having resigned from his Cabinet post over the weekend, Mr McCartney said that he will now focus his time on his family and the constituency of Bamboo Town, giving both the "representation and support they need and deserve at this time."

"My strengths will be invested in making them stronger. My energy and ambition will hopefully lead to greater opportunities for them. There have indeed been some very thrilling high points along the way, one of which I am very proud to share with you today. My wife Lisa, my daughters Kasia and Tai and I have welcomed a new member to our family, Lawrence Khail McCartney.

"The birth of each of our children has provided us with unbounded joy and emotion and a welcome reminder that life is more about the moments than the occasions, and success in life depends on how well you are able to determine and manage the order of your priorities — by the acceleration of some, the abeyance of others and the acceptance that in life nothing comes before its time," he said.



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LOCAL NEWS

Annual luncheon for Retired Police Officers Association

SCORES of courageous men and women who dedicated years of service to the Royal Bahamas Police Force gathered to celebrate with their former colleagues at the Retired Police Officers Association's annual luncheon.

Held at the hall of Christ the King Church in Ridgeland Park West, the event honoured retired officers for their tremendous service to the country, treating them to a generous

lunch and entertainment.

Association President Grafton Ifill hosted the event.

The association, formed in 2004, was established under RBPF retired Commissioner Paul Farquharson.

The group advocates for benefits for retired officers including discounts at local stores and increased national insurance benefits.

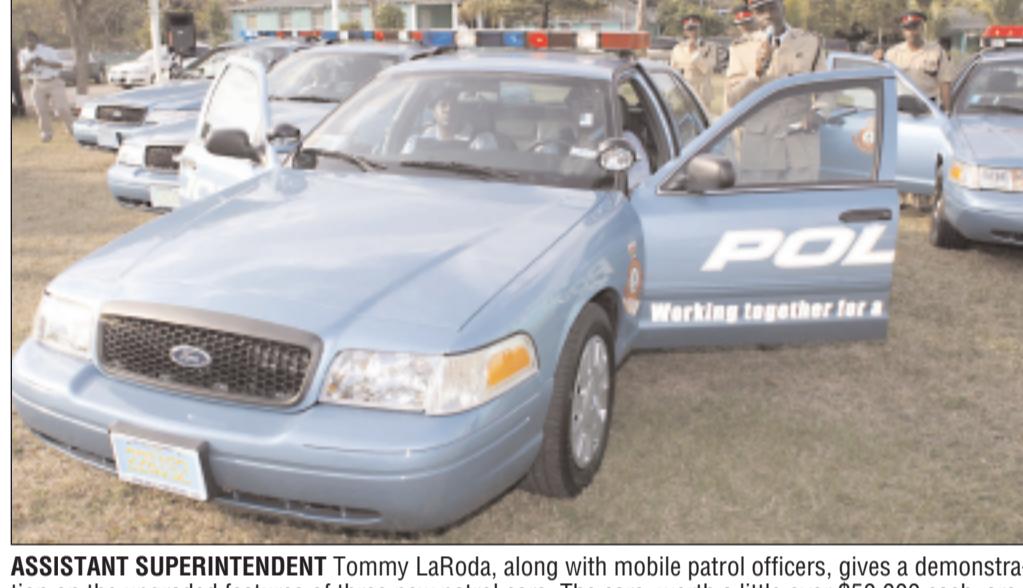


RETIRED POLICE officers at the luncheon.



RETIRED police officers share laughs at a recent luncheon hosted by the Retired Police Officers Association.

Police unveil three new patrol cars



ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT Tommy LaRoda, along with mobile patrol officers, gives a demonstration on the upgraded features of three new patrol cars. The cars, worth a little over \$50,000 each, are the first set of a fleet which the police have ordered and plan to distribute throughout the islands.



COMMISSIONER OF POLICE ELLISON GREENSLADE and Deputy Commissioner Marvin Dames discuss the increased benefits of the new police vehicles.



ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER Hulan Hanna introduces the parents of Austin Ta-Shawn Goodman - a physically disabled 10-year-old boy. Mr Hanna highlighted the child's respect and appreciation for the police force, as well as his fascination with patrol cars, during the ceremony to commission the new vehicles. Austin died February 10th due to cardio-respiratory failure. Mr Hanna said the young boy's positive and 'god-fearing' demeanor - despite the numerous physical complications he faced in his life - inspired all those around him.

Haiti judge not ready to release two US missionaries

POR-T-AU-PRINCE, Haiti

TWO Americans still jailed on kidnapping charges in Haiti will have to wait for their freedom. The judge says he's not ready to release his decision after holding a final hearing, according to Associated Press.

Judge Bernard Saint-Vil tells The Associated Press he is consulting with prosecutors on the charges against Laura Silsby and Charissa Coulter.

Saint-Vil earlier said he would probably order their release after Tuesday's hearing.

The two missionaries

seemed in good spirits before they were taken back to jail. They were visited by U.S. Embassy personnel.

Saint-Vil previously freed eight other Americans detained with the pair for trying to take 33 children out of Haiti without proper papers after the country's devastating earthquake.

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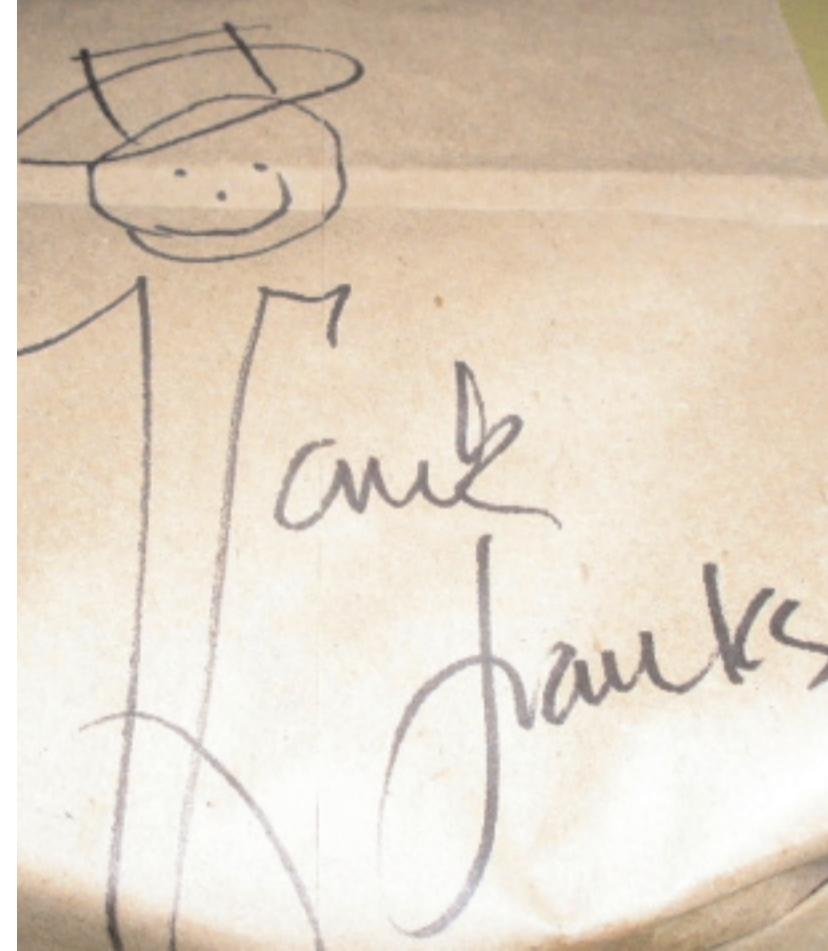
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TASTE

The Tribune

Taste



hot dogs that bite

By JEFFARAH GIBSON
Tribune Features Writer

Hank Franks' Fun House, the newest spot for tasty grilled home-made hot dogs, is located in the peaceful serene vicinity of Wilton Street off Mount Royal Avenue.

It's a location one may miss if not in the know, but a spot you're sure to return to again and again once you've had just one bite of their delicious hot dogs.

Variety on a bun is what Hank Franks' offers- from the chili hot dogs smothered in cheddar cheese and sautéed onions, to the unusual but delicious cole slaw hot dog.

Or try another interesting idea- the breakfast hot dog made with golden fried eggs.

To accompany your hot dogs, the staff literally will crank out home-made French fries, using a potato slicer right in front of your eyes.

When Craig Ferguson, owner of Hank Franks' Fun House decided to open this snack spot he aimed for something brand new and fresh.

VARIETY on a bun is what Hank Franks' offers- from the chili hot dogs smothered in cheddar cheese and sautéed onions, to the unusual but delicious cole slaw hot dog.

He did not just want to open a hot dog diner, he wanted a spot that will keep patrons coming back.

"The fact that we are at a stationed location makes it easier for people to patronise the diner," he said.

What sets Hank Franks' apart from the other hot dog snack spots is the fact that their hot dogs are grilled and their variety of toppings.

"We are the only spot that serves grilled hot dogs and our bread is ordered fresh everyday," he said.

"One can also get a good deal with us. You can get a hot dog with fries and drink for a reasonable price," he added.

Nothing beats a hot dog when it comes to a quick lunch.

"If a person has only half an hour for lunch, the only amount of time that we need is five minutes. And when you think about it one gets value for their meal at Hank Franks'," Mr Ferguson told Tribune Taste.

Hank Franks opened in January and has enjoyed an excellent reception from the community.

"Every month is much better than the previous. As people become familiar with Hank Franks' they begin to come to our spot more often. And everyone who has had Hank Franks' hot dog shares the experience with others," he said.

As their business continue to grows, Mr Ferguson said that they intend to branch off, opening another location for the diner.

"We want a much more central location so that we can make Hank Franks' known to all," he said.



TASTE

The Tribune

things
2DO

• ART FOR HAITI EVENT @ NASSAU YACHT CLUB
 Bahamian and Haitian artists come together to raise money for the damaged orphanages in Haiti at an art exhibit, Thursday, March 4, at 5:30pm-10pm at the Nassau Yacht Club. Contact Donna Knowles at: 393 5132.

• ROTARY CLUB OF NASSAU BIATHLON
 The Rotary Club of Nassau hosts a 4 mile bike/6.6 run biathlon, Saturday, March 6, 7am at Goodman's Bay. Registration begins 6:30am. Enter a two-person team with one biker and one runner, do both segments, or just walk. This event also includes a health booth and souse out. All proceeds in aid of Rotary Club charities. See www.rotarynassau.com

• POPOP EDUCATION: ART CLASSES - SESSION ONE

Popop Studios began their first session of art classes, last Monday, March 1-endng March 27, 2010. Classes in art therapy, figure painting, and workshops in sculpture and photography-taking, and jewelry-making classes are available. The second cycle of courses start on the first Saturday after the Easter Holidays. Mark Redgrave, Katrina Cartwright, Nadia Campbell, Heino Schmid, and Duke Wells are facilitators of the classes at Popop Studios Center for the Visual Arts. Cost is \$150. Space limited. T: 322-7834. See www.popopstudios.com

• TEEN MONEY MAKING MONDAYS

This program, started March 1, runs through April 5, and gives young persons an in-depth look at business ownership. For six consecutive Mondays, 6:30pm-9pm at Planet Play, attendees enjoy a night jam-packed with activities, money lessons, games, competitions and special lectures. Cost: \$260/teen. T: 376-9449. E: info@creativewealthbahamas.com

• RED CROSS FAIR 2010

The Bahamas Red Cross Society holds its annual fair, Saturday, March 6 @ 12 pm in the Lower Gardens, Government House Grounds. Enjoy a fun-filled day of family entertainment complete with popcorn, conch fritters, hoopla, hamburgers, bingo, disco, game and so much more! Tickets at the gates.



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entertainment

Mario's Bowling offers family fun

By REUBEN SHEARER
 Tribune Features Reporter
rshearer@tribunemedia.net

WHEN Yasmine Johnson and Greg Wilkinson step into the lobby of their workplace each morning, they often consider how they can take Mario's Entertainment and Bowling Palace to the next level, maintaining its wow factor and cutting edge appeal.

The \$10 million bowling facility, next to Robin Hood in the Summer Winds Plaza, is an entertainment centre catering to toddlers, teenyboppers, grownups, church goers and senior citizens, that stirs up the feeling of being in a Las Vegas hotel, Chuck E' Cheese, and Dave & Busters all at once.



A LONGVIEW of the 50 Ultra-Modern Bowling Lanes at Mario's Bowling and Entertainment Palace.

To have a facility of its kind, on par with similar ones in the United States is "phenomenal," a representative from the American Bowling Association told executives of Mario's Bowling last month.

Mario's exceeded this man's expectations, as he said it had "enough value to surpass most of its world class counterparts in elegance and appearance."

To Yasmine Johnson, daughter of Leslie Miller, and director of marketing and public relations, this is good news, and enough reason why "we should be able to take it to another level."

And the brainchild behind the design for the entertainment facility agrees. Greg Wilkinson said, "We wanted to create an environment where people know that they are coming to a nice place. People are controlled in the environment that they are placed in."

A panoramic view of Mario's Bowling and Entertainment Palace at the entrance is enough to take your breath away. The colors are intentionally calming and soothing to the mind, said Mr Wilkinson. It represents something of an art deco feel, very modern and posh.

US Bowling who designs the lanes for the Lucky Strike Lanes franchise in the United States outfitted Mario's main attraction, 50 bowling lanes. There are 26 lanes on one side, and 24

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Avante Guarden rocks the Bahamian music scene

By JEFFARAH GIBSON
 Tribune Features Writer

THE diversity of the music industry in the Bahamas is present in a new local band "Avante Guarden", whose music is not the upbeat rhythms of reggae, or the soothing timbre of rhythm and blues, but instead is the rotund drumming, heavy guitar riffs, and lush vocals of hard rock.

As the new Bahamian hard rock band, the five member group is officially introducing themselves and their music to the local audience.

Each member of AG completes the puzzle, bringing together every piece necessary for a successful emergence.

Their music is not the usual fare played on the local radio stations, it's different and that is what Avante Guarden exemplifies.

Representing their breakaway from music typically heard by Bahamian listeners is "Almost Home", the band's first album expected to debut this month.

There are a total of nine tracks on the album. And amongst the ringing melodies lies beautiful passages birthed from the mind and spoken from the heart.

Their music is beyond the surface, and while there are songs that one can groove to, their songs are thought provoking and heartfelt.

"This is what AG is about, making beautiful music, music that one can relate to. We try to make the best music that we can," Vallon Thompson guitarist and song writer for Avante Guarden told Tribune Entertainment.

All of the songs on the album are original compositions by the band.

The majority of the songs on "Almost Home" were written by Vallon. Lead singer Jaynedoh wrote one of the pieces.

"Vallon is so good at what he does. His lyrics are just beautiful because he takes it to another level. He's has some of the best work," Jaynedoh said.

"Brave and New" is one of the songs on the album that typifies a thoughtful piece of work and is a tribute to human "beingness" Vallon said.

"This song is about recognising that even though we as human beings are different, we are still the same. Show me the difference within us and I can show you a thousand things the same. It's more of breaking down those barriers that hinder us from being the people that we are when no one is looking," he explained.

Their music is already beginning to reach many, since they are slowly building a supportive fan base here in the Bahamas.

"We have a number of AG supporters, and our fan base is continuing to grow. There are some hard-core rappers who are fans of our band. They are at almost every one of our performances," Jaynedoh said.

And even though their growing fan base is an encouragement, both Vallon and Jaynedoh admit that it is difficult to be an emerging hard rock band in the Bahamas.

And after they have left their imprints on the music industry in the Bahamas, they are setting their sights on the international music world.

"We want to take our music to the



BAHAMIAN hard rock band Avante Guarden performs on stage.

world. But before we do that we want to gain the respect of our fellow Bahamians," Vallon said.

It took a while for Avante Guarden to fully establish themselves as a hard rock band, since it was a hassle finding the right person with the right voice.

Once Vallon, who in fact started the band, found those pieces, he knew Avante Guarden would be a force to be reckoned with in the music industry.

"There were many experimental compositions to fine tune the sound of AG and there were many singers. AG went through about no less than six vocalists in its initial stages seeking

the right voice for the it's particular style," Vallon said.

Later he met Jaynedoh who faced a similar problem.

"She had been searching for someone who was good at producing rock music and I was looking for someone who could sing the music," he said.

They came together with three other band members Ashley Algreen the lead guitarist, Gary Francis, bass guitarist, and Bailey the drummer to form an electrifying assembly.

This is just the beginning for this hard rock band. People can expect to see much more of Avante Guarden in the near future.

Mr J on the money we want

By JEFFARAH GIBSON
 Tribune Features Writer

LOCAL Bahamian artists are spreading their wings, and making their imprints on the international music scene. And Bahamian Reggae artist Gesner "Mr J" Dalmond is no different since he recently collaborated with Canadian gospel artist DJ Evangelist on his new song "Money We Want".

"Money We Want" a song that addresses the issue of poverty is currently circulating the local airwaves in Canada. With an optimistic mindset the artists believe the song will be accepted by a global audience.

Its all-embracing message is what really ignites conversation and a change of perception with regards to poverty -something that most people are fighting so hard to relinquish in their life.

And with their smooth lyrical flow accented by underlying tones and melodies, they hope the issue of poverty jumps at listeners inviting meaningful reflection.

Mr J said the main purpose of the song is to get persons to see that poverty is something that can be eradicated from one's life through personal suc-

cess.

"Poverty is prevalent in many societies throughout the world, which makes this song universal. However, poverty begins as a mental state. Yes there are many persons that have been born into poverty, but it is their mindset that keeps them in that position. The issue of poverty can be removed if they change their mindset," Mr J told Tribune Entertainment.

"Money We Want" has initiated conversation both negative and positive in the Canadian community.

"There are persons who love the song who said that the message actually speaks to them. Then again there are others who maintain the belief that Christians should not talk about gaining prosperity. Despite that, this song is about moving from one point in life to another. Its not about gaining prosperity but showing people that just because your family might have poverty been stricken doesn't mean that they will also be that way," he said.

Both Mr J and DJ Evangelist are hard at work shooting the video "Money We Want". The video which is set in Canada will compliment the music communicating the message of the song even more effectively.

"The video starts off with me getting ready to go on my daily mission, as the day progresses I am met with a variety of unusual circumstances. The video is very good and it shows the message in an even brighter light," he said.

"Money We Want" is professionally recorded. However it is in the production stages right now.

"Since it is our goal to go global with the song, we are trying to get the video played on major music stations like MTV, the Caribbean music station Tempo, as well as local television stations in the Bahamas," he said.

Mr J is Bahamian-born of Haitian descent and has been a reggae artist since 1996. While this was not always his dream, he said listening to other artist like Christian Massive and Peter Runkus who tell stories through their music encouraged him to enter the profession.

He has written eight songs so far that he said will be recorded on an album he plans to release sometime in the near future. He also just recently celebrated the release of his first official video entitled "More Luv".

With his own music and collaborating with other artist he channels his inner voice, sending a message of hope to the hopeless.



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ARTS

Mario's Bowling offers family fun

FROM page 10

on the other.

In addition to bowling, children man the machines with access to over 100 arcade games to choose from, as well as Nintendo Wii, PS3 and X-Box 360 favourites.

There are also a number of meeting rooms already utilised by many civic groups.

"At night, we sometimes have cosmic bowling where the whole facility is dark and we have a light show," said Mrs Johnson.

Even Sir Sidney Poitier, a Bahamian screen legend, has a VIP room befitting his name. It is equipped with four lanes for persons who want that private bowling experience, with a capacity of 30 persons. Prices start at \$1500 for two hours and each additional hour is \$500.

This package includes full access to a waiter, bartender, and a special buffet.

The menu includes buffalo wings, grouper fingers, conch fritters, spring rolls, fruit and vegetables platters, cheese platters and a choice of two beverages, all topped off with a house wine of your choice.

Private and upscale events are hosted inside the VIP room at least 3 times a week and the Academy Award-winning actor will be the guest of honour at Mario's grand opening next month.

Membership packages for the VIP room are stacked with freebies, like the platinum package which not only gives you use of the VIP room, but also the upscale Elements Ultra Lounge, packages are between \$800 and \$5000.

Countless other local legends can be found on "The Wall-Those Who

Made A Difference," in black and white framed photos.

After the exertion of a few bowling games, relax in Mario's electronic massage chairs made available to soothe tired athletes with assistance from a therapist.

And if you wish to let off some steam, there is a 150 person capacity nightclub upstairs with VIP private rooms for hire and waiting service provided.

"The nightclub is very upscale, and the whole design concept is for the mature customer that wants to go out in an elegant environment," says Mr Wilkinson.

Elements Lounge and Nightclub is outfitted with higher end sound proof rooms where persons can sit in a private dining room overlooking the facility.

Fridays, and Saturdays tend to be booked solid by both Bahamians and visitors (thanks to aggressive marketing by the Ministry of Tourism).

Mario's Signature Pro shop offers personal customised bowling balls and shoes.

The ice cream parlour, sub sandwich parlour, and concession stand will open in a matter of days. A food court which can hold up to 250 persons features Tuscanos and Noble Romans which offers gourmet pizzas and signature sandwiches.

Mrs Johnson said that Mario's provides the ideal venue for families because, "there's nowhere an adult can go at night and take their kids other than at Atlantis or the Marina Village."

That's the premise that they built the facility on.

"At Mario's, your kids can bowl, be taught how to bowl, enjoy our



ELEMENTS Ultra-Lounge

video arcade, and you can enjoy a nightclub, a restaurant and just sit back, relax, and lounge while the kids have fun."

There are lane side coordinators that teach can teach you to bowl for at no cost. There's also a handicap ramp where handicapped persons can bowl themselves. There is also a skating rink.

"Mario's Bowing and Entertainment Palace offers group packages, at different prices, but are not limited to set prices," said Mrs Johnson.

"We have birthday packages, and school packages, just call us and we will fit your budget."

"Whatever you want, we can make it happen. Nobody gets turned away at Mario's," she said. "We try

to accommodate everyone as best as we can."

Rounding off their steady weekend flow, Sundays will draw an even bigger crowd, and offer a special buffet, \$25 for adults and \$15 for kids, which includes bowling games.

At Mario's, security is very important with a strong security and police presence on the weekends. Security is at the door, metal detectors are always active, and other measures are taken to ensure the full safety of the building.

Mrs Johnson emphasised the importance of there being no swearing and fighting on the premises.

"We have no problems asking you to leave," she said, explaining their 3 strike policy which eventually leads

to the dismissal or permanent banning of people who disturb the peace from Mario's.

"We will not tolerate anything negative in Mario's. We will not deal with any vulgar behaviour or anything, as we have no tolerance period."

Leslie Miller, former PLP MP set about building one of the largest ten-pin bowling facilities in the world and the only one in the Bahamas after his son's death in 2002. Mario's Entertainment and Bowling Palace has created 72 jobs so far. The Miller family, including the other siblings Leslie Miller and Montgomery Ferguson, hopes that its efficient serving staff and clean facilities will keep it on the cutting edge.

THE WEATHER REPORT

**INSURANCE MANAGEMENT
(BAHAMAS) LIMITED**
INSURANCE BROKERS & AGENTS

5-DAY FORECAST

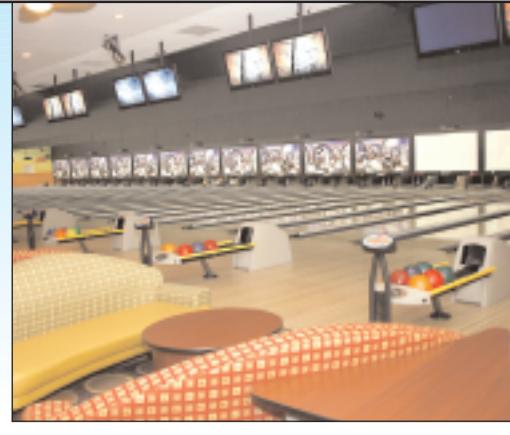
	TODAY	TONIGHT	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
ORLANDO	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 60° F/16° C Low: 40° F/4° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
TAMPA	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 59° F/15° C Low: 40° F/4° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
FT. LAUDERDALE	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 60° F/20° C Low: 47° F/8° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
MIAMI	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 60° F/20° C Low: 46° F/9° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
KEY WEST	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 67° F/19° C Low: 54° F/12° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
WEST PALM BEACH	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 67° F/19° C Low: 44° F/7° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
FREEPORT	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 64° F/18° C Low: 48° F/9° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
ABACO	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 65° F/18° C Low: 52° F/11° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
ANDROS	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 75° F/24° C Low: 54° F/12° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
NASSAU	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 73° F/23° C Low: 56° F/14° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
ELEUTHERA	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 75° F/24° C Low: 56° F/13° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
CAT ISLAND	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 76° F/24° C Low: 56° F/13° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
GREAT EXUMA	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 75° F/24° C Low: 60° F/16° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
LONG ISLAND	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 80° F/27° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
SAN SALVADOR	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 78° F/26° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
MAYAGUANA	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 82° F/28° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
CROOKED ISLAND / ACKLINS	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 85° F/29° C Low: 62° F/17° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C
GREAT INAGUA	Partly sunny, windy and not as warm High: 84° F/29° C Low: 63° F/20° C	Clear and windy High: 73° F/23° C Low: 59° F/15° C	Breezy with a full day of sunshine High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	Breezy and pleasant with some sun High: 72° F/22° C Low: 61° F/16° C	A couple of showers possible High: 73° F/23° C Low: 64° F/18° C	Breezy with a mix of sun and clouds High: 76° F/24° C Low: 66° F/18° C

The exclusive AccuWeather RealFeel™ is an index that combines the effects of temperature, wind, humidity, sun/moon intensity, cloudiness, precipitation, pressure, and elevation on the human body—everything that affects how warm or cold a person feels. Temperatures reflect the high and the low for the day.

INSURANCE MANAGEMENT TRACKING MAP

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.

City	Highs	Lows
Atlanta	46° F/8° C	35° F/2° C
Pensacola	54° F/12° C	30° F/-1° C
Tampa	59° F/15° C	30° F/-1° C
Charleston	50° F/10° C	30° F/-1° C
Savannah	52° F/11° C	30° F/-1° C
Daytona Beach	57° F/14° C	30° F/-1° C
Orlando	48° F/	



**Mario's
Bowling
offers
family fun**

See page 10

**Hot dogs
that bite**

See page nine

The Arts

The Tribune SECTION B •

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 3, 2010

[Transforming Spaces - the popular art bus tour that allows patrons to visit several art galleries over one weekend will take place this year on Saturday and Sunday March 13-14. The tour will be visits to 9 galleries: Doongalik Studios Art Gallery at Village Road, Ladder Gallery at NPCC, New Providence Art & Antiques, Pink 'Un, Popop Studios, Post House Gallery, PRO Gallery at COB, StingraeStudio and The Hub.]

Doongalik Studios presents Earth to Flight

a collaborative visual experience of Paintings and Sculpture by Averia Wright and Toby Lunn

Doongalik Studios Art Gallery on Village Road will showcase the collaborative works of ceramicist Averia Wright and painter Toby Lunn for this year's Transforming Spaces Art Tour.

These two young Bahamian artists have found a common thread in colour, line, space and form to make bold statements using different mediums in an exciting presentation. They both use organic free forms and earth tones to make very personal statements. New abstract expressions of art to inspire and heal the viewer rise up from the tangible fierce heat of the furnace that fires the clay and the metaphorical fire of metamorphosis that gives feeling to the paint.

•**AVERIA WRIGHT**, in her first Exhibition in The Bahamas as a fine arts graduate, said : "The stories of mythologies, mysteries and the mystical expressions of life take me deep into my roots - my place of inspiration - to create exotic life forms and elements of the deep turquoise seas. My medium of choice is clay. Working with

my hands to create something from the earth is a primitive necessity. Manipulating slabs and coils of clay to make a three dimensional object from an image in my mind, or from doodles or sketches is truly a passion. Adding metal to my creations is a challenge as metal's tensile strength allows the mechanisation of my ceramic sculptures to work. Whereas clay will bend with the possibility of melting and breaking, metal on the other hand bends readily. Working with metal, although tedious, is something I hope to continue to do. Exploring how far I can work with these materials inspires me to continue on this journey."

Averia studied Fine Art with a concentration in Ceramics at the University of Tampa where she transferred from the College of The Bahamas. She was first introduced to ceramics at COB under the tutelage of Joann Behagg and was inspired to further her studies in this discipline with renowned Bahamian art educator, Kendra Frorup.

•**TOBY LUNN**, no stranger to the Exhibition circuit, has entered a new phase in his work and said: "Taking Flight is a metaphor describing a recent transformation,

not only in my personal life but also in my newest body of work. I am using the myth of the phoenix bird that rises from the ashes, using adversity and experiences as tools of expression. I am taking the symbol of birds in flight and allowing my painted expressions to soar at their own altitude. The lotus flower has also become important in my recent work. All of the symbols I use are references to healing - internal and external - not just for me, but for the viewer as well."

Toby received a BFA Degree from the Maryland Institute College of Art and has held numerous exhibitions at Popop Studios, Doongalik Studios, Van Brugel's Restaurant, as well as abroad at the Diaspora Vibe Gallery, Miami Florida. He has also provided private art classes to interested members of the public.

Both artists are sales representatives at the Doongalik Studios Art Gallery at Marina Village Paradise Island. They soon realised the symbiosis in the quality of their work and felt that Transforming Spaces was the perfect opportunity to showcase this multi media experience.

Jackson Burnside, owner of the gallery said, "We are proud and privi-

"We are proud and privileged to present the work of these two extremely talented artists who are making significant contributions to the development of art in The Bahamas and by extension, the world."

Jackson Burnside

ileged to present the work of these two extremely talented artists who are making significant contributions to the development of art in The Bahamas and by extension, the world. The treasury of our country lies in these innovations - in the infinite possibilities being constantly investigated and improved upon by Bahamian artists. This exhibition is truly a milestone in contemporary art history."



By Averia Wright



By Toby Lunn



Ten hundred dollar chairs

THIS year the Popop Gallery's focus is to experiment and to educate as it continues its series of invitational exhibitions related to getting back to basics. This year's Transforming Spaces exhibition will showcase dynamic designs.

The Gallery has invited 10 artists/designers to create a 'Chair' using a budget of 100 dollars. The only two criteria are that the 100 dollars be exhausted in one way or another; and that the chair be functional and available for sitting on during the exhibition.

Popop is excited by the unique idea of 'The Challenge' as they are asking the artists to challenge not only the interpretation of the problem but also the use of materials, the management of the funds and the balance of aesthetics and function.



ProGallery presents 'Tag'

THE ProGallery Presents 'Tag' - an experimental Group exhibition featuring the works of student artists.

Participants said, "As students, we often produce art for the purpose of fulfilling the requirements of assignments and the demands of lectures. 'Tag' serves as an opportunity for unrestricted artistic expression and self-exploration. Each artist is afforded the chance to put forward work that speaks to his or her true aesthetic. The collective works serve as thumb prints that identify who we are, not just as artists but as diverse human beings."

The ProGallery is located at the College of the Bahamas, the S Block rm S6.